



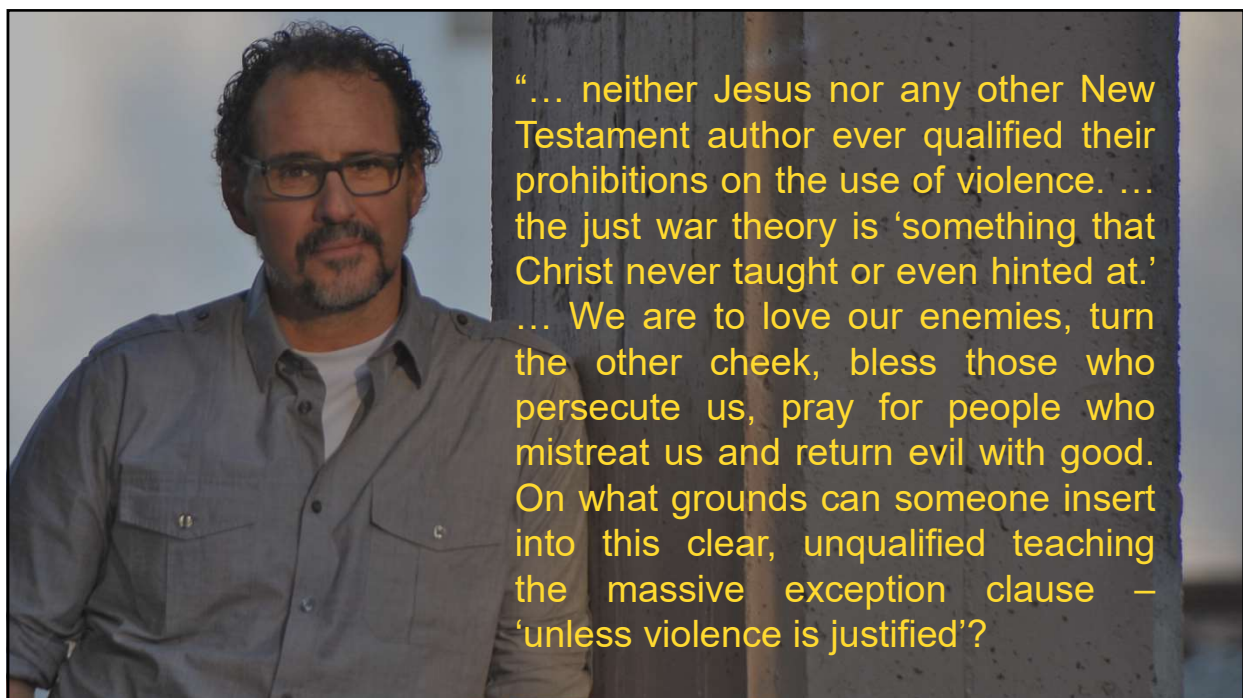
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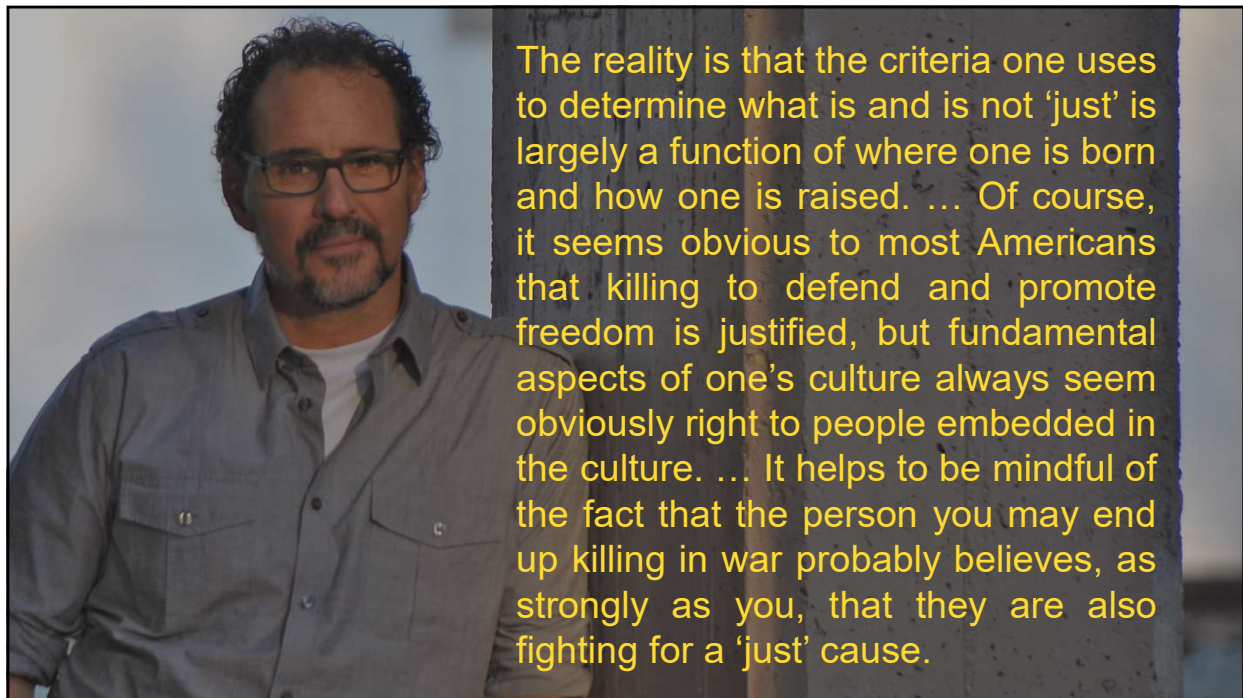


