

## **THE PEOPLE OF GOD AND MILITARY SERVICE**

Compiled and commented on by Bill Griffin

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**God's people have been involved in war since the time of Abraham. Abraham put 318 trained fighting men into the field in order to rescue the cities of the plain from their captors. God commanded the Israelites to conquer the land of Canaan, and this involved killing in battle. Prior to the conquest they were involved in battles in which God helped them. The book of Joshua tells of many battles in the conquest of Canaan.**

GEN 14:5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him, came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim and the Zuzim in Ham and the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim,

GEN 14:6 and the Horites in their Mount Seir, as far as El-paran, which is by the wilderness.

GEN 14:7 Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and conquered all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, who lived in Hazazon-tamar.

GEN 14:8 And the king of Sodom and the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) came out; and they arrayed for battle against them in the valley of Siddim,

GEN 14:9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim and Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar -- four kings against five.

GEN 14:10 Now the valley of Siddim was full of tar pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and they fell into them. But those who survived fled to the hill country.

GEN 14:11 Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply, and departed.

GEN 14:12 They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom.

GEN 14:13 ¶ Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and these were allies with Abram.

GEN 14:14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

GEN 14:15 He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

GEN 14:16 He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people.

GEN 14:17 ¶ Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

GEN 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

GEN 14:19 He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

GEN 14:20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.

GEN 14:21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself."

GEN 14:22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the \Lord\ God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth,

GEN 14:23 that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, 'I have made Abram rich.'

GEN 14:24 "I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share."

**In the days of the Judges, the Spirit of the LORD came upon many people to make them mighty warriors, and God helped others as well.**

**The Bible celebrates many military victories (e.g., the Deborah story, Judges 4-5),**

JDG 4:4 ¶ Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

JDG 4:5 She used to sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel came up to her for judgment.

JDG 4:6 Now she sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali, and said to him, "Behold, the \Lord,\ the God of Israel, has commanded, 'Go and march to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men from the sons of Naphtali and from the sons of Zebulun.

JDG 4:7 'I will draw out to you Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his many {troops} to the river Kishon, and I will give him into your hand.'"

JDG 4:8 Then Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go."

JDG 4:9 She said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the honor shall not be yours on the journey that you are about to take, for the \Lord\ will sell Sisera into the hands of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

JDG 5:24 ¶ "Most blessed of women is Jael, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Most blessed is she of women in the tent.

JDG 5:25 "He asked for water {and} she gave him milk; In a magnificent bowl she brought him curds.

JDG 5:26 "She reached out her hand for the tent peg, And her right hand for the workmen's hammer. Then she struck Sisera, she smashed his head; And she shattered and pierced his temple.

JDG 5:27 "Between her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay; Between her feet he bowed, he fell; Where he bowed, there he fell dead.

JDG 5:28 ¶ "Out of the window she looked and lamented, The mother of Sisera through the lattice, 'Why does his chariot delay in coming? Why do the hoofbeats of his chariots tarry?'

JDG 5:29 "Her wise princesses would answer her, Indeed she repeats her words to herself,

JDG 5:30 'Are they not finding, are they not dividing the spoil? A maiden, two maidens for every warrior; To Sisera a spoil of dyed work, A spoil of dyed work embroidered, Dyed work of double embroidery on the neck of the spoiler?'

JDG 5:31 "Thus let all Your enemies perish, O \Lord;\ But let those who love Him be like the rising of the sun in its might." And the land was undisturbed for forty years.

### **and many other battles in Judges. Ehud:**

JDG 3:12 ¶ Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the \Lord.\ So the \Lord\ strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the \Lord.\

JDG 3:13 And he gathered to himself the sons of Ammon and Amalek; and he went and defeated Israel, and they possessed the city of the palm trees.

JDG 3:14 The sons of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

JDG 3:15 ¶ But when the sons of Israel cried to the \Lord,\ the \Lord\ raised up a deliverer for them, Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man. And the sons of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab.

JDG 3:16 Ehud made himself a sword which had two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his cloak.

JDG 3:17 He presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man.

JDG 3:18 It came about when he had finished presenting the tribute, that he sent away the people who had carried the tribute.

JDG 3:19 But he himself turned back from the idols which were at Gilgal, and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he said, "Keep silence." And all who attended him left him.

