

Military Preparedness as per Jesus, Patrick Henry, Jehoshaphat, & David

10. The Indians had demonstrated “*ready sprung bows*” in response to the backwoodsmen’s display of arms. Both sides are in condition red.

Where the backwoodsmen were restrained by “*more prudent traders*,” the Indian warriors were restrained by the “*wise men*” of the tribe.

These “*wise men*” had obviously seen the results of the “*deadly aim*” of the backwoodsmen in previous encounters and knew they were out gunned, or, better, out “*arrowed*.”

Principle: Military superiority prevents war.

The traders decided to display an organized assault. They mustered a force and organized into a “*line of battle*” complete with fife and drum. Although outnumbered 5 to 1, the presentation of an organized military force inspired the Indian chief to smoke a bong rather than shoot an arrow.

The Indians exhibited a force of 1,000 warriors while the traders had a total population of 200, most of whom were not battle worthy. However, Gregg reports that, “*our superior arms and the protection afforded by the wagons, gave us considerably the advantage.*”

Scripture is clear that in warfare the advantage does not necessarily lie in superiority of numbers.

Luke 14:31 - What king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

Patrick Henry understood this principle in his “*Liberty or Death*” speech delivered before the Virginia Convention of Delegates, March 23, 1775. He spoke in response to a suggestion that Virginia not rush to muster its militia in reaction to threatening military maneuvers by the British Navy. The rationales for not mobilizing the militia included the notion that it was folly to challenge such a powerful opponent as England. Henry addressed the idea of a weak Continental Army when he said,

Sir, we are not weak, if we make proper use of the means which the God of nature has placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise friends to fight our battles for us. The battle is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave.

This portion of Henry’s speech contains what I like to call his Formula for Freedom:

- a. The “*three millions of people*” contain a very large and strong Pivot of mature believers.
- b. “*Armed in the holy cause of liberty*” indicates that there is a body of men who are properly prepared in the art of war to defend liberty in the colonies.
- c. “*In such a country as that which we possess*” implies that the body of mature believers in the Colonies qualify them for Client Nation consideration by the Lord.

Thus, the formula: **P + MP + CNP = I**

The Pivot, plus military preparedness, plus Client Nation Potentiality, equals Invincibility.

1 Samuel 17:47 - The Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's.

One of the great Jewish leaders was Jehoshaphat, the great-grandson of David and fourth king of Judah. He gets an excellent KER in 2 Chronicles 17:3–2 Chronicles 17:6. Jehoshaphat established a very powerful military force and constructed fortifications throughout the land.

2 Chronicles 17:12 - Jehoshaphat grew greater and greater and he built fortresses and store cities in Judah.

NOTE: The “*fortresses*” were walled cities with resident military installations while “*store cities*” were sites for banks, provisions, and arsenals.

2 Chronicles 17:13 - And he had large supplies in the cities of Judah, and warriors, valiant men, in Jerusalem.

NOTE: In verses 14 through 18 we see that the Army of Judah was made up of two corps and five divisions under Adnah, General of the Army and Jehoshaphat's Chief of Staff. Adnah would be a three-or four-star general while the other commanders would be two-stars, or major generals:

I. Judah Corps: (vv 14–16)

- 1st Division Commanded by Adnah and made up of 300,000 soldiers.
- 2nd Division Commanded by Jehohannon (Jee-ho-HAY-nan) over 280,000 troops.
- 3rd Division Commanded by Amasiah (Am-a-SY-ah) over 200,000 men.

II. Benjamin Corps: (vv 17–18)

- 4th Division Commanded by Eliada (Ee-LY-ah-dah), an artillery division composed of 200,000 archers.
- 5th Division Commanded by Jehozabad (Je-HAHZ-ah-bad) over 180,000 men.

NOTE: According to 2 Chronicles 17:19, this 1,160,000-man standing army did not include the reserves stationed at the fortified cities throughout Judah.

This well-organized military force was put to the test in 2 Chronicles 20 where we learn in:

2 Chronicles 20:1 - ... the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat.

Although, the king had made every possible preparation to defend his nation, he realized that he was outnumbered by this allied army. Rather than place his nation at risk of defeat, he went to the Lord in prayer for guidance and direction. His prayer is recorded in 2 Chronicles 20:6–2 Chronicles 20:12. We note the conclusion of his prayer in:

2 Chronicles 20:12 - ... 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.

Through the Prophet Jahaziel (Jah-hay-ZAH-ayl), the Lord responds in:

2 Chronicles 20:15b - Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.

David also understood this principle since he is the one who used that quote just before decapitating Goliath. He was certainly outnumbered by Saul's forces which pursued him relentlessly. David wrote a song commemorating God's deliverance from the hand of his enemies in 2 Samuel 22. Victory over superior forces is mentioned in:

2 Chronicles 20:18 - He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me.

There are many historical examples of the consequences which come to a nation which disarms itself, but probably the classic example is the fate of the ancient city of Carthage and the catastrophic results of its hostilities with Rome known as the three Punic Wars.