

Jehovah Sabaoth: The Lord of Hosts

יהוה אבצ

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Text: 1 Samuel 17

Date: September 7, 2011, 7pm

Series: Drawing Near to God through His Name

Wednesday night Prayer Meeting

Introduction: Open your Bibles to **1 Samuel 17:40-51**. We continue our series entitled, "Drawing Near to God through His Name" and today we are going to learn that God is Jehovah-Sabaoth: The Lord of Hosts (Heaven's Armies).

1. This title reminds us that God is the **Director** of all creation (Amos 4:13).

Amos 4:13 (ESV) — "For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!"

He is the Lord of all the heavenly host. Host can refer to the galaxies and stars and planets, both discovered and yet undiscovered. The Lord of Hosts is a title that emphasizes God's rule over every other power in the material and spiritual universe. When Scripture speaks of "the host of heaven," it is usually speaking of celestial bodies, though the phrase can also refer to angelic beings. The word "host" can also refer to human beings and to nature itself. When you pray to Yahweh Tsebaoth, you are praying to a God so magnificent that all creation serves his purposes.

2. This title reminds us that God is the **Protector** of all those who trust in Him.

If you are God's child, then you belong to Him, and He will protect you, and in Him you are **omnipotently** secure! God literally fights for you!

The recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have shown in terrifying and breathtaking detail the power of high tech weaponry.

My oldest brother works for one of the largest defense contracting companies in the world, Raytheon. He helped devise the maps for Smart bombs during the first Gulf War, which later led to the technology of GPS.

As the most powerful nation on earth, we've devised ingenious new ways to win battles. But even the most sophisticated weaponry in the history of the world is nothing next to God, who has at his disposal the entire created universe with which to accomplish his purposes. Consider a few of the memorable stories in Scripture that portray creation fighting on behalf of Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of Hosts:

- He's parted the Red Sea (Exodus 14:15-31)
- He's had the earth swallow up the guilty (Numbers 16:28-35)
- He locked the sun in its place until Joshua's battle was won (Joshua 10:12-14)
- He's used thunder in routing an enemy (1 Samuel 7:10-12)
- He had fierce lions cozy up to the prophet Daniel (Daniel 6:16-23)

- Isaiah tells the story of how a single angel slew 185,000 Assyrian soldiers.
- Jesus, the night he was arrested, assured his disciples that he had more than six legions of such angels (72,000) to deliver Him!

Words of Hope

When King Asa came against a million man Ethiopian army, he prayed this prayer...

- **2 Chronicles 14:11** (ESV) — “Asa cried to the LORD his God, “O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your Name we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you.””

David

The essence of this name is that God is the Almighty Warrior who fights for His people. David said it this way in **Psalm 20:7**, “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.”

Moses

We are in a spiritual battle, but we must remember that we are on the winning side. God’s name is the LORD of hosts. This title emphasizes the Lord as sovereign over all of the powers in heaven and on earth, especially over the armies of Israel.

This is a very hopeful name for the child of God. We read in **Exodus 15:3** (ESV) — “The LORD is a man of war [warrior]; the LORD is his name.”

Nebuchadnezzar

The Lord of Hosts can give us protection and remove it. We must trust in Him. The greatest and most powerful world powers and kings and presidents are nothing compared to our great God, the LORD of hosts.

Nebuchadnezzar the greatest king of his time was humbled by God for 7 years after which he came to proper understanding of the LORD of host. Listen to the words of the great king Nebuchadnezzar:

- **Daniel 4:35** (ESV) — “all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?””

This is a title that emphasizes God’s rule over every other power in the material and spiritual universe. The term “Lord of Hosts” is used 282 times in the Bible.

I want us to look at the story of David and Goliath to really understand how personal and transforming this Name of God is. The God who rules all the Hosts of heaven is your Father.

David, a Type of Christ

As we look at this amazing historical account, we are tempted to make David a type of us. That is — “You can slay your giants” with God’s help. But actually David is a

type of Christ In the smallness of His humanity, He is God's chosen king. Christ is the true King who conquers all His enemies! You might say, where are we in the story? We are the armies of Israel who are quaking on the sidelines!

Christ is our great King! He is our deliverer. We learn much from this story and from the words of David.