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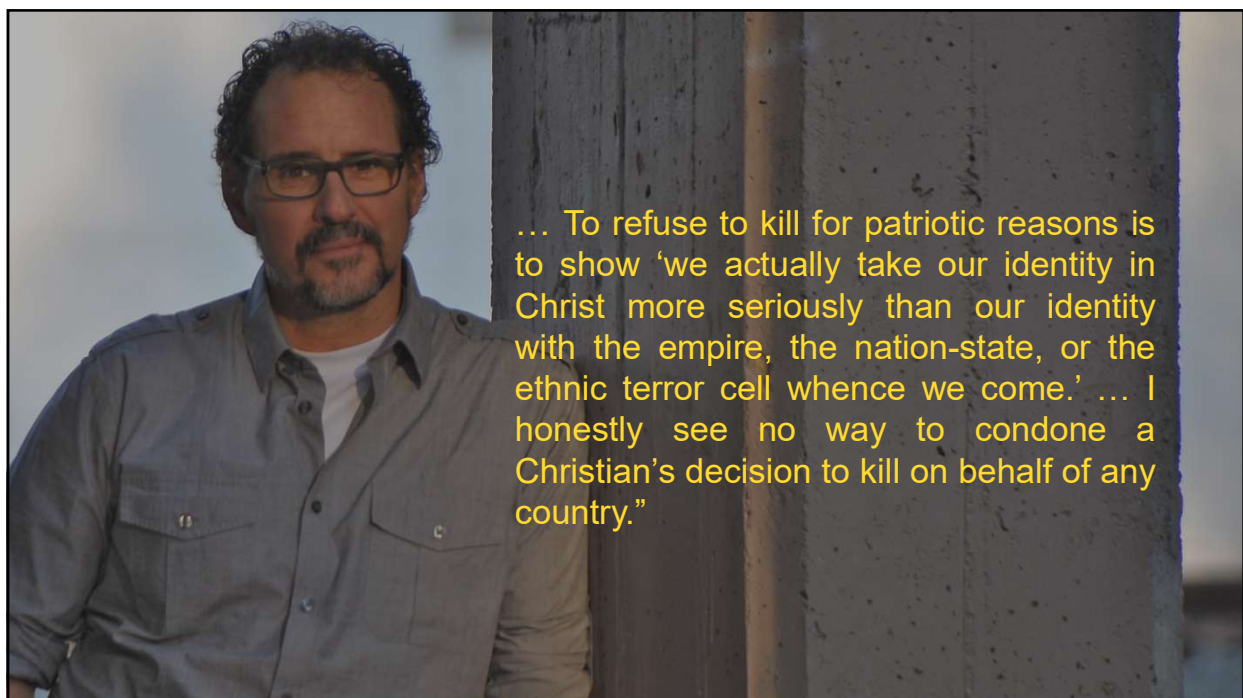


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6



**Craig M. Watts**  
Royal Palm Church  
Coral Springs, FL

“There are those, both in the military and outside of it, who seem determined to associate the work of the armed services with the way of faith. ... those who find this misguided militaristic Christianity commendable don’t hesitate to speak of the war dead as though they are martyrs who were killed in Christian service.

7



**Craig M. Watts**  
Royal Palm Church  
Coral Springs, FL

Not wanting to admit to idolatrous devotion, many in churches, ministers included, have merged their American nationalism with Christianity. This has resulted in a militarized Christianity in which wars are seen as battles of good against evil and the violent sacrifice of both killing and dying in conflict can be viewed as expressions of faithfulness. But this sort of Christianity is a parody of the real thing.

8



**Craig M. Watts**  
Royal Palm Church  
Coral Springs, FL

In war a soldier is told to do what everybody is taught throughout their life that they must never do: deliberately maim or kill other persons. To be fit for warfare soldiers must abandon that crucial lesson for other, more deadly lessons. They must be trained to be killers who are capable of killing on command. 'No sacrifice is more dramatic than the sacrifice asked of those sent to war, that is, the sacrifice of their unwillingness to kill.'

9



**Craig M. Watts**  
Royal Palm Church  
Coral Springs, FL

Those who follow Jesus can't be taught to kill on command and don't believe what is true is what is worth killing for. Rather what is true is what is worth defenselessly dying for."

10

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” Mt 5:9

11

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Rom 14:19

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Rom 12:18

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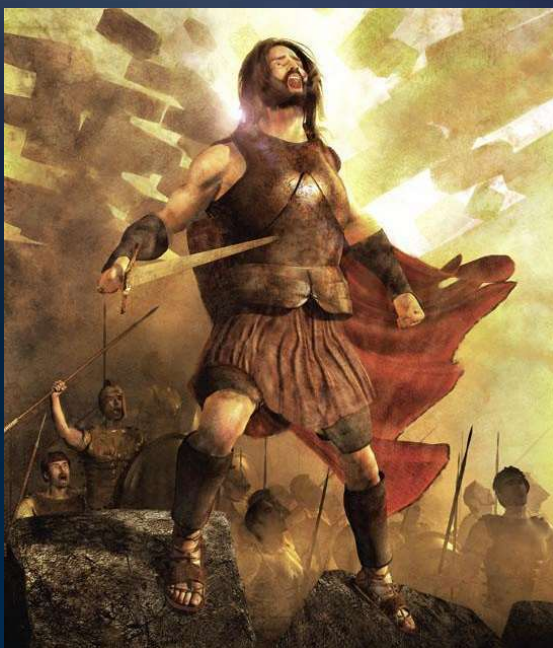




