



## A Tour of Bible Battlefield Commanders - Part One

Ever read the Old Testament and wanted to be there during some of the great military victories of God's people? Ever wanted to see God's power wash over armies and battles? Well, here is a quick guide to some of the Lord's greatest battlefield commanders. It is suggested you use it for group bible study.

### Abraham – Elder Statesman

First point of call is God's first great warrior, Abraham. Read Genesis Chapter 14.

- † Why does he go to war? What does this say of Abraham?
- † How big and Army does Abraham take to war? How would this have compared to the defeated four king's Armies?
- † After he defeats the invaders, what is the response of those around him?
- † How would this have brought glory to God?

### Moses – Reluctant General

Now turn to Exodus 14 and we examine Moses' flight from the Egyptians.

- † Who was really calling the shots here? What was God's plan (see vs 4)
- † How brave were the Israelites? What does this say of their trust in Moses?
- † How brave were the Egyptians?
- † Some apologists say this event could have been caused by a tsunami or other geological event. Read the description of the parting of the sea, how much like a geological event does that seem to be?
- † What was the end result for the reputation of Moses and the people's belief in God?

### Joshua – Veteran General Readies his Troops

There can be no doubt of Joshua's faith and bravery. One of only two men with enough faith to want to go into the promised land, despite the apparent odds, let us check out this archetypal military leader. Read Joshua Chap 5.

- † In order to get ready for war what was Joshua's first act for the Israelites (see vs 2)?
- † Would this have been welcomed initially as an act that would increase their ability to fight?
- † What was this saying to both the Israelites and to God?
- † What was the outcome (see vs 9) and why was this necessary?

### **Deborah -Warrior Prophetess**

Always thought that God fought his battles through men only. Think again and read Judges 4.

- † What would Barak have thought about the instructions he received in vs 6 and how did he react? Would we react any differently?
- † What was the price for Barak's uncertainty?
- † With nine hundred chariots to fight against who was the favourite to win?
- † What was the purpose of the battle in God's eyes?

### **Gideon – Father of Special Operations**

Do you imagine ancient warfare to be hordes of infantry shoulder to shoulder? Let's have a look at someone with a more unconventional approach to war. Read Judges 7.

- † How confident was Gideon with 32,000 men? How would he have felt about God's plan to get rid of 75% of his force? How would we?
- † What was God's reason to reduce the number of men to a mere 300?
- † What vision did God send to fortify Gideon's resolve?
- † What was Gideon's plan, how did it work, and what was the result?

As God's people of the New Testament He does not expect us to fight other nations to claim our inheritance; but He does expect us to have the same courage, determination and faith as the Israelites. In Part 2 we will study more of God's warriors - Sampson, Saul, and David.