JDG 3:20 Ehud came to him while he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." And he arose from his seat.

JDG 3:21 Ehud stretched out his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh and thrust it into his belly.

JDG 3:22 The handle also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the sword out of his belly; and the refuse came out.

JDG 3:23 Then Ehud went out into the vestibule and shut the doors of the roof chamber behind him, and locked {them.}

JDG 3:24 ¶ When he had gone out, his servants came and looked, and behold, the doors of the roof chamber were locked; and they said, "He is only relieving himself in the cool room."

JDG 3:25 They waited until they became anxious; but behold, he did not open the doors of the roof chamber. Therefore they took the key and opened them, and behold, their master had fallen to the floor dead.

JDG 3:26 ¶ Now Ehud escaped while they were delaying, and he passed by the idols and escaped to Seirah.

JDG 3:27 It came about when he had arrived, that he blew the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he {was} in front of them.

JDG 3:28 He said to them, "Pursue {them,} for the \Lord\ has given your enemies the Moabites into your hands." So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan opposite Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross.

JDG 3:29 They struck down at that time about ten thousand Moabites, all robust and valiant men; and no one escaped.

JDG 3:30 So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land was undisturbed for eighty years.

JDG 3:31 ¶ After him came Shamgar the son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad; and he also saved Israel.

### **See also Gideon (Judges 6-8) and Jephthah**

JDG 10:17 ¶ Then the sons of Ammon were summoned and they camped in Gilead. And the sons of Israel gathered together and camped in Mizpah.

JDG 10:18 The people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, "Who is the man who will begin to fight against the sons of Ammon? He shall become head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

JDG 11:1 Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a valiant warrior, but he was the son of a harlot. And Gilead was the father of Jephthah.

JDG 11:2 Gilead's wife bore him sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You shall not have an inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman."

JDG 11:3 So Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob; and worthless fellows gathered themselves about Jephthah, and they went out with him.

JDG 11:4 ¶ It came about after a while that the sons of Ammon fought against Israel.

JDG 11:5 When the sons of Ammon fought against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob;

JDG 11:6 and they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our chief that we may fight against the sons of Ammon."

JDG 11:7 Then Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me and drive me from my father's house? So why have you come to me now when you are in trouble?"

JDG 11:8 The elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "For this reason we have now returned to you, that you may go with us and fight with the sons of Ammon and become head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

JDG 11:9 So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you take me back to fight against the sons of Ammon and the \Lord\ gives them up to me, will I become your head?"

JDG 11:10 The elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The \Lord\ is witness between us; surely we will do as you have said."

JDG 11:11 Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and chief over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before the \Lord\ at Mizpah.

JDG 11:12 ¶ Now Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the sons of Ammon, saying, "What is between you and me, that you have come to me to fight against my land?"

JDG 11:13 The king of the sons of Ammon said to the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel took away my land when they came up from Egypt, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and the Jordan; therefore, return them peaceably now."

JDG 11:14 But Jephthah sent messengers again to the king of the sons of Ammon,

JDG 11:15 and they said to him, "Thus says Jephthah, 'Israel did not take away the land of Moab nor the land of the sons of Ammon.'

JDG 11:16 'For when they came up from Egypt, and Israel went through the wilderness to the Red Sea and came to Kadesh,

JDG 11:17 then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, "Please let us pass through your land," but the king of Edom would not listen. And they also sent to the king of Moab, but he would not consent. So Israel remained at Kadesh.

JDG 11:18 'Then they went through the wilderness and around the land of Edom and the land of Moab, and came to the east side of the land of Moab, and they camped beyond the Arnon; but they did not enter the territory of Moab, for the Arnon {was} the border of Moab.

JDG 11:19 'And Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, the king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him, "Please let us pass through your land to our place."

JDG 11:20 'But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory; so Sihon gathered all his people and camped in Jahaz and fought with Israel.

JDG 11:21 'The \Lord,\ the God of Israel, gave Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them; so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, the inhabitants of that country.

JDG 11:22 'So they possessed all the territory of the Amorites, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok, and from the wilderness as far as the Jordan.

JDG 11:23 'Since now the \Lord,\ the God of Israel, drove out the Amorites from before His people Israel, are you then to possess it?

JDG 11:24 'Do you not possess what Chemosh your god gives you to possess? So whatever the \Lord\ our God has driven out before us, we will possess it.