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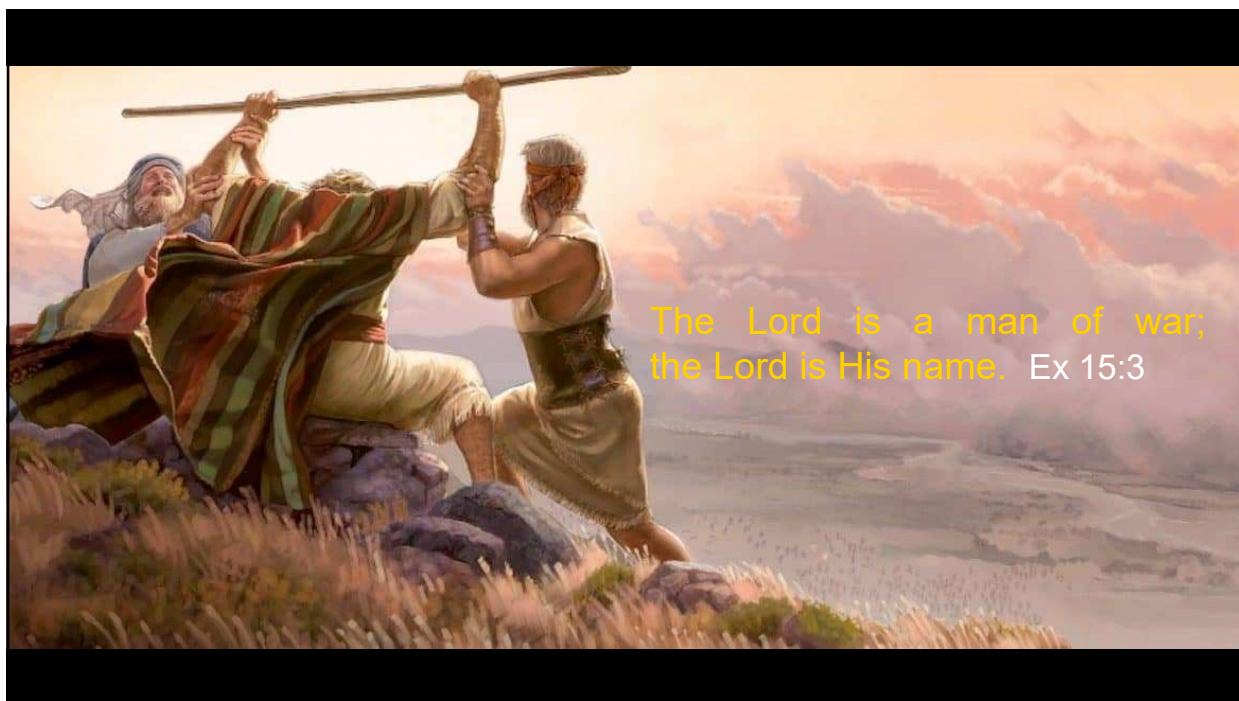


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Joshua fighting the  
Amalekites - Ex 17:8-13

15



The Lord is a man of war;  
the Lord is His name. Ex 15:3

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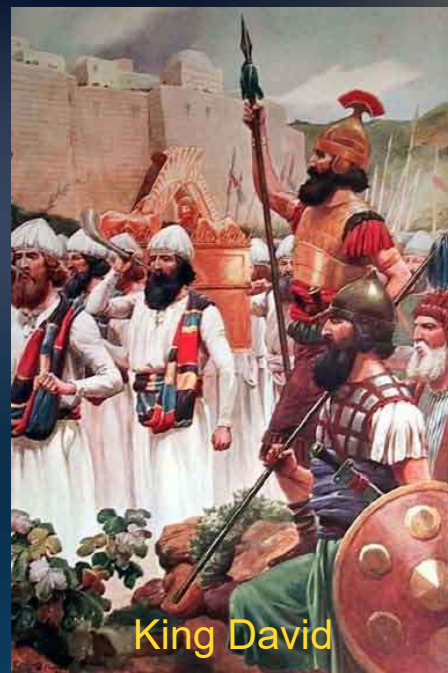


1 Sam 17:45-46 “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head.



17

Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle — <sup>2</sup> My lovingkindness and my fortress, my high tower and my deliverer, my shield and the One in whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me. Ps 144:1-2

