Thursday Bible Class Yahweh Tzvaoth 27th January 2022

The introduction given by Brother Derek was comprehensive, so there is no need to write an another article repeating everything that has been said., However we would add to the comments which have been made, to endorse what has been said, and mention some more passages which you might find useful to add to this study.

In the introduction, Brother Derek the two-fold nature of the role of God, explained in His title Yahweh Tzvaoth, or Lord of Hosts, or better I will be Armies. It was shown in the introduction, that the title "The term Lord of Hosts, Yahweh of Armies expresses the power to both create and destroy".

The purpose of armies is twofold, and this harmonises with what has been said about the title expressing the power to both create and destroy. The purpose of armies throughout history as been to defend or to attack. To protect and maintain the integrity of a sovereign state, and its citizens, or to invade, attack and destroy the threats of an enemy, which seeks to undermine that sovereignty.

Of course, the need for armies is very much for humans. God has no need for such a thing, It is God's ultimate purpose to share His glory, and to be at ONE. This was brought out in the introduction with Jesus prayer in John 17: Thus in this state of harmony, there will be no need to defend or attack, to create or destroy, as Yahweh Tzvaoth will instead be Yahweh Elohim – I will be Mighty Ones, and Yahweh Tsidkenu The Lord our Righteousness.(Jeremiah 33:16)

However during the six thousand years of man's history, God has chosen these specific Titles as a teaching tool to explain to those who want to learn and know him, what His purpose with them is, and using concepts which are familiar to men and women.

Warfare was very much to the forefront of the minds of the children of Jacob, s they would have witnessed the war chariots of Egypt.

They would have been very fearful when they saw the same massed war chariots galloping after them in clouds of dust to cut them off at the banks of the Red Sea. A generation later they formed their own armies to fight those alliance of the Canaanites, but then for 400 years, they became very familiar with the sound of the shouts of soldiers in the distance, as the land was repeatedly raided by the surrounding nations. The horror and terror those invasions caused, instilled in them a fear, which turned them to God. They learned that when they trusted in Him, He would give them a judge a leader who would bring peace and security, calm and prosperity. They knew all about attack and defence. In times of peace they could create and build, but when they had sinned and turned from God, they themselves were attacked and destroyed.

It is was a grand scale lesson of what occurs every day, every minute of the battle within each person. The scripture given to us is the defence against the adversary, the enemy within, but when the defence is allowed to break down, the adversary attacks. The only way to defeat sin, is to go onto the attack and destroy it. The only man to have succeeded in this immense mission is Jesus Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.(Hebrews 2:14)

On this individual level, it is for this reason that Jesus is described as the captain of our salvation. His legions of Angels that will be presently given to him, are the soldiers, the messengers of the Lord, the foot soldiers who have acquitted themselves well in the fight, by following his example, by putting on the whole armour of God, to resist the deceits of the sinful nature we bear. Those who come through such training are able to join the ranks, and they are commanded to fastening the belt of truth around the waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness, and taking up the shield of faith to extinguish the flaming arrows from the evil. (Ephesians 6)

Will these faithful troopers for ever be assailed by the fiery darts of the wicked? Will they never be free of the adversary? Will their lives forever be dictated by the endless cycle of defence and attack?

The Psalmist did not believe so. Psalm 46 describes the peace and harmony found with God. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 6 -7: *The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.* ***The Lord of hosts*** *is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.* The Psalmist –King David knew all about war, being a man of blood, fighting for the defence of the Kingdom of God, and witnessed for himself how often the brigades of his soldiers were not required, when the Spirit of the Lord moved against the enemies of Israel. As Moses proclaimed: Exodus 15:3 *The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.* The Psalmist likewise in 24:8 *Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.* Of course God is not a man in that sense. But He has allowed himself to be manifest through The man. But David looking far ahead through all the wars and fightings entailed wit the establishment of the Kingdom prophesied in 46:9 - 11 *He makes wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and cuts the spear in sunder; he burns the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.* All of these prophecies in the future .. I will be … But then he adds: The ***Lord of hosts*** *is with us;* - now in this present day *the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.* Until then, to get us there, we have a defence, we have a way of attacking the Adversary, The Lord of hosts is His name.

