

Steve Demme: Our God is a King of glory. He's a Lord of hosts. He's powerful, He's zealous, and He's going to establish His kingdom on this earth. He's not going to give up because the devil's making too much headway. He's not going to wring his hands and say, "Oh dear, I have to change my plans now. Maybe we'll just go to heaven." No, He's going to establish His kingdom on this earth.

Scott Moore: Welcome to the Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning Steve, how are you today?

Steve: It's a crisp fall morning. I've been up for a couple hours, and I've already made breakfast for Johnny. I wish you could have seen the two of us chasing each other around the kitchen.

Steve: Usually it's his job to empty the dishwasher, and I often help him. We do different parts. He was not moving quickly enough when I mentioned it, so I started chasing him around with a spatula. He was laughing as I chased him around the kitchen.

Scott: That's awesome.

Steve: We had our eggs and little sausages. The kitchen is clean and I'm doing a podcast. He's headed to work in our shipping department.

We're recording this in November, even though it won't be heard till February. I don't know what the world will look like at that point. This month, at the Lord's direction, I'm praying for our country and engaging in spiritual warfare a couple of times a day. Instead of one walk per day, which is my custom, I have been taking two walks to seek God and pray. I pray for our country, for my state, and for the elections. Sometimes I focus on binding the strong man, and other times I pray the Lord's prayer over and over.

During my time coming close to God, I begin with a song, give thanks, and then meditate on one of God's names. Recently I have chosen the Lord of Hosts. In most translations that I read from, LORD of hosts is commonly used. In the NIV this expression describing God is translated the Lord Almighty. However in the New Living Translation Lord of Hosts is rendered the Lord of Heavens Armies.

I am going to shift gears here and have a foray into history. Since this is the fall of 2020, 400 years ago the Pilgrims landed in America. There was a settlement in

Virginia with John Smith in 1607, but I have always admired and felt a spiritual kinship with the Pilgrims.

As I was seeking God the other day, the thought that came to me was, when I pray for this blessed land, I shouldn't adopt the posture of grabbing on to God's garments and begging Him to heal my country. This country was His idea. The USA has His fingerprints all over it.

Realizing that God was very involved in the foundation of our republic, made me approach God differently, because I shouldn't be asking God to do something fresh, I need to believe God to continue what He already began. This was an unexpected direction to me, but a good one.

I don't think it would have happened though if I were sitting in my study doing research. I was out walking and working with God. I was seeking Him. I was coming into His presence. I was praying. I loved recognizing that it's the Lord who has taken the initiative to found this land on Biblical principles. He is the one who began this good work. God miraculously helped the Pilgrims through that first couple of years. His wonderful intervention was the basis and motivation for convening our first Thanksgiving celebration.

Before we continue, let's pray.

Father, thank you for this good work that you began. Thank you for this country. It's in bad shape in many respects and it is also in good shape in many respects. Evil seems to be on the rise, but so does good, even though it doesn't get the publicity. The bottom line is that it's your country. The USA was your idea.

This country has been called the great experiment. However it was no experiment. This city set on a hill has been Your heart since the foundation of the world. I pray that you will help us today as we meditate on this aspect of your character, this attribute that You have revealed through Your name, that You are the LORD of Hosts, the Lord Almighty, and the Lord of Heavens Armies.

Give us ears to hear what you're saying. Give us faith to mix these with these inspired words so that we can take in their import and power in Jesus' name. Amen.

The expression, Lord of Hosts, is used 261 times in Scripture. Surprisingly, the first time we read it is in the first chapter of 1 Samuel. Speaking of Hannah's husband, "This man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of Hosts at Shiloh." Hannah and he were the parents of Samuel. In the 11th verse of the same chapter, Hannah vowed a vow and said, "Oh, Lord of Hosts."

One commentator I read surmised Hannah used this name for God since it first appeared in the beginning of Genesis. Maybe Hannah was praying for God to call

something from nothing as He did at creation. We know that she was unable to have children and was barren. Perhaps she was appealing to that aspect of God's character who can create and bring something from nothing. The words *ex nihilo*, are used when speaking of how God brought the world into being from nothing.

Hannah prayed, "Oh, Lord of Hosts, if you will indeed, look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but we'll give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life." As we know, God answered her prayer.

Several chapters later, we find the name Lord of Hosts being used when David invokes it on the field of as he was contending with Goliath, "You come to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the Armies of Israel, whom you have defied." Notice that David approaches Goliath in the name of the Lord of Hosts.

Maybe Samuel is the one that introduced this name for God to David, since Samuel's birth was based on those words, the Lord of Hosts. Later we find David passing this on. Psalm 24:10, "Who is this King of glory? The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of glory." Remember Lord of Hosts is the same as Lord of Heaven's Armies.