JDG 11:25 'Now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever strive with Israel, or did he ever fight against them?

JDG 11:26 'While Israel lived in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities that are on the banks of the Arnon, three hundred years, why did you not recover them within that time?

JDG 11:27 'I therefore have not sinned against you, but you are doing me wrong by making war against me; may the \Lord,\ the Judge, judge today between the sons of Israel and the sons of Ammon.'"

JDG 11:28 But the king of the sons of Ammon disregarded the message which Jephthah sent him.

JDG 11:29 ¶ Now the Spirit of the \Lord\ came upon Jephthah, so that he passed through Gilead and Manasseh; then he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he went on to the sons of Ammon.

JDG 11:30 Jephthah made a vow to the \Lord\ and said, "If You will indeed give the sons of Ammon into my hand,

JDG 11:31 then it shall be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, it shall be the \Lord's,\ and I will offer it up as a burnt offering."

JDG 11:32 So Jephthah crossed over to the sons of Ammon to fight against them; and the \Lord\ gave them into his hand.

JDG 11:33 He struck them with a very great slaughter from Aroer to the entrance of Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim. So the sons of Ammon were subdued before the sons of Israel.

### **Samson (Judges 13-16).**

## **Likewise, the victories by Saul**

1SA 11:1 Now Nahash the Ammonite came up and besieged Jabesh-gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us and we will serve you."

1SA 11:2 But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "I will make {it} with you on this condition, that I will gouge out the right eye of every one of you, thus I will make it a reproach on all Israel."

1SA 11:3 The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Let us alone for seven days, that we may send messengers throughout the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to deliver us, we will come out to you."

1SA 11:4 Then the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and spoke these words in the hearing of the people, and all the people lifted up their voices and wept.

1SA 11:5 ¶ Now behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen, and he said, "What is {the matter} with the people that they weep?" So they related to him the words of the men of Jabesh.

1SA 11:6 Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul mightily when he heard these words, and he became very angry.

1SA 11:7 He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, and sent {them} throughout the territory of Israel by the hand of messengers, saying, "Whoever does not come out after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen." Then the dread of the \Lord\ fell on the people, and they came out as one man.

1SA 11:8 He numbered them in Bezek; and the sons of Israel were 300, 000, and the men of Judah 30, 000.

1SA 11:9 They said to the messengers who had come, "Thus you shall say to the men of Jabesh-gilead, 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you will have deliverance.'" So the messengers went and told the men of Jabesh; and they were glad.

1SA 11:10 Then the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you."

1SA 11:11 The next morning Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp at the morning watch and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. Those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

1SA 11:12 ¶ Then the people said to Samuel, "Who is he that said, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring the men, that we may put them to death."

1SA 11:13 But Saul said, "Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the \Lord\ has accomplished deliverance in Israel."

**and David were applauded** (e.g., 1 Samuel 17; 2 Samuel 8 & 10, etc.),

**as well as David's mighty men--all warriors.**

2SA 23:8 ¶ These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-basshebeth a Tahchemonite, chief of the captains, he was {called} Adino the Eznite, because of eight hundred slain {by him} at one time;

2SA 23:9 and after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there to battle and the men of Israel had withdrawn.

2SA 23:10 He arose and struck the Philistines until his hand was weary and clung to the sword, and the \Lord\ brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to strip {the slain.}

2SA 23:11 ¶ Now after him was Shammah the son of Agee a Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered into a troop where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the people fled from the Philistines.

2SA 23:12 But he took his stand in the midst of the plot, defended it and struck the Philistines; and the \Lord\ brought about a great victory.

2SA 23:13 ¶ Then three of the thirty chief men went down and came to David in the harvest time to the cave of Adullam, while the troop of the Philistines was camping in the valley of Rephaim.

2SA 23:14 David was then in the stronghold, while the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.

2SA 23:15 David had a craving and said, "Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem which is by the gate!"

2SA 23:16 So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, and drew water from the well of Bethlehem which was by the gate, and took {it} and brought {it} to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the \Lord;\

2SA 23:17 and he said, "Be it far from me, O \Lord,\ that I should do this. {Shall I drink} the blood of the men who went in {jeopardy} of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.