I. The LORD of Hosts **Protects** us.

1 Samuel 17:40–51 (ESV) — “Then he [David] took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd’s pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine. 41 And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. 42 And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. 43 And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. 44 The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.” 45 Then David said to the Philistine, “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. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, 47 and that all this assembly may 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.” 48 When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. 49 And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.”**

A. Physically, David could not defeat Goliath.

B. Strategically, David could not defeat Goliath. He had no armor, sword, or weapon, outside of five smooth stones.

C. Logically, David had no chance.

And so it seemed with our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus, the night he was arrested, assured his disciples that he had more than six legions of such angels (72,000) at his beck and call!

With such clear evidence of God's power, couldn't the same man who cast out devils, walked on water, raised the dead, multiplied bread for thousands, and calmed a furious storm, have done something else to save himself, to save us? If He was God in human flesh, why was Christ nailed to a Roman cross?

We know the answer. It's a familiar story—it is both the high and low point of human history. It's the day God laid down His weapons and gave His Son to take our place—the day He let Satan have his way. His Son was whipped and mocked, stripped naked on a cross, cut with a crown of thorns pressed hard into his brow, and then publicly displayed, as if He were the devil's own trophy. But this wasn't for long. This was the costliest of struggles for the greatest of prizes. Jesus became the Savior of the world, not through a display of supernatural power but through a display of apparent weakness. He discarded every weapon but his own perfect submission to his Father's will, laying down his life as God's Redeemer, Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of hosts.

His Redeemer, the LORD of Hosts

Isaiah identifies the LORD of Hosts as our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ in **Isaiah 44:6** (ESV) — “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) — “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

You see, we are in a cosmic battle against wickedness. David is our Lord Jesus and Goliath is all that is sin, death, hell, the devil, and the grave!

Paul tells us that our battle is not against flesh and blood “but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” And he urges us to come dressed for battle, to put on the full armor of God so that we can stand in the day of evil (**Ephesians 6:12-13**). As we stand, we are also to remember, that, despite appearances, when the battle is at its worst, the Lord of Hosts is still with us, “able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us” (**Ephesians 3:20**).

Promises

- Be still and remember He is with You! **Psalm 46:10–11** (ESV) — “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” **11 The LORD of hosts** is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah”
- **Psalm 84:12** (ESV) — “O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!”
- If you feel far away, remember **Zechariah 1:3** (ESV) — “Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.”

II. The Lord of Hosts is Present with Us.

The greatest battle preparation for David was obviously not his 19 year old body. He never went through basic training. The greatest warfare preparation that David had

was spiritual warfare. Now remember, spiritual warfare takes place in this physical world. When we go to be with the Lord, the battle will be over! There is coming a day when no one will defy the armies of the living God.

- A. In our most difficult day, we are never **alone**. I love 1 Samuel 17:37–39 (ESV) — “David said, ‘The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.’ And Saul said to David, ‘Go, and the LORD be with you!’ 38 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, 39 and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, ‘I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.’ So David put them off.”

Saul says to David, “the LORD be with you!” And the Bible says then “Saul clothed David with his armor” (verse 38). And I can just hear David thinking as Saul adds the helmet, and the coat of mail, and then he is girded with the king’s own sword—David must be thinking—‘if the Lord is with me, then why must I be armed like a Philistine?’ And so, **verse 39**, “David said to Saul, ‘I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them.’ So David put them off.”

David didn’t learn to trust God in Saul’s army. God took David on his own predestined pathway to sanctification.

Application: You are never alone in the battles of life. Remember, Christ is our David. He will never leave us nor forsake us! In Christ you are in the LORD of hosts!

- B. Because of God’s presence, even in our most confusing battles, we are always **Armed**. By all human accounts, David did not look cut out for this battle as we hear from King Saul. He said in **1 Samuel 17:33** (ESV) — “And Saul said to David, ‘You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth.’”

1 Samuel 17:40 says that David arms himself with “five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd’s bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand” and he went “with his shield-bearer in front of him” (vs. 41).

David had no armor, no spear, and no sword. It appears David was not trusting in his own sufficiency nor in the few simple weapons he had. His total confidence was in the power of the Lord.

The most significant battle preparation of the day was not all the armor on either side of the Valley of Elah, but a boy at a brook choosing five smooth stones.