Psalm 46, in the seventh and 11th verse, this wording is used. "The Lord of Heavens Armies is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress."

Do you see the militant nature of these words, the Lord of Heavens Armies, the King of Glory, our fortress. In Isaiah 6, the prophet cries Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory.

Notice the words used in this passage Of Isaiah. "Of the increase of His government and a peace, there shall be no end on the throne of David and over His kingdom to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forever more, the zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this." (Isaiah 9:7)

When I think about God, I don't normally think about Him being zealous. However this passage does say that "The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this." Wow! the zeal of Jehovah of Hosts, or the zeal of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

I hope you recall from a previous podcast what we learned about God's name here. In most modern translations, when you see "Lord of Hosts" its written in all caps. Capital L-O-R-D, which tells the reader, this is the personal name for God. And there's no expression in the in the Old Testament where it says the Lord (small letters) of Hosts, it's always LORD which tells us the name should be rendered Jehovah, or Yahweh, for it is the personal name of God. Once more let's hold on to this truth, that the zeal of Jehovah of Heavens Armies, is going to usher in His kingdom.

The kingdom of Christ is built on the throne of Davi. Someday Jesus, the son of David and Lord of David, will absolutely be acknowledged to be the supreme king of this kingdom in the future. Remember that God's zeal is behind this activity. God's zealous nature is a great engine divinely propelling God's kingdom forward. Every

time we pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on the United States as it is in heaven," or "Thy kingdom come to Pennsylvania as it is in heaven" we are in sync with God's purposes for this earth. Here are some more encouraging-faith building-Scriptures to help us moving forward.

"Our redeemer, Jehovah of Heavens Armies, Jehovah of Hosts is his name is the Holy One of Israel." (Isaiah 47: 4)

"For your maker is your husband, the Lord of Hosts is his name, and the holy one of Israel is your redeemer, the God of the whole earth, he is called." (Isaiah 54).

"I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and My name will be feared among the nations." (Malachi 1:14)

This is a sampling of the 261 passages where the personal name of God, Yahweh, Jehovah is coupled with Lord of Hosts, Lord Almighty, or the Lord of Heaven's Armies, Its a militant expression. Many people see Jesus as a man of peace, but as you read these passages, you get a different picture. This is scripture teaching us about our King, who is a King of glory. He's the Lord of Hosts.

He's powerful, He's zealous and He's going to establish His kingdom on this earth. God is not going to give up because the devil's making too much headway. He's not going to wring his hands and say, "Oh, dear, I have to change my plans now. Maybe we'll just give up on the earth and go to heaven." No, he's going to establish His kingdom on this earth.

Here are three more passages before we get to the crowning one. I've always enjoyed these accounts in the life of Elijah and Elisha and Elijah. In 2 Kings 6, "When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city, and the servant said, 'Alas, my master, what shall we do?' He said, 'Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'"

Then, Elisha prayed and said, "Oh, Lord, please open his eyes that he may see," so the Lord opened the eyes of the young man and he saw and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." What a revelation. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them. It's a faith building perspective.

If I spend too much time listening to the mainstream media, which is controlled by the god of this world, I am tempted to thin k, "Oh, dear, there are so many people around us that are fighting against us and oh, look at all those armies and horses and chariots," but if you are rooted in God's word, then you can say with Elijah, "Greater is He that is with us than He that is in the world. Greater are those who are with us than those who are with them."

Jesus was conscious of this truth. In Matthew 26, his servants are ready to use their sword, when he says, "Do you think that I cannot appeal to my father and He will at once send me more than 12 legions of angels." However, Jesus knew that this was His time to die, and He could do more damage to the devil by dying than by accepting the help of 12 legions of angels and cleaning house.

This was the time to die not to fight. By dying, He would break the power of hell, and by dying, take away our sin, and destroying the work of the devil. Praise the Lord.

The church I used to attend had a painting by an ambitious artist who had taken it upon themselves to illustrate Revelation 19. It is a picture of a white cavalry advancing in battle. I love watching movies where you have powerful cavalries. I confess that watching horses in movies is not the same thing as in person. I was standing along a fence at a military re-enactment one day. Soldiers were marching up on foot from my right. This was the infantry. Suddenly, from my left, the cavalry appeared. I was dumbstruck. Those horses were huge. If this were a real battle, that cavalry would have mowed down the poor foot soldiers. Each of those magnificent horses is a thousand pounds of power and energy

With that picture in mind, consider Revelation 19, "Then I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse. The one sitting on it is called faithful and true, and in righteousness, He judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire and on his head are many diadems. He has a name written that no one knows, but himself. He's clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is the Word of God.

