

Slide one – Title, then versus now versus the bible. The US was set up very much like Israel when it came to defense. We were not to have a standing army.

The last 80 years provides the most documentation ever on the dramatic changes in society. The bible chronicles Israel's foibles and it's pretty much the same story over and over until the New Testament. I'm going to bless you, don't go after other gods. Oh, you went after other gods, now you're smote. Now you're back, now you're smote. Over and over until the first century. The first century changes a lot, but that's not a story for today. Maybe next week 😊

Slide 2 These are those who were numbered of the sons of Israel, 601,730. (Num 26:51)

The census before entering Canaan. The census of men was the measure of military might. It let the leadership know how much of a fight the country had in it.

Slide 3 "When you enter the land which YHVH your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,' you shall surely set a king over you whom YHVH your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman. Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since YHVH has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.' He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself. Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear YHVH his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel. (Deu 17:14-20)

People get carried away with comparing the US to Israel but some of the comparisons are impossible to ignore. Like this one. The Israelites were liberated from Egypt by YHVH and then commanded to not have a large standing army like Egypt did. The US defeated the most powerful and widely deployed military that had existed until the 1700s. And the US resolved not to have a large standing army as well.

The king of Israel was to be a military commander but not to let the power go to his head. He had to write the Torah in its entirety once. That Torah had to stay with him his entire reign. He was to know his place and to never abuse his authority. A foreigner could not be king. That ties directly to our requirement that our president must be native born. Not someone who became a citizen, but

someone who was born a citizen of the US. He was not to multiply horses. The horse was a military weapon back then. The most powerful one in reality. A man could sit on a horse and slay many foot soldiers. A horse provided the most powerful transportation. The king was not to have a lot of horses lest he start using that power when it was not ordained from on high.

The king was also not to have multiple wives. This was the downfall of both David and Solomon. He was also not to become wealthy by the power of his office.

Slide 4 But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to YHVH. YHVH said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. (1Sa 8:6-7)

Even though it was prophesied, YHVH was not pleased when Israel asked for a king. They wanted to be like the neighbors. Trying to keep up with the Canaanites, so to speak. YHVH told them He would go ahead of them into battle. That's the job of a king, to be the military leader. The physically, actually go to war, military leader. Israel's desire to be like the nations greatly displeased YHVH. They had already shown great success under their present structure and they wanted to change it up to be like the others.

This is an interesting turn of events. Something that was prophesied and had to be done so Yeshua could be the Messiah, also displeased YHVH. This is why the goal many have of seeing scripture purely black and white is not possible. There's nuance and grey area. Just like the fall in the garden, YHVH was upset about it but it surely didn't take Him by surprise. The plan of salvation was established at the foundation of the world – before the fall. This is the intersection of free will and predestination, something to mull over on another day.

Slide 5 Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. (2Sa 11:1-2)

And here's the fall of David. Saul let the power go to his head almost immediately. David had a longer run of faithfulness. But the ladies brought him down. You might think "the one lady" brought him down, but it's really a compilation of issues. David had a lot of wives. He had a problem in this area. And he had a lot of success on the battlefield. And he got entitled. He stayed home instead of going to the fight. This is slightly similar to how David became famous. When Goliath was taunting

Israel, Saul heard it and did not go out to fight. David showed up and went out to fight instead of Saul. David staying home from battle is similar.

David let it go to his head, fell to lust, and then tried to cover it up. All things a king was not supposed to do. And things he never would have done in his youth when he was faithful.

Slide 6 Normandy, Iraq, and Afghanistan pictures.

Remember when I said YHVH gets upset about stuff even though the stuff is meant to happen? Well, we weren't supposed to have an enormous standing army or navy. Until we needed to have an enormous army and navy at the same time.

If you don't think talking about the USA and current events is something appropriate for the lectern, well, remember YHVH raises up nations and destroys them. This continent was available to be found on purpose, the history of this hemisphere was meant to be, and the USA is both the good guy and the bad guy at the same time.

Israel's history was long and sordid. They had direct commandments from YHVH and failed to live up to the basics. We had a different path. There is good and there is bad at the same time, just like there always is in history.

June 6 was the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing at Normandy. This is when the United States with Canada and Britain invaded Europe to defeat the Nazis. We stayed pretty true to our founding principle of not having a standing army until that point. The world changed.