David could look back to how Gideon fought the Midianites or how Joshua fought the battle of Jericho. If Gideon could use trumpets and pitchers and lamps, then David could surely use a smooth stone from the brook there in the Valley.

None of the great victories of the Bible were waged with sophisticated weaponry and massive armies. **Zechariah 4:6**, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD of hosts.”

2 Corinthians 10:4, “The weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds”.

Each generation must learn to fight and to follow God. Each battle in the Bible is a new and different battle that depended on the Lord alone.

- C. We ought to be in **Awe** of God’s Presence, not fearful of the battle. He had an awareness of His greatness. The soldiers of Israel were in awe of this great warrior Goliath. In **1 Samuel 17:23–25** (ESV) “As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him. 24 All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid. 25 And the men of Israel said, “**Have you seen this man who has come up?**”

All the men of Israel could talk about was this great giant they had seen! **Verse 25**, “Have you seen this man this is come up?”!

David had a different perspective. He had the RIGHT perspective. While the Israeli soldiers could only say “Have you seen this man?”, David could only say “Who is this man?”—“who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” (verse 26).

There is a lot of fear in our lives. Our failure to be in awe of God is reflected in our feeble witnessing.

- D. We have spiritual **Authority** because of the presence of Christ, who is the LORD of Hosts. The church today is lacking in spiritual authority. David did not have to rehearse his words beforehand. He did not take into account what others might think of him.

David had a genuine consciousness of the greatness and **majesty** of God. And yet, David not only saw God high and lifted up, but He saw God as One who was near, and an Almighty God that would stoop down to David and help him.

Application: Now here is an important truth: if you are on the Lord’s side, then the Lord will be by your side. David knew this, and so after Goliath is done spewing out his threats, David starts claiming the authority of heaven against this mere man who blasphemes the Almighty God!

He says in **verse 45-47**, “David said to the Philistine, “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** [Jehovah-Sabaoth], the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, **that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel**, 47 and that all this assembly may 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”.”

David says to Goliath:

1. You’ve defied God.
2. God will deliver you into my hands.
3. I will kill you
4. I will cut your head off
5. In fact your entire army will be defeated today!

Why is David so confident? Because he’s living as if God is real! He is an evangelist on that field! He is preaching the Gospel in a sense! He says “**that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel**” (vs. 46).

Application:

- You ought not fear man or circumstances, but only fear the Lord! We ought to be committed to serving the LORD. Whether in our home, our work, our church, we are going to have plenty of pressure to defy the Lord. But we must not be afraid to take a stand for the Lord.
- You must not remain silent as the churches of today so eagerly rush to be like the world and follow this world’s current. We must stand firm in the Lord. We must say something. We must not apologize for what the Bible says.

III. The Lord of Hosts **Promises** victory.

- A. Remember that the **Battle** is not ours, it belongs to the LORD. **Verses 47**, “...that all this assembly may 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”.”

It reminds me of what David said in Psalm 20: “Some *trust in chariots, and some in horses*: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God” (**Psalm 20:7**).”

- B. Jesus Christ is our **Champion**. Consider how David responds and implements his philosophy

David began running as fast as he could. Suddenly, David kneeling by the brook, but he is RUNNING. He’s not running away, but running **toward** the giant!! **Verse 48**, “When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.” David’s brothers can’t believe their eyes—their little brother is going to embarrass them

in his death! King Saul is probably beside himself in worry, watching this young musician that served in his court commit suicide. The moment is so quick, it hardly registers in the eyes of the armies that are watching. David runs as fast as he can with his shield bearer in front. Two or three swings of his sling and one of the five smooth stones is catapulted into the air.

Verse 49, “And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. 50 So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. 51 Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.”

In a moment the boasting giant has that rock sunk into his forehead. He crumples the ground. The entire army flees. There was a rout that day of the Philistines!

Remember that Jesus Christ is our David. He is our “King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16).

Remember “we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Romans 8:37).

Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 15:55-57**, “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Conclusion: The only person fully in touch with God that day in the Valley of Elah is David. He understood spiritual warfare in all of life’s battles. He made history that day. David did this he said in **verse 46** “all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.” And they know. Do your friends and neighbors see the spiritual victories in your life?

Are you trusting in yourself and your strategies, or are you trusting in the Lord of hosts? He is the One who guides all creation. He leads the armies of heaven on your behalf if you will simply trust in Him!