2SA 23:18 ¶ Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief of the thirty. And he swung his spear against three hundred and killed {them,} and had a name as well as the three.

2SA 23:19 He was most honored of the thirty, therefore he became their commander; however, he did not attain to the three.

2SA 23:20 ¶ Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done mighty deeds, killed the two {sons of} Ariel of Moab. He also went down and killed a lion in the middle of a pit on a snowy day.

2SA 23:21 He killed an Egyptian, an impressive man. Now the Egyptian {had} a spear in his hand, but he went down to him with a club and snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear.

2SA 23:22 These {things} Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and had a name as well as the three mighty men.

2SA 23:23 He was honored among the thirty, but he did not attain to the three. And David appointed him over his guard.

2SA 23:24 ¶ Asahel the brother of Joab was among the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

2SA 23:25 Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite,

2SA 23:26 Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,

2SA 23:27 Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

2SA 23:28 Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

2SA 23:29 Heleb the son of Baanah the Netophathite, Ittai the son of Ribai of Gibeath of the sons of Benjamin,

2SA 23:30 Benaiah a Pirathonite, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,  
2SA 23:31 Abi-albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,  
2SA 23:32 Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,  
2SA 23:33 Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Ararite,  
2SA 23:34 Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maacathite, Eliam the son of  
Ahithophel the Gilonite,  
2SA 23:35 Hezro the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,  
2SA 23:36 Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,  
2SA 23:37 Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, armor bearers of Joab the son  
of Zeruiah,  
2SA 23:38 Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,  
2SA 23:39 Uriah the Hittite; thirty-seven in all.

**Jehoshaphat, who many turn to because ONCE he put the singers out in front of the army, is recorded elsewhere as being involved in many battles where he did not do such.**

1KI 22:1 Three years passed without war between Aram and Israel.

1KI 22:2 In the third year Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.

1KI 22:3 Now the king of Israel said to his servants, "Do you know that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, and we are still doing nothing to take it out of the hand of the king of Aram?"

1KI 22:4 And he said to Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?" And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

1KI 22:5 ¶ Moreover, Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire first for the word of the \Lord\."

2KI 3:4 ¶ Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and used to pay the king of Israel 100, 000 lambs and the wool of 100, 000 rams.

2KI 3:5 But when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

2KI 3:6 And King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel.

2KI 3:7 Then he went and sent {word} to Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, saying, "The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?" And he said, "I will go up; I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

2KI 3:8 He said, "Which way shall we go up?" And he answered, "The way of the wilderness of Edom."

2KI 3:9 ¶ So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom; and they made a circuit of seven days' journey, and there was no water for the army or for the cattle that followed them.

2KI 3:10 Then the king of Israel said, "Alas! For the \Lord\ has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab."

2KI 3:11 But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not a prophet of the \Lord\ here, that we may inquire of the \Lord\ by him?" And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who used to pour water on the hands of Elijah."

2KI 3:12 Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the \Lord\ is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

2KI 3:13 ¶ Now Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What do I have to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and to the prophets of your mother." And the king of Israel said to him, "No, for the \Lord\ has called these three kings {together} to give them into the hand of Moab."

2KI 3:14 Elisha said, "As the \Lord\ of hosts lives, before whom I stand, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look at you nor see you.

2KI 3:15 "But now bring me a minstrel." And it came about, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the \Lord\ came upon him.

2KI 3:16 He said, "Thus says the \Lord,\ 'Make this valley full of trenches.'

2KI 3:17 "For thus says the \Lord,\ 'You shall not see wind nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, both you and your cattle and your beasts.

2KI 3:18 'This is but a slight thing in the sight of the \Lord;\ He will also give the Moabites into your hand.

2KI 3:19 'Then you shall strike every fortified city and every choice city, and fell every good tree and stop all springs of water, and mar every good piece of land with stones.'"

2KI 3:20 It happened in the morning about the time of offering the sacrifice, that behold, water came by the way of Edom, and the country was filled with water.

2KI 3:21 ¶ Now all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them. And all who were able to put on armor and older were summoned and stood on the border.

2KI 3:22 They rose early in the morning, and the sun shone on the water, and the Moabites saw the water opposite {them} as red as blood.

2KI 3:23 Then they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely fought together, and they have slain one another. Now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!"

2KI 3:24 But when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites arose and struck the Moabites, so that they fled before them; and they went forward into the land, slaughtering the Moabites.

