

Failure to bring subsequent opponents to the treaty table has ended in a stalemate with North Korea, withdrawal from Vietnam, and yet-to-be determined outcomes in the Middle East. Joshua did not fail to totally defeat the enemy once he took the land of Israel:

Joshua 11:20 - It was of the Lord to harden their hearts, to meet Israel in battle in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might receive no mercy, but that he might destroy them, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

v. 23 - So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses, and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Thus the land had rest from war.

Scripture also provides to the people and the defenders of a client nation. As the Jews were rebuilding Jerusalem, occupants of the land were planning to attack the Israelites before they could complete the city walls:

Nehemiah 4:14 - When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: "Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

In victory, the people of a Client Nation are to remain humble by recalling the principle that it is the Word of God, the residency of its truths in the souls of its people that enables Jesus Christ to control history on behalf of mature believers:

1 Samuel 17:46 - "This day the Lord will deliver you [Goliath] up into my [David's] hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,

1 Samuel 17:47 - and that all this assembly may know that the Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into our hands.

Psalms 33:12 - Blessed in the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.

During the reign of Jehoshaphat, the fourth king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, news came to him that an allied army made up of Moabites, Ammonites, Syrians, and Edomites were planning an attack on Judah and Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 20:1-2).

Jehoshaphat knew he was not prepared militarily to engage such a large force and made the decision to organize a prayer meeting before the temple in Jerusalem (vv. 3-5).

His magnificent prayer is recorded in verses 6-12. He saluted the Lord regarding His power and authority and then appealed for His divine deliverance from the danger, summarizing it in:

2 Chronicles 20:12 - "O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

The Lord's response was prompt providing instruction on how to assemble themselves and in what place followed by a very interesting command in:

2 Chronicles 20:17 - 'You need not fight in this battle; station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out and face them, for the Lord is with you."

The battle sequence is described in verses 21-24. Jehoshaphat's advance guard was not made up of military personnel but rather the temple chorus and orchestra. Their job leading point was to sing, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His lovingkindness is everlasting" (v. 21).

As the chorus sang the Lord directed an unknown set of ambushes against the enemy (v. 22). The aftermath involved the Israelites accumulating booty off the battlefield for the next three days (vv.24-25).

On the fourth day, Jehoshaphat assembled the people of Judah to give praise to the Lord:

1 Chronicles 20:26 - Then on the fourth day they assembled in the valley of Berachah [בְּרַכָּה] (**Berachah**): “blessing”], for there they blessed the Lord. Therefore they have named that place “The Valley of Berachah” until today.

v. 27 - Every man of Judah and Jerusalem returned with Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the Lord had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

v. 28 - They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres, and trumpets to the house of the Lord.

v. 29 - And the dread of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel.

v. 30 - so the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God gave him rest on all sides.

The honoring of military heroes is a biblical concept as evidenced by David’s Men of Valor whose honor roll is found in 2 Samuel, chapter 23.

All these men were loyal to David and served the Priest Nation of Israel with skill and courage on the field of honor.

2 Samuel 23:8 - These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: **JŌ-sheb-bas-SĒ-beth** a TAHCHE-mo-nīte, chief of the captains, he was called AD-i-nō the ĘZ- nīte, because of eight hundred slain by him at one time;

v. 9 - and after him was **Ē-le-Ā-zar** the son of DŌ-dō the Ā-HŌ- nīte, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there to do battle and the men of Israel had withdrawn.

2 Samuel 23:10 - He rose 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.

v. 11 - Now after him was **SHĀM-mah** the son of ĀGE-ē a HĀ-ra-rīte. 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.

v. 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.

Josheb-basshebeth, Eleazar, and Shammah were known as The Three, the elite warriors of the group known as David's Mighty Men. Other of renown follow, beginning at verse 18:

2 Samuel 23:18 - **A-BISH-a-ī**, the brother of JŌ-ab, the son of Zer-u-ī-ah, 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.

v. 19 - He was most honored of The Thirty, therefore he became their commander; however, he did not attain to The Three.

v. 20 - Then **Be-NĀ-iah** the son of Je-HOI-a-da, the son of a valiant man of KAB-ze-el, who had done mighty deeds, killed the two sons of Ā-ri-el of MŌ-ab. He also went down and killed a lion in the middle of a pit on a snowy day.

v. 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.

v. 22 - These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and had a name as well as The Thirty Mighty Men.

v. 23 - He was honored among The Thirty, but he did not attain The Three. And David appointed him over his guard.