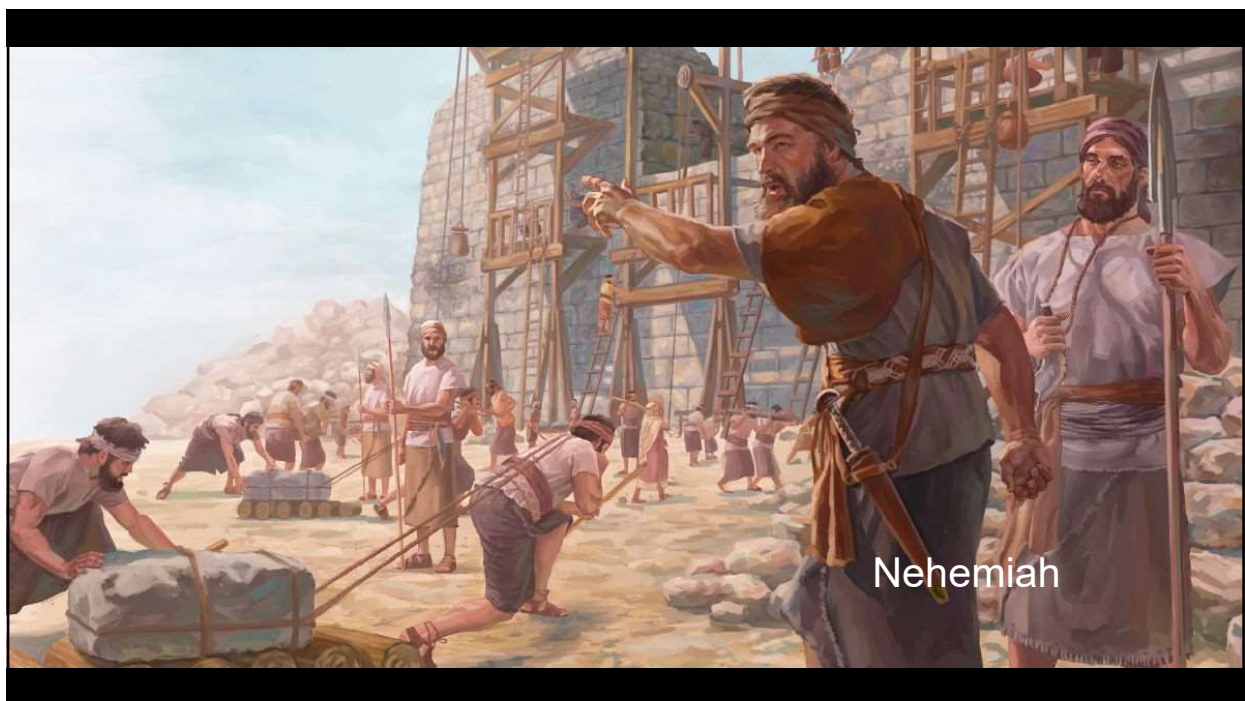


King David

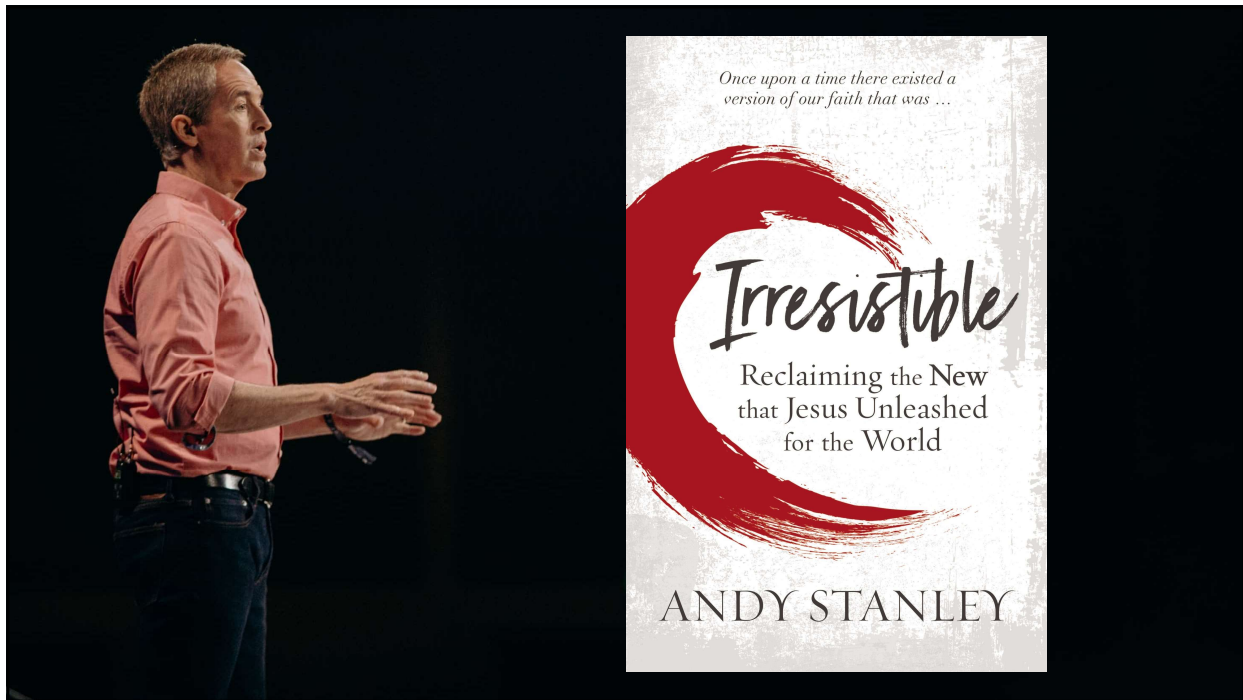
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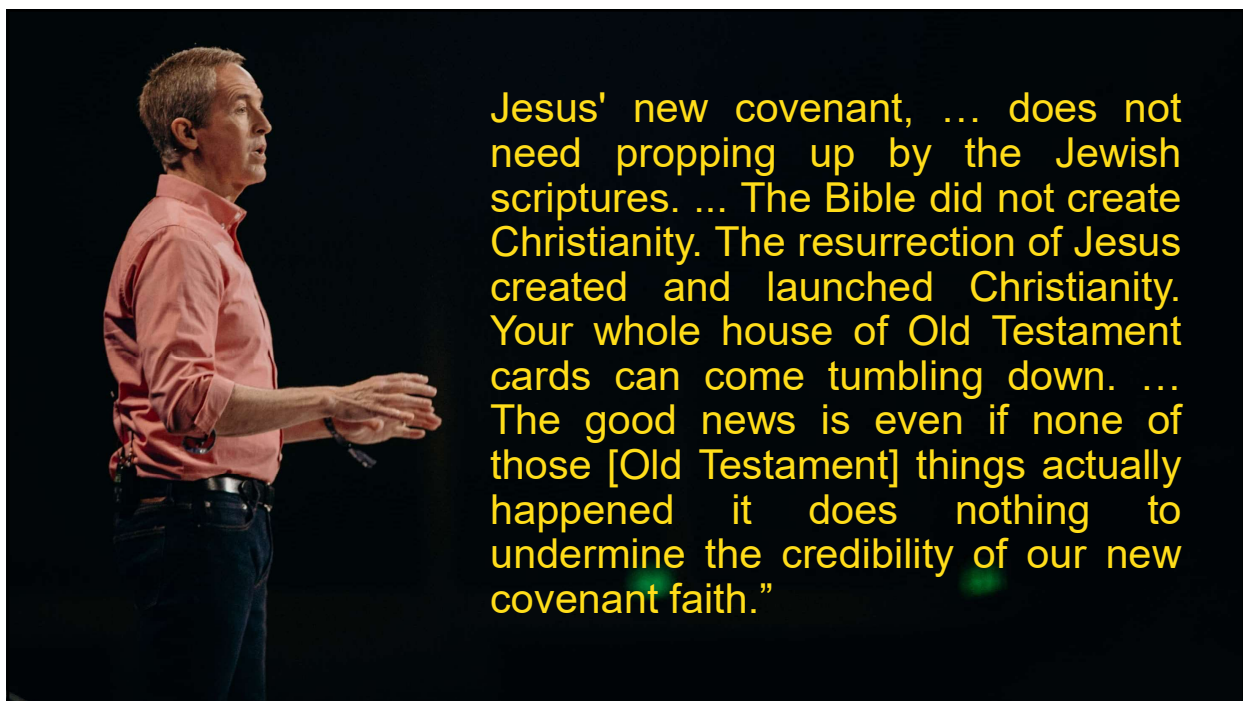
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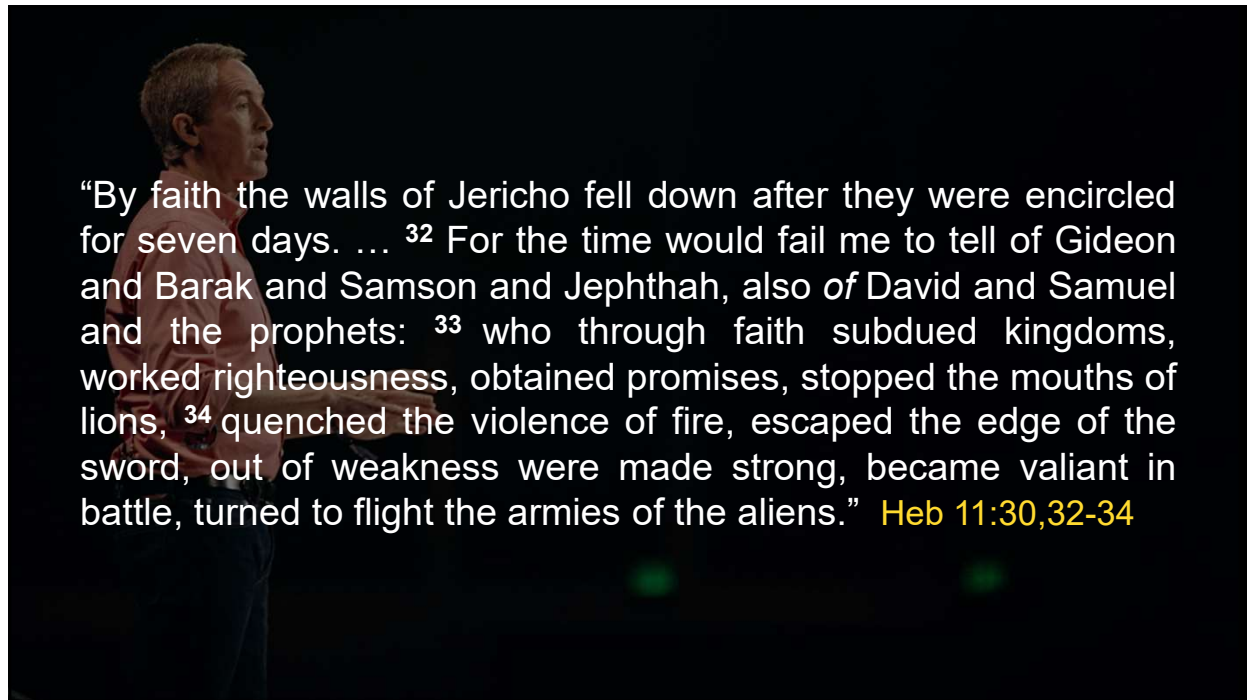