People, including me, say we liberated Europe. That is what we did, but the mission was to defeat the Nazis and Japan. Japan attacked us in 1941 and Germany declared war on us afterwards. We were operating on a real war declaration with a real mission. We landed on the beaches of France with all of our might and resolve focused on getting to Berlin. We were going to win and that was that.

The focus on the men who landed is proper and noble but military operations involve a lot more people than that. The ships and equipment had to be built, food had to be prepared and supplied on an ongoing basis. Fuel had to be delivered and supplied continually. The mobilization here is enormous. And don't forget the Germans patrolled the Atlantic with their Navy that would sink anything. The women and men who could not fight stayed home and worked to support the war. Our entire civilization focused on defeating Japan and Germany. Loss was not an option. There was no thought of getting 100 miles into it and negotiating with Hitler. We were going to defeat both

powers and kill anybody in our path that hinted at being opposition. And we did it. Or, rather, our forefathers did it.

The success effectively changed world history from that point forward. Discovering American resolve and unity could do such a thing made us a superpower. Until we were attacked, nobody knew that our form of government over a huge country could retain such a unity and a common morality. Having all of our men loving country more than self and be willing to give up everything for the common defense was the power behind our ability to destroy the Nazi and Tojo's Japan. While our president was too frail to fight, he certainly was not staying home like king David.

The country was also far from perfect when this happened. And it spawned a big change when it was all over. It became impossible to treat black people differently when they had worn the same uniform and were showing up at the same VA hospitals as everyone else. Women entered the workforce and broke that barrier. It changed us.

It also brought a freedom and a security that allowed the western world to develop a common civilization. While we speak of WWI today, the French Open tennis tournament is underway in Paris in complete safety where people from all over the world are watching and competing in peace. Next week they head to England for Wimbledon. We move around the world today and take for complete granted that people can go wherever they want, whenever they want, and make their livings in any fashion they desire. This was not the case in 1944. It's also starting to change back as parts of the world are simply too dangerous to visit these days. Unfortunately, westerners keep finding this out the hard way, because our perspective is that the world is open and free. Then journalists and athletes visit Russia and find differently. Then missionaries visit Haiti and find differently. It appears we are devolving in this regard.

To circle back to military service, though. We often lament D-day as something we could only do "back then". It's only partially true. As time has passed, we have waned. But we have men and women who have done very similar amazing things on a much smaller scale in Iraq and Afghanistan over a span of 20 years. One of the changes has been our ability to be remarkably good at war. To the point where our all-volunteer forces have kept us safe with a very small footprint that doesn't effect life at home at all. We still have men who will and do climb cliffs to engage and defeat overwhelming enemies. The resolve is still here in many, but it does wane.

The point where I want to tie this into the bible is how Israel was faithful when they entered Canaan. When they crossed the Jordan, aside from a couple hiccups, they stayed unified and on mission until the land was apportioned. From the Exodus until the end of Joshua, Israel was established as a humongous military power with Yahweh at the helm. They peaked at end of the

book of Joshua and then began a decline that resulted in desolation. They got restored after Babylon, they found their resolve when repelling the Greeks, and they existed while being occupied for the first coming of Yeshua. Then, they were erased in AD 70 for the purpose of the spreading of the Gospel. This is a very long history, on that YHVH knew was going to happen, with good and bad mixed in along the way. The Exodus and the campaign for Canaan was Israel's peak that lasted until AD70.

Our nation has similar patterns. We were established through a miraculous revolt against the largest military that had been known, the British Empire. We survived the bloodiest civil war to end slavery. We liberated Europe with WWI and then came home, dismantling our war machine. Then we defeated the Nazis with our masculinity, bravery, and unity while defeating Tojo with our technology in the most horrific manner. And that was our peak. On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. On September 2, 1945, World War II ended when U.S. General Douglas MacArthur accepted Japan's formal surrender aboard the USS Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay along with a flotilla of more than 250 Allied warships.

Thus ended a conflict that claimed between 60-80 million lives. Roughly a third of the earth's population. And it was our peak. We've been riding that miraculous victory ever since. After the conquest of Canaan it is written that every man did what was right in his own eyes. That started the long slide. After we won WWII, we did the same thing. That doesn't mean all were evil. Some continued to follow YHVH because that was the "right that was in their own eyes", but the disunity that began after Canaan is very similar to the disunity that began after WWII.