

**The Bride of Christ at the end times
The Bride of Christ as a Soldier**

(part 2)

David was a young man at the time he courageously killed the giant Goliath. Israel's troops were being ridiculed and mocked and left with no courage to fight him. It took someone like David, young and inexperienced it seemed, but strong with the anointing of YAHWEH; He rejected the armor offered him by King Saul and proceeded to confront Goliath in the strength of YAHWEH with only five stones and a sling. He expressed to King Saul his faith and courage by saying, Let no man's heart fail because of this Philistine; your servant will go out and fight with him. David, assuring the King of his abilities, related his experiences as a defender of his sheep. He said, Your servant kept his father's sheep and when there came a lion or again a bear and took a lamb out of the flock I went out after it and smote it and delivered the lamb out of its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard and smote and killed it; your servant killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living YAHWEH (I Sam. 17:32-36). David's résumé presented to King Saul was sufficient for him to give David permission to fight Goliath, as we know the end of the story.

The Bride of Christ, like David, has been facing an antagonist giant for a long time who in this end time has raised himself higher and stronger with mocking and defiant words against all that has to do with YAHWEH. The problem with the Bride of Christ is that she cannot discern and understand the nature of the battle as David did, because she tries to fight him dressed in the physical armor (symbolic of Saul's armor) in her frustration and anger instead of fighting him on the strength of the full armor of her Lord. One cannot fight the spiritual battle dressed in the physical armor. As Paul said, We are not wrestling with the flesh and blood, but against the despotisms, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly sphere (Ephesians 6:12). We are tired and discouraged because we are fighting our spiritual battles with the wrong armor. When YAHWEH chose His Bride He blessed her with His anointing and gave her His armor to fight the enemy of her soul. The temptations of the hour are to be fought with her alertness, watchfulness and prayer. The battle is to be won through the strength of the Lord, not through her guns.

To wrestle means to struggle hand to hand with an opponent in an attempt to throw or force him to the ground without striking blows (Webster dictionary). To wrestle in the spiritual realm is to resist the enemy and overcome his temptations. YAHSHUA wrestled him with the powerful Word of YAHWEH and he left Him. Submission to YAHWEH and resistance to the devil are the steps to overcome the evil one. A good soldier when in battle never gives up to the enemy; he loses his life for the cause of his country, but never walks away afraid. He avoids entanglements of life and pursues to fight with the purpose to win the battle. The Bride of Christ, as a good soldier, must wrestle the enemy of her soul prepared and knowledgeable of the enemy's tactic, applying the strength of her Lord, Who has overcome the world and the enemy for her soul. Now more than ever she needs to be alert, watchful and in constant prayer to resist the forces

of evil coming against her from all physical sources. The Word of YAHWEH instructs us to fight the good fight of faith; pursuing righteousness, faith, love, patience and gentleness of heart (I Tim. 6:11-12). Our space on earth is to be filled with the love of YAHWEH for all who hates and desires to kill us; is to be filled with good examples of patience and gentleness; our duty as a good soldier of YAHSHUA is to follow His example of forgiveness: "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they are doing".

When we try to fight with Saul's armor, we get discouraged and frustrated. Although Satan does not have a body, he uses people to do his work sometimes, causing us to lose focus of whom we are wrestling against and lose the spiritual battle, for lack of the ability to stand firm holding our ground. The Bride of Christ must be reminded that the moment that she accepts Him as Lord and Savior, she has entered the spiritual battle field until her time is over. Faith in YAHSHUA is entering the narrow gate and walking the narrow road with all kinds of temptations calling us to battle without giving up faith in Him. We don't walk alone in this battle field, neither fight the battles alone; in fact the battles are not ours, but His. YAHSHUA promised to be with us always to the end and He has given us the instructions how to go about doing the work of wrestling against the evil one and be victorious in Christ.

Alertness, watchfulness and praying at all times are part of the full armor of YAHWEH. We must keep alert and watchful persevering in the faith not only when things seem to go bad, but also when they give us the appearance of going well, because the devil is always looking out for reasons to hurt us. In these end times, when all seems so wrong and people seem to have lost reason and conscience, we must keep alert so that we too not fall into their deceitful ways, losing our zeal for righteousness and intimacy with our Lord. The Bride of Christ must fight the devil with boldness and courage confronting him with the living Word; we must stand on the knowledge of the time and on what it stands for in the plans of our Master and Savior, refuting all that is against Him and His plan for the world and for us His Bride.

We are soldiers of Christ dressed in His righteousness and ready to go and to do what He has for us to do with our feet shod, standing our ground securing it from the enemy; girded with the belt of truth, redeeming the time to proclaim His love; dressed in the breastplate of integrity standing for good morals and behavior that pleases Him; covered with the shield of faith to quench all the evil and flaming missiles of the devil; and protected with the helmet of salvation, which gives us certainty of our eternal salvation and nothing can remove it from us. The enemy's death arrows no longer have power over us. We carry the sword of the Spirit- the Word of YAHWEH which is like fire consuming all that cannot endure the test. Like a hammer that breaks in pieces the rock (Jeremiah 23:29), the Word of YAHWEH is alive and full of power; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and the spirit, and of joints and marrow, exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart (Heb.4:12).

With all available to the Bride of Christ to live a victorious life, she has no excuses to be weak, faint and discouraged. YAHWEH'S strength does not grow weak with the strength of the problem we face; in the contrary, more grace will be given to us to be courageous to fight the

enemy. In our battlefield we must believe that the One in us is greater than the enemy of our soul. David believed that when he said to the giant, You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the ranks of Israel, Whom you have defied... And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's (I Sam 17:45b, 47). We could learn a lot from David, as he exercised his faith in His YAHWEH to fight the battle for him. Yes, we are fighting a giant, but not one greater than our great YAHWEH. For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by and to His own glory and excellence (II Peter 1:3). Let's fight the good fight before us and be found faithful and ready for our Bridegroom, whose coming is very soon!