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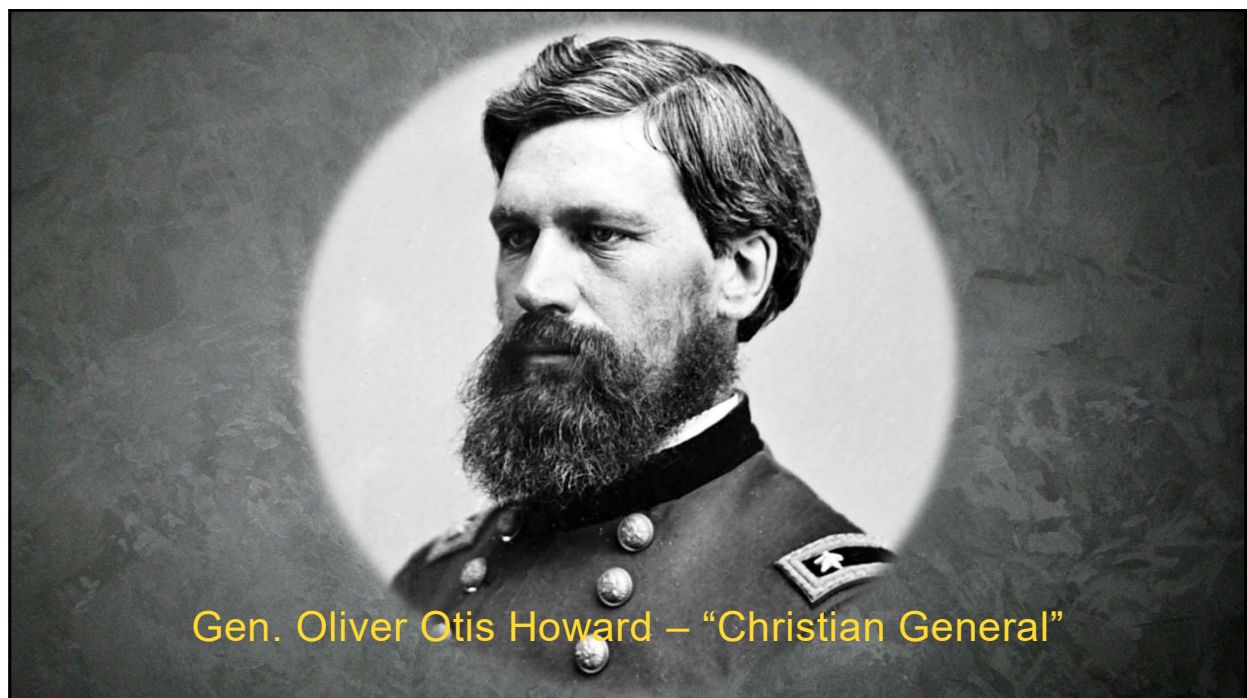


