

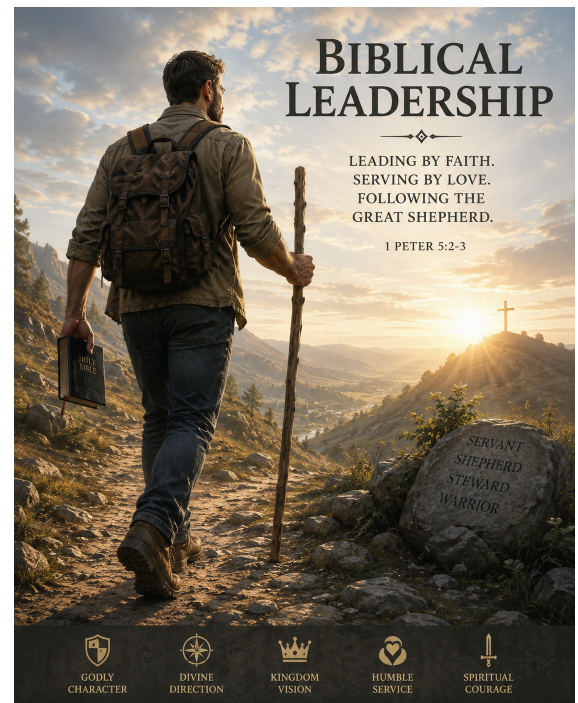


The Biblical Principle of the Leader-Warrior

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Introduction

The concept of the leader-warrior is one of the most overlooked themes in Scripture. From Genesis to Revelation, God never separates leadership from warfare. Every person entrusted with Kingdom authority is simultaneously entrusted with the responsibility of protecting what belongs to God. Biblical leadership is not primarily administrative—it is covenantal guardianship.



I. BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE: Two Sides of the Same Kingdom Principle

Thesis

In Scripture, every legitimate leader is a warrior, and every true warrior serves under God's authority. Leadership without spiritual warfare becomes passive administration, while warfare without biblical leadership becomes uncontrolled zeal. **God's design unites both into one calling: advancing His Kingdom while protecting His covenant people.**

Key Principle

Leadership establishes God's order. Spiritual warfare defends God's order. Together they fulfill God's Kingdom purposes.

Genesis 1 reveals this pattern from the very beginning.

Genesis 1:26–28 (ESV)

26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **28** And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Adam's first assignment was not simply to cultivate a garden. He was commissioned to:

- Rule
- Guard
- Expand God's order

That is both leadership and warfare.

II. The Kingdom Pattern Established at Creation

Creation itself is an act of spiritual warfare.

God separates:

- Light from darkness
- Heaven from earth
- Sea from dry land
- Clean from unclean (later expanded in Torah)

Everything God creates is accomplished through divine separation.

Leadership always preserves God's distinctions.

Whenever Satan appears, his purpose is the exact opposite. He mixes what God separated.

a. Adam Keeping the Garden

Genesis 3 demonstrates this perfectly. Adam's failure was not merely eating forbidden fruit. He failed to guard the Garden.

Genesis 2:15 (ESV)

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

The Hebrew word "keep" is *shamar*, which means:

- guard
- protect
- watch over

- preserve ¹

This is military language. Adam's first assignment was priestly warfare. He failed as a guardian before he failed morally. That pattern never changes.

b. The Mystery of Replenishing the Earth

(Taken from my book, *The Kingdom Priesthood: Preparing and Equipping the Remnant Priesthood for the Last Days*)

Replenish: The Hebrew word used here is *male* (*maw-lay'*), which means “to fill, to be full.” This word is translated as *replenish* seven times in the KJV Bible, to include God’s instructions to Noah in Gen. 9:1. Many researchers believe this connection might validate the Gap Theory of Gen. 1:1 and 1:2. **HALOT** adds a significant additional definition to this ancient Hebrew word: *to fill someone’s hand, to consecrate as a priest, devote.*² Encoded in the command to fill or replenish the earth is the concept of the consecration of the first family as the Almighty’s new priesthood. This same concept of consecration as a priest is confirmed in ***The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Hebrew Bible (LXHEBNLEX)***, which describes *male* as meaning: “to be full; to fill; to consecrate as a priest, devote; to fulfill, carry out; to set, mount.”³ **Male** is used 248 times in the Hebrew text of the Bible. Concerning our study, one particular use of *male* is very intriguing indeed.