Beginning at verse 24 and continuing through verse 39 is the list of the names of The Thirty Mighty Men, actually 31:

2 Samuel 23:24 - **Ā-sa-hel** the brother of Joab was among the thirty; **EL-hā-nan** the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

v. 25 - **Shammah** the HĀ-rod-īte, **EL-i-ka** the Harodite,

v. 26 - **HĒ-lez** the PAL-tīte, **Ī-ra** the son of IK-kesh the Tē-KŌ-īte,

v. 27 - **Ā-bi-Ē-zer** the ĀN-e-thoth-īte, **Mē-BUN-nāi** the HŪ-shath-īte,

v. 28 - **ZAL-mon** the Ā-HŌ-īte, **Mā-HAR-a-ī** the Nē-TŌPH-a-thīte,

v. 29 - **HĒ-leb** the son of BĀ-a-nah, a Nē-TŌPH-a-thīte, **IT-ta-ī** the son of RĪ-ba-ī out of GIB-e-ah of the children of Benjamin,

v. 30 - **Be-NĀ-iah** the PIR-a-thon-īte, **HID-da-ī** of the brooks of GĀ-ash,

v. 31 - **Ā-bi-ĀL-bon** the ÄR-bath-īte, **Az-MĀ-veith** the Bär-HŪ-mīte,

v. 32 - **Ē-LĪ-ah-ba** the Shā-ĀL-bo-nīte, of the sons of JĀ-shen, **Jonathan**,

v. 33 - **SHĀM-mah** the HĀ-ra-rīte, **A-HĪ-am** the son of SHĀ-rar the Hararite,

v. 34 - **Ē-LIPH-e-lit** the son of A-HĀS-ba-ī, the son of the Ma-ĀCH-a-thīte, **E-LĪ-am** the son of A-HITH-o-phel the GĪ-lo-nīte,

v. 35 - **HEZ-ra-ī** the Cär-mel-īte, **PĀ-a-rāi** the ÄR-bīte,

v. 36 - **Ī-gāl** the son of Nathan of ZŌ-bah, **BĀ-nī** the GAD-īte,

v. 37 - **ZĒ-lek** the ĀM-mön-īte, **NĀ-ha-rī** the Bē-Ē-röth-īte, armorbearers of Joab the son of Zer-u-Ī-ah,

v. 38 - **Ī-ra** an ĪTH-rīte, **GĀ-reb** an ĪTH-rīte,

v. 39 - **Ū-RĪ-ah** the HIT-tīte; thirty-seven in all [counting David]. (NASB)

Since this is our Memorial Day observance, in which we remember those in our nation's history for their exploits on the field of honor, I think it fitting to mention the biblical authorization of a day to remember the personal sacrifices of our nation's Mighty Men of Valor, hundreds of thousands who have fallen in fray.

The names of David's corps of military heroes are enshrined in the immutable and eternal record of the Word of God. They were and remain still enshrined in the soul of David who recruited these men and who, with him, distinguished and delivered Israel on the field of battle.

Insert: "Now Praise We Great and Famous Men"

Prayer:

Father, we are humbled by the sacrifice that so many within our Client Nation have given so that we might remain free. We acknowledge that they did not see themselves as heroes but their devotion to duty renders them so. Their absence affected the lives of so many who lost dear loved ones at the highest cost. Mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, wives and children, friends and relatives were left to suffer the void that honor required.

In the most difficult calling assigned to men – and now to the women of this country – we owe them each a mental salute for the price they paid so that the rest might live in peace while some yet born must one day pick up the guidon and carry the colors where the colors never flew.

Comfort the families on tomorrow's lachrymose day as survivors recall the reveries of good times past while suffering the absence of the ones who gave their all.

May your grace and your power sustain those who remember when. And we lift our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ who is *Yahweh Sebaoth*, the Lord of the Armies. Amen.