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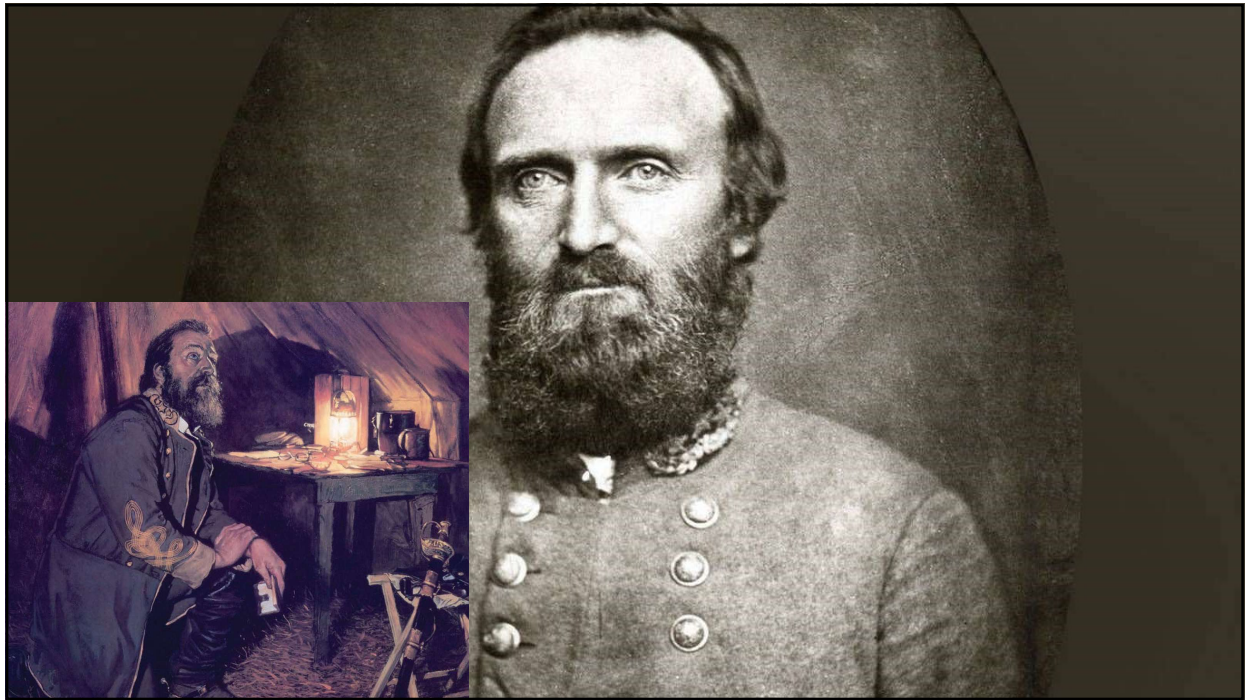




