

11 Elul, 5767 (Aug. 25, 2007) *Successful Spiritual Warfare: Fighting to Win* J. M. Terrett
Strategic deployment

Ki Tetse When You Go Out Contingencies of the Kingdom

Toraḥ: Deut. 21:10-25:19

(1)22:12 – We need to be clothed with His righteousness and not naked (2 Cor. 5:3)

(2)23:1 – three possible reasons: (a) male temple prostitute; (b) entrance is generational; (c) our temple must be whole. Still able to sojourn in community.

(3)23:14 – Spiritual hygiene is important too (I Jn. 1:9; Is. 55:7).

(4)24:16 – the negative legacy (generational dysfunction) is not our problem, how we respond to it is.

Haftarah: Is. 52:13-54:10

(5)53:10 – He shall rise after He has dealt with sin and death

(6)54:8 – His wrath lasts a moment, His love is eternal

Brit Chadashah: I Cor. 5:1-5

(7)5:5 – exclusion is the community's "capital" punishment. Even this sin is only in the flesh, it is the spirit/soul where salvation rests. Let them go feed pigs and not bring pigs into the sheep fold.

Ep. 6:10-18; Ep. 4:26; I Th. 5:19; I P. 5:8, 9; Ja. 4:7; I Ti. 2:24-26; Ja. 3:13-18; Gal. 5:13-15

This morning, let's begin with some review from last week:

"One aspect of maintaining a healthy spirituality which the High Holy Days teaches us is that we live in a **spiritual combat zone**. We have to know what it means to live on alert, without either running out of **supplies** or succumbing to **battle fatigue**. Part of this process also means understanding that a defeat does not mean we lose the war and just as importantly, that each victory does not mean we have won the war.

For those of you who study war, it is not a constant series of random battles, but the strategic use of **military strategy** and resources, both **defensive** and **offensive**, so that the enemy is both out manoeuvred and outgunned. Also, that our own forces are never placed in a position where defeat is inevitable because retreating to a better position or digging in inside bunkers are also good military moves which give you time to survive and recover until you are ready for victory.

With this in mind, I want to deal with three categories of spiritual warfare which the Bible warns us to be ready for (see the example of our L-rd: **Matt. 4:1-11**). (1) **Biological warfare** where the enemy tries to infect our spirituality with various kinds cult behaviours; (2) **Strategic deployment** where the enemy tries to disable us and oppress us by striking at any unprotected gaps in our spirituality (3) **Espionage**, where counterfeit carnal spirituality tries to use various disguises to destroy our defences from the inside."

This week, we are going to talk about Strategic deployment in the realm of spiritual warfare.

I P. 5:8, 9. Ja. 4:7-10. 2 Cor. 2:11. Ep. 4:26, 27. (Eph. 4:30 & I Thess. 5:19). I Ti. 2:24-26.

One of the most interesting departments of the US military has to do with the development of new missile technology. They spend their time designing new kinds of missiles and then finding ways of shooting them down. Related to this, did you know that every form of martial arts is based on the same four principles: (1) develop your strength (2) protect your weakness (3) avoid your opponents strengths (4) attack your opponents weaknesses.

With this in mind, I want you to understand that this also applies to spiritual warfare. One of the most unfortunate mistakes believers make is actually a double blunder. It is very unwise to underestimate your enemy and it is just as unwise to overestimate your enemy. There are four strategic blunders which could have prevented WWII.

When Hitler took possession of the **demilitarized Rhineland**, much of his equipment broke down and the under trained and poorly equipped soldiers were instructed to retreat (run for their lives) if they encountered any opposition. They encountered no resistance.

When Hitler **took over Austria**, he had less than five divisions at his disposal and almost any of the armies of the surrounding nations could have annihilated his miniature task force. No one intervened.

When Hitler **took over Czechoslovakia**, the very well equipped Czech army and air force could have repulsed the German invasion, but they were ordered to surrender. The equipment the Germans seized was later used against the short sighted allies.

By the time the allies took a stand, the **antiquated Polish army** had cavalry charging tanks. They were slaughtered and their cities were reduced to rubble. Some believers underestimate the enemy in their lives until he has gained the strategic advantage, then their antiquated resistance is blown to bits and they are taken captive by him to do his will. ***Are you up to date?***

One little proviso, then I will talk about **outmanoeuvring** and **outgunning** the enemy. I Jn. 4:4 says that greater is He who is in you than He who is in the world. This and other passages indicate that a believer cannot be **possessed** by the devil (or by any evil spirits). However, whenever we do not follow biblical principles in any of our dealings with anything in our lives, we leave a broken window, an open door, or a leaky roof through which our adversary can **oppress** us.

Let me put it another way. As long as there was a significant righteous core in Israel and Judah, the kingdoms could be **oppressed** and greatly **reduced**, but never completely **overcome**, but when the Word of G-d and His righteousness was reduced to a memory or became the target the people fought against, first Israel, the Judah were overcome and went into **captivity**.

However, even in captivity, both then and now, Israel has never been under the complete control of the adversary and all of his attempts to completely destroy this people will always fail. How do we prevent ourselves from being oppressed or from being taken captive by our enemy? Seven quick principles, based on seven biblical passages and I will close.

(1) Be **vigilant** and **sober** (I P. 5:8) Be on the look out and make sure all your windows are repaired, all your doors closed and for heaven's sake, fix your roof – storm proof your house and keep a storm going. In other words, as long as your spiritual life is in good repair, the wind, the flood and the rain will have no impact on it.

(2) **Resist** him and **draw near** to G-d (James 4:7-10). Fight back appropriately (Eph. 6:10-18) and head for the air raid shelter and fix whatever portions of your spirituality which are deficient, broken or out of control. Be **proactive** or at least **reactive**, but **never** give in.

(3) Learn to **recognize** his strategy (2 Cor. 2:11- temptation, condemnation, confusion) and learn not to play into his hands.

(4) When you **blow it**, fix it, and **don't make it worse** (Eph. 4:26, 27). I Jn. 1:9 and Is. 55:6, 7 are the basis of our spiritual defence and repair.

(5) Do not **grieve** G-d's Spirit (Eph. 4:30) by consciously and stubbornly doing things you know full well that you shouldn't.

(6) Do not **extinguish** or **quench** G-d's Spirit (I Th. 5:19 by consciously and stubbornly refusing to do what you know G-d is calling you to do. When in doubt consult your fourfold military counsel (your head, your heart, His Word and your community – Prov. 15:22).

(7) Do not let him take you **captive** by **applying carnal strategies to spiritual conflicts** (2 Tim. 2:24-26). You do not fight carnal fire with carnal fire, but with the fire and the hammer of G-d's Word (Jer. 23:29, 32) (Rom. 12:18; Matt. 18:15-18; 18:21, 22).

Remember that neither a **defeat** nor a **victory** is the end of the war. We to **strategically deploy** our lives (Matt. 10:16; Pr. 3:5, 6), learn from our mistakes (Ps. 119:71) and **become expert martial artists in the spiritual arena** (Rom. 5:3-5; 8:37). As we close, let us now prepare to exercise some significant spiritual maintenance and observe the L-rd's Table together.