And the Armies of Heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the almighty. On His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written King of Kings and Lord of Lords." (Revelation 19:11-16)

The beauty of this image is that Jesus could have done that all by Himself. He's God. He's King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but He has with Him the Armies of Heaven. They're arrayed in white linen, only because He has washed them with His blood. He has cleansed them. He's taken away their sins, and now they are following Him on white horses and they're fighting with Him.

What a picture? I can't wait for that day. I hope that I have the privilege of being on one of those horses. I want to be near the King and I want to be fighting His battles, praise the Lord. Here is a chorus from a song that I've had in my heart a lot lately.

[singing] "The Lord of Hosts is with us now His number is far exceed, the numbers of our enemies for He is Lord indeed. So, we'll trust the Lord of Hosts. We'll trust the Lord of Hosts. We'll trust the Lord of Hosts and we'll conquer, we'll conquer each foe."

We may be persecuted soon. I'm expecting hard times for the church, but ultimately greater is He that is with us than He that is in the world.

Ephesians 6, Paul talking, "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil, for we do not wrestle against flesh and blood."

This phrase has come into my mind so often when I get upset at politicians and world rulers. I need to remind myself, that we do not wrestle against people. Our contest is not with flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers in this present darkness. We are warring against the

spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore we must take up the whole armor of God that we may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

There are a couple of prayers that I pray frequently. One of them is James 4:8, "Resist the devil and he will flee." Another one is based on the understanding that we can't do anything against these cosmic powers, these principalities and powers, until we first bind the strong man.

I live in Pennsylvania, and I frequently pray in the name of Jesus, I resist the devil in Pennsylvania. I bind the strong man from Lake Erie to Philadelphia, from the Poconos to Pittsburgh. I'm seeking to cover all the bases as I bind him. Then when he is bound, I can come against these principalities and powers and cosmic rulers and spiritual forces because I have bound their source of power.

In my study of a bit of the Greek here, the word resist is the same root as the word, stand firm. Stand firm is not some kind of a defensive posture. It's having done all to continue standing in a posture of resistance.

I'm sorry, if you can't handle all these gory images, but I liken it to when Gideon had won a great victory over several Kings and he told his leaders, "Put your foot on their neck." These were powerful Kings, and Gideon in the power and might of the spirit was able to overcome those Kings. He wanted to convey that to his forces, and he directed them, "Put your foot on their neck."

That's how I want to position myself. I want to resist the devil and bind the strong man. I want to wage war against these principalities and powers, in the name of the Lord of Hosts. Sometimes I use that expression, the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies. Then, I think of myself leaning forward, [laughs] not resting and sitting in a lawn chair with my arms folded, but standing in a position where I've got my foot on the neck of these spiritual enemies.

I'm standing firm. I'm standing in a position of resistance. This concept of the Lord of Hosts has been extremely encouraging to my faith and my prayers the past few weeks. I like the expressions, the Lord of Heaven's Armies and the Zeal of the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

Our great King is soon coming back, and thank the Lord, we're going to be at His side fighting with Him to establish His kingdom on this earth, amen.

Scott: You got me all charged up. I'm wishing that we could publish this today because the church needs to hear this. We need to suit up and put on that armor. I pray that every day over my family, that God would armor us with His armor, and I go through each bit of that armor. The helmet of salvation, the belt of truth, all of that I get. If our struggle is not against flesh and blood, if it is in the spiritual realms, then we need to armor up with that armor every day and go to battle, and man, rock on, let's go.

Steve: Amen. Well, let's close with prayer then.

Father thank you for revealing the militant, omnipotent, inexorable power of your being. Thank you that you are called Jehovah of Hosts, Jehovah Almighty, Lord of Heaven's Armies, and that those armies are totally victorious because you are totally victorious.

It says in scripture, that You always lead us in triumph. That the name of Jesus is above every name, and the name of Jehovah of Hosts is above every name. In those names, in the name of Jehovah of Hosts and in the name of Jesus Christ, we resist our enemies in this country. We resist the devil. We trust in Jesus' name and we bind Him.

I pray that you will clean house, deliver us from these principalities and cosmic powers that are behind abortion, and sex trafficking, and false information, and bad decisions in our courts, and fornication, and riots, and the confusion that is seeking to divide our land. In the name of Jesus, we war against those principalities and powers.

Thank you that the word of God is powerful. I pray that you'll put a spirit of fight into each of your saints listening today, enable and embolden us in the spiritual realm of your church to stand firm. Help us to fight the good fight and win the battle.

I pray also that you'll put a spirit of flight in the enemies of God, just as much as you put a spirit of fight in the people of God. Help us to that end today in Jesus name. Amen.

Scott: Amen. The Lord is a warrior. The Lord is His name. That's Exodus 15:3, in case you're wondering.

Steve: I like that passage. The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation. This is my God and I will praise Him. My father's God. I will exalt Him. The Lord is a man of war. The Lord is His name. Amen.