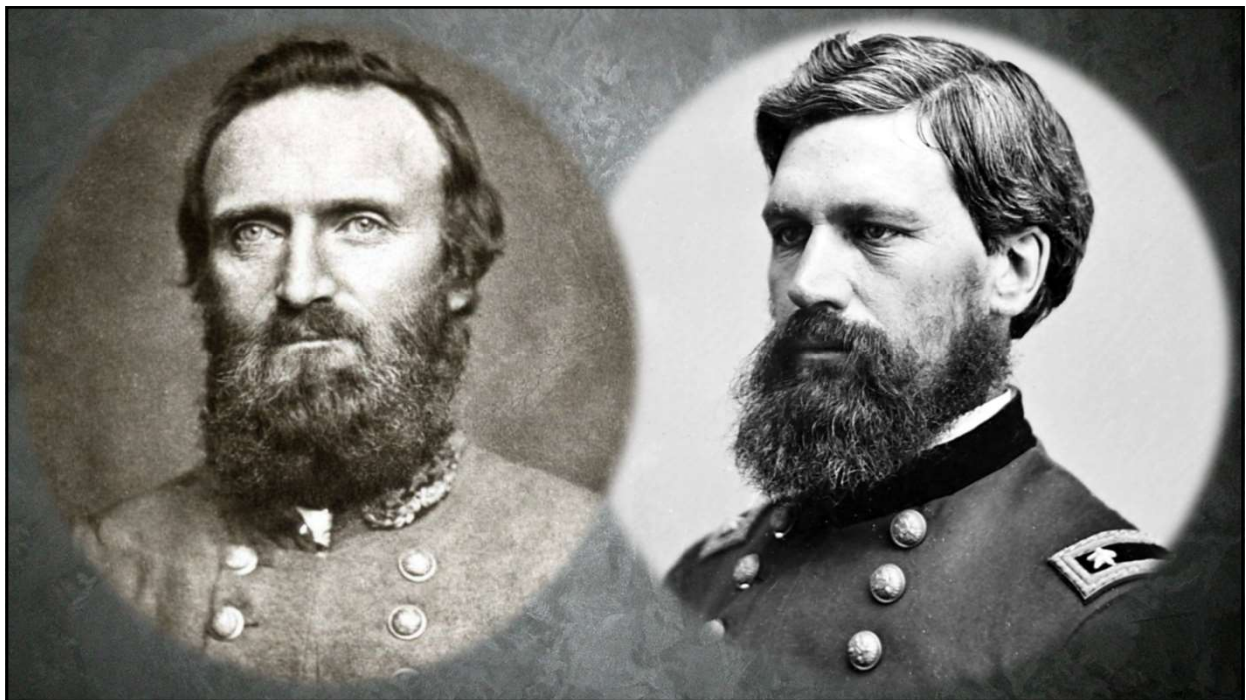
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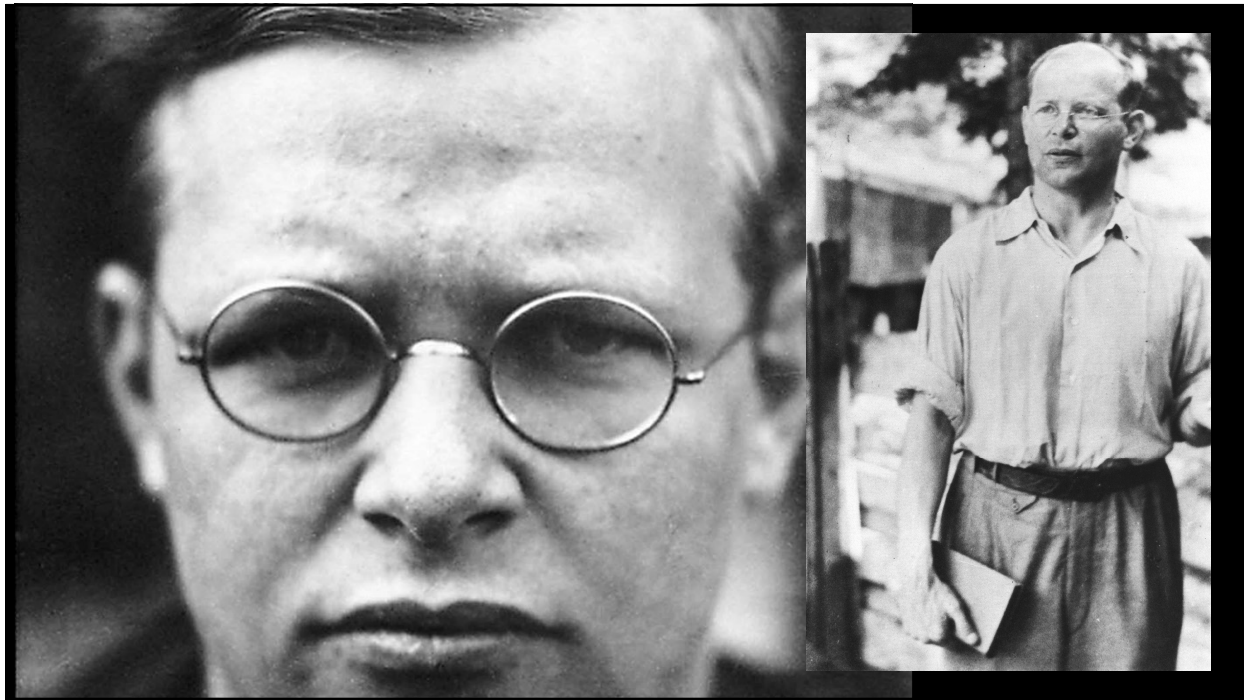


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28



John the Baptist: Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" <sup>14</sup> So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages." Lk 3:14-15

Jesus to centurion: When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! Mt 8:10

Cornelius, the centurion: And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you." Acts 10:22

29

Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. Lk 22:36

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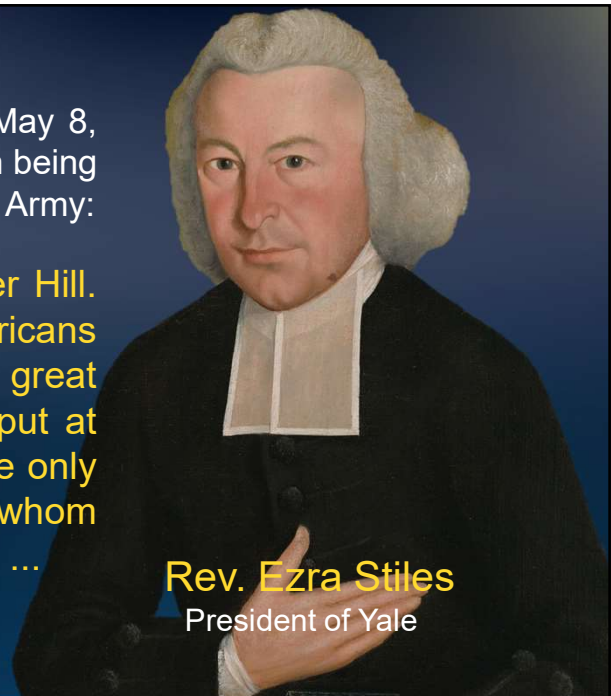
“But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

