

Jehovah Sabaoth

(The Lord of Hosts, The Lord of Powers)

First time used in the Bible: 1st Samuel chapter 1, verse 3:

"And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, [were] there."

INFORMATION

The name Jehovah can be translated into "the Existing One". Sabaoth means "armies or hosts". The Lord is called the "Lord of Hosts" because He commands great armies and is the host of celestial objects. In Matthew 26:53, Jesus declares that if He could call out more than 12 legions of angels to come to his aid if He so desired. Traditionally, a legion is understood to mean 6,000 or more. During parts of Roman rule, a legion actually consisted of as few as 1,000. Regardless, whether this is 12,000 or 72,000 angels or more, this is a sizable force. We think our modern armies are large. China, North Korea, India and Iraq have boasted of having million man armies. Compared to 72,000, this sounds impressive until we consider that an angel is not like a man and is not equipped with the weapons of war that men use. In Isaiah, we read about a single angel who killed 185,000 men in one night. Multiply that by 72,000, and we begin to see the magnitude of God's armies. God is indeed the Lord of Hosts!

In Joel 2, we also find that the army God will raise will fall upon a sword but not be wounded; they cannot be killed! Who can stand before an army that cannot be killed? The answer is plain, nobody. God is indeed the Lord of Hosts!

Angels are not the only thing that God commands. God also commands great armies of men, animals, insects and what is the heavenly host (stars, planets, asteroids, comets). We call our president the Commander and Chief, and as powerful as the US is, we could never win against an army that cannot be killed

From the Bible we also know that He commands great armies of men and of animals, and even insects. In one instance God declares that He will use hornets to drive out the enemies of His people, and in another, we see Him fulfilling this promise. The book of Revelation tells us that God will cause the "stars in the sky," probably referring to comets and asteroids, to fall to earth. People today are now just becoming aware of the potential threat posed by such celestial bodies. God is indeed the Lord of Hosts!

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

Do we trust in our armies and in our military might? Do we believe that we are invincible because we have grown strong and powerful and have amazing and frightening weapons of war? We should consider that God is indeed the Lord of Hosts! If the Lord desires to destroy us, no army, no technological wonder, no feat of military might can save us.

Relevant Passages

Exodus 23:28

And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.

2 Kings 6:16-17

And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Joel 2:11

And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

Matthew 26:53

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Revelation 9:3-5

And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.