¹ Ludwig Koehler et al., *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 1581.

² Ludwig Koehler et al., *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 584.

³ *The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Hebrew Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2017).

LXHEBNLEX states its usage to mean, “**to be armed (weapons)** v., *to be prepared for a military confrontation by being provided with weapons.* Nifal: 2 Sa 23:7.” ⁴

Now, let’s take our investigation one step further by examining the individual Hebrew letters used for *male*. Remember, the original Hebrew did not contain vowels. The vowels were added with the Masoretic text between 600 A.D. and the Tenth Century.⁵ Therefore, *male* is made up of three Hebrew letters: Mem, Lamed, Aleph.

Mem	Water - Chaos	<i>Male</i> could be interpreted as “the strength of the shepherd’s staff to stop chaos.”
Lamed	Staff - Goad	
Aleph	Strength	

Throughout the Word of God, the use of *male* imagery paints a compelling picture of an armed priest (or priesthood) commanded to fill the earth with its presence to enforce the Kingdom. I find this to be utterly amazing! This one Hebrew word can perfectly illustrate an awakened and matured Remnant fulfilling the Great Commission in the last days. ⁶

III. Leadership Always Includes Protection

Throughout Scripture, every leader protects.

- Noah: Protected humanity from judgment.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_Hebrew

⁶ Lake, Michael K. The Kingdom Priesthood: Preparing and Equipping the Remnant Priesthood for the Last Days. Biblical Life Publishing, Seymour, MO. Copyright 2020. Pages 57-59.

- Abraham: Protected covenant promises.
- Joseph: Protected God's people through wisdom.
- Moses: Protected Israel from Pharaoh.
- Joshua: Protected Israel from Canaanite corruption.
- David: Protected Israel from external enemies.
- Nehemiah: Protected Jerusalem while rebuilding.
- Jesus: Protects His flock.

John 10:11–13 (ESV)

11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12** He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. **13** He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

The Good Shepherd fights wolves. Pastors are never merely teachers. They are shepherd-warriors.

IV. Fivefold Ministry Is Military Leadership

Ephesians 4:11–16 (ESV)

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by

human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Each office prepares God's people for conflict.

- **Apostles:** Advance Kingdom territory. Like generals establishing new fronts.
- **Prophets:** Detect enemy infiltration. Call God's people back into covenant.
- **Evangelists:** Rescue captives from Satan's kingdom.
- **Teachers:** Protect believers from deception.
- **Pastors:** Guard the flock from wolves.

Every office has a warfare component. Remove warfare...and every office loses its purpose.

V. Why Satan Targets Leadership

Throughout Scripture, Satan consistently attacks leaders first.

- Adam
- Moses
- David
- Elijah
- Peter
- The apostles
- Jesus Himself

Zechariah 13:7 (ESV)

7 “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me,” declares the LORD of hosts. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones.

Leadership represents authority. Authority restrains darkness. Destroy leadership...and the enemy gains access to God's people. This explains why Scripture places such high qualifications on leaders.

1 Timothy 3:1–7 (ESV)

1 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. **2** Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3** not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4** He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, **5** for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church? **6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. **7** Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5–9 (ESV)

5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— **6** if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one

wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. **7** For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, **8** but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. **9** He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

These are not merely moral requirements. They are warfare qualifications. In many respects, these qualifications should not just be for leadership in the fivefold ministry, **but the hallmark of every male believer!**

VI. The Weapons of Biblical Leadership

a. Truth

John 17:17 (ESV)

17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Leaders preserve truth. False teaching is spiritual warfare.

b. Holiness

Holiness establishes spiritual authority. Compromise empowers darkness.

c. Prayer

Leaders stand between God and the people.