2KI 3:25 Thus they destroyed the cities; and each one threw a stone on every piece of good land and filled it. So they stopped all the springs of water and felled all the good trees, until in Kir-hareseth {only} they left its stones; however, the slingers went about {it} and struck it.

### **After the exile, Nehemiah was willing to use military force against people who were engaging in commerce on the Sabbath.**

NEH 13:19 ¶ It came about that just as it grew dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and that they should not open them until after the sabbath. Then I stationed some of my servants at the gates {so that} no load would enter on the sabbath day.

NEH 13:20 Once or twice the traders and merchants of every kind of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem.

NEH 13:21 Then I warned them and said to them, "Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will use force against you." From that time on they did not come on the sabbath.

**During the intertestamental period people thought it was wrong to fight on the Sabbath (having forgotten the fact that the attack on Jericho had to include a Sabbath, and forgetting Nehemiah), and many hid in a cave, and the Syrians built a fire at the mouth of the cave which killed them. They then decided it was lawful to kill on the Sabbath-- a decision Jesus alluded to.**

MAR 3:4 And He \*said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent.

**In the NT, John the Baptist did not tell soldiers to quit the military, but to act justly.**

LUK 3:14 {Some} soldiers were questioning him, saying, "And {what about} us, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse {anyone} falsely, and be content with your wages."

**Jesus likewise had some dealings with Roman military people, and no hint was given that they should quit the military.**

MAT 8:5 ¶ And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him,

MAT 8:6 and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented."

MAT 8:7 Jesus \*said to him, "I will come and heal him."

MAT 8:8 But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

MAT 8:9 "For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does {it}."

MAT 8:10 Now when Jesus heard {this,} He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.

MAT 8:11 "I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline {at the table} with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven;

MAT 8:12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

MAT 8:13 And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that {very} moment.

**Cornelius was the first major Gentile convert to Christianity, and no hint was given that he should quit as well.**

ACT 10:1 Now {there was} a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort,

ACT 10:2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the {Jewish} people and prayed to God continually.

ACT 10:3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had {just} come in and said to him, "Cornelius!"

ACT 10:4 And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

ACT 10:5 "Now dispatch {some} men to Joppa and send for a man {named} Simon, who is also called Peter;

ACT 10:6 he is staying with a tanner {named} Simon, whose house is by the sea."

ACT 10:7 When the angel who was speaking to him had left, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were his personal attendants,

ACT 10:8 and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

ACT 10:9 ¶ On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.

ACT 10:10 But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance;

ACT 10:11 and he \*saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground,

ACT 10:12 and there were in it all {kinds of} four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air.

ACT 10:13 A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!"

ACT 10:14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."

ACT 10:15 Again a voice {came} to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no {longer} consider unholy."

ACT 10:16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

ACT 10:17 ¶ Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate;

ACT 10:18 and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there.

ACT 10:19 While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you.

ACT 10:20 "But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself."

ACT 10:21 Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?"

ACT 10:22 They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was {divinely} directed by a holy angel to send for you {to come} to his house and hear a message from you."

ACT 10:23 So he invited them in and gave them lodging. ¶ And on the next day he got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

ACT 10:24 On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

ACT 10:25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped {him.}

ACT 10:26 But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am {just} a man."

ACT 10:27 As he talked with him, he entered and \*found many people assembled.

ACT 10:28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and {yet} God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.

ACT 10:29 "That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me."

ACT 10:30 ¶ Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments,

ACT 10:31 and he \*said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.

ACT 10:32 'Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon {the} tanner by the sea.'

ACT 10:33 "So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

ACT 10:34 ¶ Opening his mouth, Peter said: ¶ "I} most certainly understand {now} that God is not one to show partiality,

ACT 10:35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

ACT 10:36 "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all) --

ACT 10:37 you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed.

ACT 10:38 "{You know of} Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and {how} He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

ACT 10:39 "We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.

ACT 10:40 "God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,

ACT 10:41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, {that is,} to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

ACT 10:42 "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

ACT 10:43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

ACT 10:44 ¶ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

ACT 10:45 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

ACT 10:46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,

ACT 10:47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we {did,} can he?"

ACT 10:48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

Scripture quotations are from the NASB.