

Israel's #1 Enemy (and Ours). (OT: *The Amplified Bible* NT: *NIV*)

1. Pray that Israel will see that possession of the Land depends on her turning to the Lord.

And the Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it: . . . And the Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in every work of your hand . . . if you turn to the Lord your God with all your mind and heart and being . . . But if your [mind and] heart turn away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish, and you shall not live long in the land which you pass over Jordan to enter and possess. (Deut. 30:5-18)

If My people who are called by My name shall humble themselves, pray seek, crave *and* require of necessity My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land. . . (2 Chron. 7:14)

. . . Thus says the Lord, Behold I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it. . . but they obeyed not Your voice, nor walked in Your law . . . Therefore You have caused all this evil to come upon them. (Jer. 32:3, 23)

2. Pray that Israel will see that her lack of victory is caused primarily by her own sin

Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant. . . That is why the Israelites could not stand before their enemies . . . I will cease to be with you, unless you destroy the accursed [devoted] things among you. (Josh. 7:11-12)

For if you turn back and adhere to the remnant of these nations left among you . . . Know for a certainty that the Lord your God will not continue to drive these nations from before you, . . . until you perish from off this good land which the Lord your God has given you . . . until He has destroyed you from off this good land which the Lord your God has given you. (Josh 23:12-15)

. . . But you have not obeyed my voice . . . So now I say, I will not drive them out from before you; . . . (Judg 2:2-3)

3. Pray that Israel will see that the Lord Himself is her "Enemy".

And the people of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, . . . So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and He gave them into the power of the plunderers. . . so they could no longer stand before their foes (Judg. 2:11-14)

Now these are the nations which the Lord left to prove Israel by them. . . They were for the testing and proving of Israel, to know whether Israel would listen and obey the commandments of the Lord, . . . So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of . . . king of Mesopotamia. . . and the Lord strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the Lord. (Judg. 3:1, 4, 8, 12)

. . . the Israelites again did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan. . . So God subdued on that day Jabin. . . (Judg. 4:1, 2, 23).

But the Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian for seven years. (Judg. 6:1)

And the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years. (Judg 13:1)

. . . Why has the Lord smitten us today before the Philistines? . . . (1 Sam 4:3)

But when they forgot the Lord their God, He sold them into the hand of Sisera,

commander of Hazor's army, and into the hand of the hand of the Philistines, and of the king of Moab; and they fought those foes. . . . But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king shall be swept away. (1 Sam. 12:9, 25)

The Lord stirred up an adversary against Solomon, . . . God raised up another adversary . . . (1 King 11: 14, 23)

The Lord will smite Israel, as a reed shaken in the water, and He will root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, . . . (1Kings 14:15)

. . . and comforted him over all the distressing calamities that the Lord had brought upon him. (Job 42:11)

. . . the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant . . . Therefore thus says the Lord, Behold I am bringing evil and calamity upon them, . . . (Jer. 11:10)

Why has the Lord decreed all this enormous evil against us? . . . Because your fathers have forsaken me . . . And because you have done worse than your fathers; . . . Therefore I will cast you out of this land. . . (Jer. 16:10-13)

. . . Thus says the Lord, Behold I am shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Return now everyone from his evil way; . . . (Jer. 18:11)

Even so will I break this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel. . . 15. . . Behold. I will bring upon this city and upon its towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it because they have stiffened their necks. refusing to hear my words. (Jer. 19:11)

It may be that they will listen, and turn everyone from his evil way, that I may relent and reverse my decision concerning the evil which I purpose to do them because of their evil doings. (Jer. 26:3)

I am bringing upon Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them; . . . (Jer. 35:17)

4. Pray the Jesus will bless Israel by turning them from their "wicked ways"

. "Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. " And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' When God raised up his servant [Jesus], he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways." (Acts 3:24-26)

5. Pray that Israel will learn that the Lord is her deliverer—not swords, guns, or tanks)

But the hand of the Lord , was heavy upon the people of Ashdod, and He caused [mice to spring up and there was] very deadly destruction, and He smote the people with [very painful] tumors or boils, both Ashdod and and its territory. (1 Sam. 5:6)

. . . but the Lord thundered with a great voice that day against the Philistines, and threw them into confusion; and they were defeated before Israel. . . . and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. (1 Sam 7:10-13)

. . . Thus says the Lord God of Israel, It was I Who brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and of all the kingdoms that oppressed you. (1 Sam 10:18)

Next day Saul put the men in three companies; and they . . . slew the Ammonites. " . . . today the Lord has brought deliverance to Israel. (1 Sam 11:11-13)

So the Lord delivered Israel that day. (1 Sam.14:23)

David said, The Lord, Who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. This day the Lord will

deliver you into my hand; . . . And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's. and He will give you into our hand. (1 Sam. 17:37-47)

So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. (Zech. 4:6)

For though we live in the world. we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive evil thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Cor 10:3-5)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. . . Pray also for me. that whenever I open my mouth. words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel. (Eph. 6:10, 19)

We can only pray for Israel in faith to the measure we have appropriated these truths for ourselves

It is clear that, in some cases, the Lord instructed them to kill their enemies, but it is clear that their natural ability and skill was not the main factor in their victories; they were to be entirely obedient to Him in all ways, including their method of battle. During the ages before the Advent of Christ, there was a clear development of less and less violent warfare and emphasis on spiritual warfare.