- Like Moses...

- Like Samuel...
- Like Daniel...
- Like Jesus.

d. Discernment

Hebrews 5:14 (ESV)

14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Discernment identifies enemy strategies before they mature.

e. Obedience

Every biblical victory began with obedience.

- Jericho
- Gideon
- David
- Jehoshaphat
- Jesus

VII. The Shepherd-Warrior Model

Psalm 78:70–72 (ESV)

70 He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds;
71 from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance. **72** With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

David demonstrates God's ideal leader. He possessed:

- The heart of a shepherd
- The courage of a warrior
- The wisdom of a king

These three qualities always remain together.

Separate them...and leadership becomes distorted.

- Shepherd without warrior produces compromise.
- Warrior without shepherd produces abuse.
- King without servant produces tyranny.

Jesus perfectly united all three.

VIII. Jesus: The Perfect Leader-Warrior

Jesus came:

- Teaching
- Healing
- Delivering
- Confronting demons
- Overturning corruption
- Destroying the works of the devil

1 John 3:8 (ESV)

8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

His leadership was warfare. His warfare established righteous leadership. Even the Cross was a military victory.

Colossians 2:15 (ESV)

15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

The Resurrection enthroned the victorious King.

IX. The Church as God's Army

The New Testament repeatedly uses military imagery.

- Armor: Ephesians 6:10–18
- Weapons: 2 Corinthians 10:3–5
- Soldiers: 2 Timothy 2:3–4
- Watchmen: Acts 20:28–31
- Shepherds: 1 Peter 5:1–4
- Overcomers: Revelation 2–3

The Church was never designed merely to gather. It was designed to advance.

Matthew 16:18 (ESV)

18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Gates never attack. Armies attack gates. The Church is on offense.

X. The Character of Kingdom Leaders

Biblical leaders possess:

- Humility - Joshua 1:7–9
- Courage - Nehemiah 4:14
- Discernment - Acts 20:28–31

- Integrity - Psalm 78:72
- Faith - Hebrews 11
- Prayerfulness - Luke 6:12–13
- Servanthood - Mark 10:42–45
- Watchfulness - 1 Peter 5:8

Notice that every one of these qualities is necessary for warfare.

XI. Why Modern Leadership Often Fails

Much of modern church leadership has embraced management over guardianship.

The emphasis has shifted toward:

- Building organizations rather than discipling warriors.
- Measuring success by attendance rather than transformation.
- Avoiding spiritual conflict instead of preparing believers for it.
- Entertaining crowds rather than equipping saints.
- Marketing the church rather than advancing the Kingdom.

This reflects a subtle transition from a biblical shepherd-warrior model to a corporate executive model. While organizational skills have value, they become dangerous when they replace spiritual vigilance. Scripture consistently portrays leaders as watchmen, shepherds, and defenders of God's covenant—not merely administrators of religious institutions.

XII. The Remnant Leadership Model for the Last Days

As Scripture anticipates increasing deception and lawlessness, the need for biblical leaders who understand spiritual warfare becomes even more critical.

Last-days leaders must:

- Guard doctrine (2 Timothy 4:1–5)
- Expose deception (Ephesians 5:11)
- Equip believers for conflict (Ephesians 6:10–18)
- Preserve covenant holiness (1 Peter 1:14–16)
- Disciple courageous overcomers (Revelation 12:11)

The biblical model is not celebrity leadership but covenant stewardship. The remnant will require leaders who can discern spiritual realities, stand firm under opposition, and prepare God's people to endure with faithfulness.

Conclusion: Major Theological Principle

Leadership is not merely directing people. It is standing between God's people and the kingdom of darkness. Spiritual warfare is not merely confronting demons. It is preserving God's covenant order wherever darkness seeks to overthrow it. The two cannot be separated because they originate from the same divine commission.