

# The Conquest and Judges

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# Transformation of the Prophet

- Judicial
  - Prophets act as covenant mediators who announce God's judgment (or deliverance), as representatives of God with heavenly authority to proclaim his will.
- Ethical
  - The prophet's "whole being was brought into sympathetic, passionate rapport with God's holy kingdom purpose and its righteous demands and judgments."
- Physical
  - "The kind of authority over nature and nations given to the prophets was equivalent to the dominion over the world that is achievable only in conjunction with bodily glorification" (Kline, *Images*: 63).

# Gideon's Transformation in Judges 6

Gideon  
sees the  
angel of the  
Lord,

builds an  
altar,

and then  
cleanses  
the  
sanctuary  
(as a royal  
priest) by  
tearing  
down  
Baal's altar.

Afterward  
there is  
another  
incursion  
into the  
sanctuary  
of God—  
the  
Midianites.

Gideon is  
then  
empowered  
by the Spirit  
for  
judgment  
upon  
Israel's  
enemies.

# The Spirit Upon Gideon

<sup>33</sup> Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the sons of the east assembled themselves; and they crossed over and camped in the valley of Jezreel. <sup>34</sup> **So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon;** and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him.

NAU Judges 6:33-34

Cf. Judges 11:29-32 (Jephthah); 14:6,19; 15:14 (Samson).

## The Spirit “Clothed” Gideon

<sup>33</sup> Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East came together, and they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. <sup>34</sup> **But the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon**, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him. ESV Judges 6:33-34

Cf. 1 Chron 12:16-18 (Amasai); 2 Chron 24:20-22 (Zechariah)

## Significance of Gideon's Investiture

- as marking a fuller conformation to God's image,
- following a period of testing (probation),
- which equips him as a royal priest
- authorized to inaugurate holy war.

**And on that note,**

**let's ask the question...**

# What is Holy War?

## God Fighting for His People!

At the Red Sea

At the border of Canaan—the first time

Victory in the promised land

The world's worst guidelines for the draft

Gideon got it

WHO fought the battle of Jericho?

Samuel got it

Saul didn't

Chariots of fire

Abijah

David did

Under the yoke

Vengeance is mine...

Asa

Turning the other cheek

Holy war to come?

Hezekiah

In his steps...

# At the Red Sea

<sup>13</sup> Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <sup>14</sup> **The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.**" NIV Exodus 14:13-14

<sup>24</sup> During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. <sup>25</sup> He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! **The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.**"

NIV Exodus 14:24-25

# Victory in the Promised Land

<sup>21</sup> "I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, 'Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; so the LORD shall do to all the kingdoms into which you are about to cross. <sup>22</sup> 'Do not fear them, for the LORD your God is the one fighting for you.'

NAU Deut 3:21-22

<sup>3</sup> "And you have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God is He who has been fighting for you. NAU Josh 23:3

# At the Border of Canaan...

<sup>26</sup> "Yet you were not willing to go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God; <sup>27</sup> and you grumbled in your tents and said,

"Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us.

<sup>28</sup> "Where can we go up? Our brethren have made our hearts melt, saying, "The people are bigger and taller than we; the cities are large and fortified to heaven. And besides, we saw the sons of the Anakim there."

<sup>29</sup> "Then I said to you, 'Do not be shocked, nor fear them. <sup>30</sup> 'The LORD your God who goes before you will Himself fight on your behalf, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes... <sup>32</sup> "But for all this, you did not trust the LORD your God.

NAU Deut 1:26-32

# The World's Worst Draft

"When you go out to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots *and* people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, is with you.

<sup>2</sup> "When you are approaching the battle, the priest shall come near and speak to the people. <sup>3</sup> "He shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel, you are approaching the battle against your enemies today. Do not be fainthearted. Do not be afraid, or panic, or tremble before them, <sup>4</sup> for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'

NAU Deut 20:1-4

# The World's Worst Draft

<sup>5</sup> "The officers also shall speak to the people, saying, 'Who is the man that has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would dedicate it.

<sup>6</sup> 'Who is the man that has planted a vineyard and has not begun to use its fruit? Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would begin to use its fruit.

<sup>7</sup> 'And who is the man that is engaged to a woman and has not married her? Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would marry her.'

# The World's Worst Draft

<sup>8</sup> "Then the officers shall speak further to the people and say, 'Who is the man that is afraid and fainthearted? Let him depart and return to his house, so that he might not make his brothers' hearts melt like his heart.' <sup>9</sup> "When the officers have finished speaking to the people, they shall appoint commanders of armies at the head of the people. NAU Deut 20:8-9

# WHO Fought the Battle of Jericho?

Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. <sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king *and* the valiant warriors. NAU Joshua 6:1-2

<sup>16</sup> At the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city. <sup>17</sup> "The city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the LORD; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. NAU Josh 6:16-17

## Gideon Got It

<sup>2</sup> The LORD said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, for Israel would become boastful, saying, 'My own power has delivered me.'

<sup>3</sup> "Now therefore come, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is afraid and trembling, let him return and depart from Mount Gilead.'" So 22,000 people returned, but 10,000 remained.

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water and I will test them for you there....