David foretold of a time when there would be no more need for war. When enemies have been made the footstool, armies are no longer required. When enemies have been destroyed , and all men from the least to the greatest will worship the Lord, when every man will sit under his vine and fig tree, and none making them afraid, when swords have been beaten in ploughshares and spears into pruning

hooks, the armies will not be required. God will be no longer known by such a title. Instead this title Yahweh Tzvaoth is one of comfort and warning – Behold the goodness and severity of God. The two-fold aspect.

This phrase comes from the letter of Paul to the Romans, in a chapter where he explains the demise of the nation of Israel was to the advantage of the Gentiles, but, then when Israel is restored, how much more will the Gentiles benefit. But the lessons Israel – as the armies of Yahweh, endured, should be a warning to the Gentiles: 11:22: *Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.*

Earlier he illustrates this in chapter 9. This passage is another time the phrase the **Lord of Sabaoth** is used in the New Testament. Romans 9: 29 *And as Isaiah said before, Except the **Lord of Sabaoth** had left us a seed, we had been as Sodom, and been made like unto Gomorrah.* (Isaiah 1:9) Rightly the armies God sent against Israel could have completely destroyed them because of their sin, just like He did against Sodom, but God has mercy upon whom He has mercy and compassion upon whom he has compassion. But though he judges against sin, attacks and destroys, yet mercy rejoices against judgement, and He protects and defends, so that a remnant is saved. The rules of this warfare are just and consistent, unlike the immense cruelties and wickedness of the armies of the Wicked.

As we have been shown this remnant according to grace, Jews and Gentiles are those who have themselves fought a good fight, (2 Timothy 4:7) and warred a good warfare (2 Corinthians 10:4)The New Testament again refers to these who have learned the art of soldiery – in themselves, and not against others – becoming part of the armies of heaven. This is referred to in the Revelation in chapter 19: 11 -16: *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in*

righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords.

This vision depicts the Lord of Hosts, Yahweh Tzvaoth in complete victory, in the great war against the Wicked. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Man of War, (Psalm 144: *Blessed be the Lord my strength which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdues my people under me*.) His eyes as a flame of fire – in judgement, fire to purge and cleanse. Arrayed in a uniform dipped in blood, a badge of honour as he has tasted death for every man, and overcome,, and lives for evermore, his name and rank, being the highest possible: The Word of God. His battle orders, are the commands of God, which he followed exactly from his very first commission. No Napolean, Wellington, or even those appended with the term the Great, such as Alexander, Alfred, Constantine or Xerxes, could possibly compare in skill, office, strategy, or experience, and none were loved by their men as much as the Greatest is loved by his



followers. He is depicted sitting upon a white horse – so many artists depict their all-conquering heroes on white horses, with signs in the heavens for example this one of Napolean. Notice how the artist has copied the words of the Apocalypse to paint his hero as the saviour. The horse the symbol of warfare, but white the symbol of peace, victory, but chiefly that of righteousness – who can stand before it – the Truth Always Wins!

The armies which follow this generalissimo are similarly clad in white – the righteousness of the saints, upon white horses, endorsing, backing up his stance, his ultimatum to the nations, they are clean, free from sin, having also overcome the Wicked One, and being renewed with Life Everlasting, immortal, are impervious to the attacks of men. This glorious and inspiring vision, will become more than a vision. What it represents will become reality. For that great day, each cavalry officer is intensively trained. Now is our probation, we are being trained, where is our uniform? can we control our horse? – The bit controls the horse. Our tongue is also a little member, it is what we must control, our reactions, are being tested, can we withstand the provocations, are we *spartan* in our indulgence of the flesh, can we handle the spiritual weapons effectively? are we worthy to join the elite, the Hosts of Yahweh? They are our defence now, as we have enjoyed their protection, and care, let us take heed, lest we become their enemy and face certain destruction.

Brother Terry