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Gideon, "I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped and will give the Midianites into your hands; so let all the *other* people go, each man to his home." NAU Judges 7:2-7

## Samuel Got It

<sup>8</sup> Then the sons of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines." <sup>9</sup> Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it for a whole burnt offering to the LORD; and Samuel cried to the LORD for Israel and the LORD answered him.

<sup>10</sup> Now Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, and the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. *But the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day against the Philistines and confused them, so that they were routed before Israel.* <sup>11</sup> The men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and struck them down as far as below Beth-car. NAU 1 Sam 7:8-11

## Saul Didn't

<sup>5</sup> Now the Philistines assembled to fight with Israel, 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen, and people like the sand which is on the seashore in abundance; and they came up and camped in Michmash, east of Beth-aven.

<sup>6</sup> When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait (for the people were hard-pressed), then the people hid themselves in caves, in thickets, in cliffs, in cellars, and in pits. <sup>7</sup> Also *some of* the Hebrews crossed the Jordan into the land of Gad and Gilead. But as for Saul, he *was* still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

<sup>8</sup> Now he waited seven days, according to the appointed time set by Samuel, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him.

1 Samuel 13:5-8

## Saul Didn't

<sup>9</sup> So Saul said, "Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. <sup>10</sup> As soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him *and* to greet him.

<sup>11</sup> But Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash, <sup>12</sup> therefore I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not asked the favor of the LORD.' So I forced myself and offered the burnt offering."

<sup>13</sup> Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; ...now your kingdom shall not endure. NAU 1 Sam 13:9-14

## David Did

<sup>45</sup> David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup> All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; **for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands.**"

NIV 1 Sam 17:45-47

## Chariots of Fire

<sup>15</sup> Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" <sup>16</sup> So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." <sup>17</sup> Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." And the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

2 Kings 6:15-17

## Vengeance is Mine

<sup>7</sup> Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. <sup>19</sup> Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath *of God*, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

NAU Rom 12:17 - 13:1

# Abijah

<sup>13</sup> Now Jeroboam had sent troops around to the rear, so that while he was in front of Judah the ambush was behind them. <sup>14</sup> Judah turned and saw that they were being attacked at both front and rear. Then they cried out to the LORD. The priests blew their trumpets <sup>15</sup> and the men of Judah raised the battle cry. *At the sound of their battle cry, God routed Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.* <sup>16</sup> The Israelites fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hands. <sup>17</sup> Abijah and his men inflicted heavy losses on them, so that there were five hundred thousand casualties among Israel's able men. <sup>18</sup> The men of Israel were subdued on that occasion, and the men of Judah were victorious because they relied on the LORD, the God of their fathers. 2 Chronicles 13:13-18

## Asa

<sup>11</sup> Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, "LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. O LORD, you are our God; do not let man prevail against you." <sup>12</sup> The LORD struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah. The Cushites fled... 2 Chronicles 14:11-12

# Hezekiah

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the leaders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons cut him down with the sword. <sup>22</sup> So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all others. He gave them rest on every side.

2 Chronicles 32:21-22

## Under the Yoke

<sup>2</sup> I gave the same message to Zedekiah king of Judah. I said, "Bow your neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon; serve him and his people, and you will live. <sup>13</sup> Why will you and your people die by the sword, famine and plague with which the LORD has threatened any nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?" NIV Jer 27:12-13

## Turning the Other Cheek

<sup>6</sup> I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. <sup>7</sup> Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup> He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! <sup>9</sup> It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me. Who is he that will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up. NIV Isa 50:6-9

## Turning the Other Cheek

<sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; <sup>26</sup> it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. <sup>27</sup> It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. <sup>28</sup> Let him sit alone in silence, for the LORD has laid it on him. <sup>29</sup> Let him bury his face in the dust—there may yet be hope. <sup>30</sup> Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him, and let him be filled with disgrace. <sup>31</sup> For men are not cast off by the Lord forever. <sup>32</sup> Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love.

NIV Lam 3:25-32

## Turning the Other Cheek

<sup>38</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'  
<sup>39</sup> But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. **If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.** <sup>40</sup> And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. <sup>41</sup> If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. <sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

NIV Matt 5:38-45

## In His Steps

<sup>21</sup> To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow **in his steps**. <sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." <sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; **when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.** NIV 1 Pet 2:21-23

## Holy War to Come

<sup>10</sup> When you march up to attack a city, make its people an offer of peace. <sup>11</sup> If they accept and open their gates, all the people in it shall be subject to forced labor and shall work for you. <sup>12</sup> If they refuse to make peace and they engage you in battle, lay siege to that city. <sup>13</sup> When the LORD your God delivers it into your hand, put to the sword all the men in it. <sup>14</sup> As for the women, the children, the livestock and everything else in the city, you may take these as plunder for yourselves. And you may use the plunder the LORD your God gives you from your enemies. <sup>15</sup> This is how you are to treat all the cities that are at a distance from you and do not belong to the nations nearby.

## Holy War to Come

<sup>16</sup> However, in the cities of the nations the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, do not leave alive anything that breathes. <sup>17</sup> Completely destroy {<sup>17</sup> The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the LORD, often by totally destroying them.} them-- the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites-- as the LORD your God has commanded you. <sup>18</sup> Otherwise, they will teach you to follow all the detestable things they do in worshiping their gods, and you will sin against the LORD your God. NIV Deut 20:16-18

## Holy War to Come

<sup>11</sup> I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup> He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.