1 Tim 5:8

31

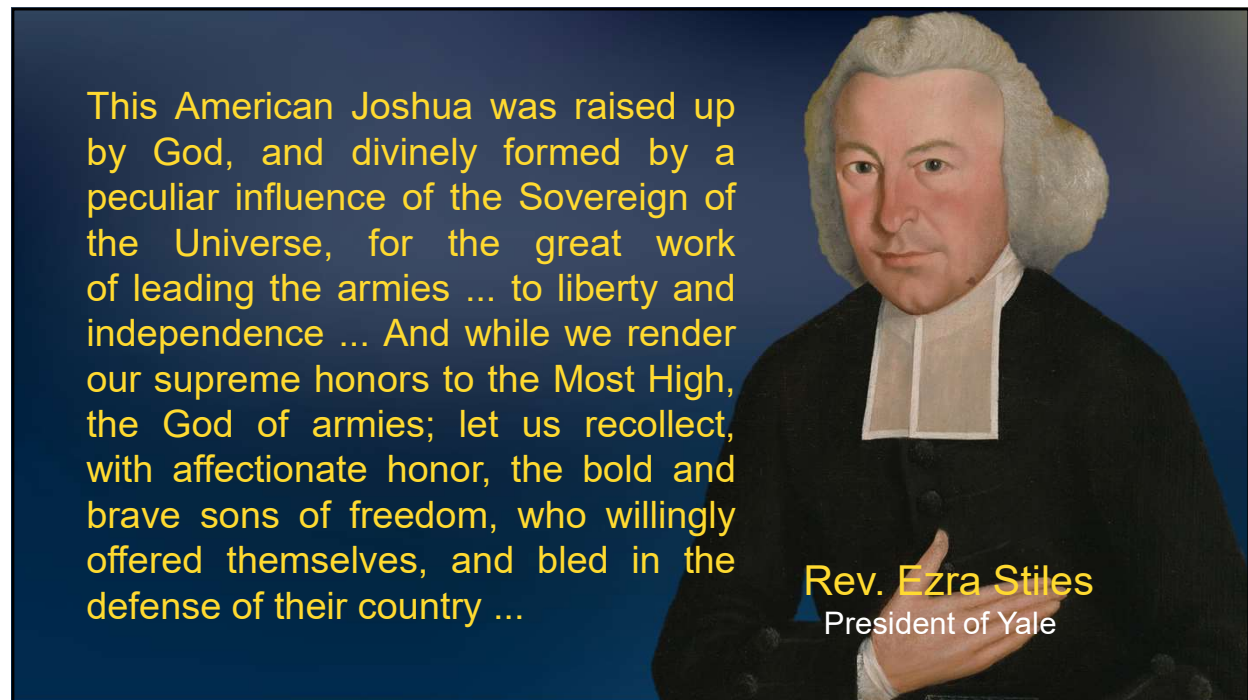
Sermon to CT General Assembly, May 8, 1783, regarding George Washington being chosen to command the Continental Army:

“The memorable battle of Bunker Hill. ... convinced us ... that Americans both would and could fight with great effect ... Whereupon Congress put at the head of this spirited army, the only man (George Washington), on whom the eyes of all Israel were placed ...

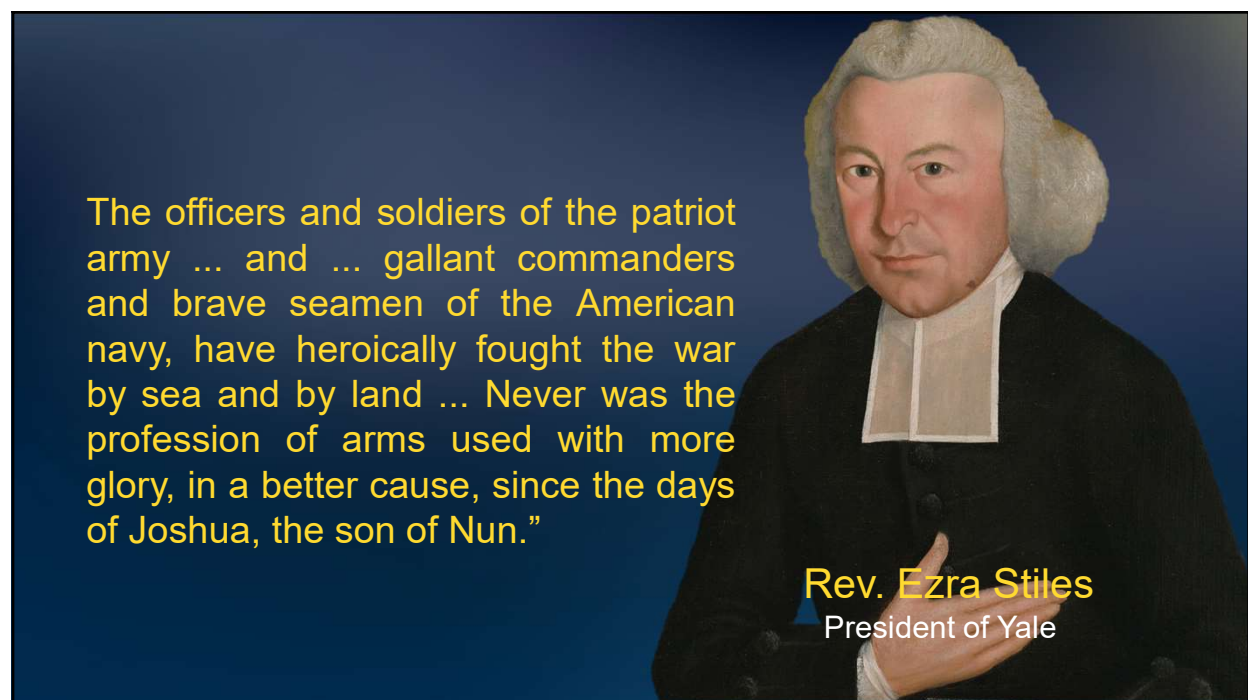


Rev. Ezra Stiles  
President of Yale

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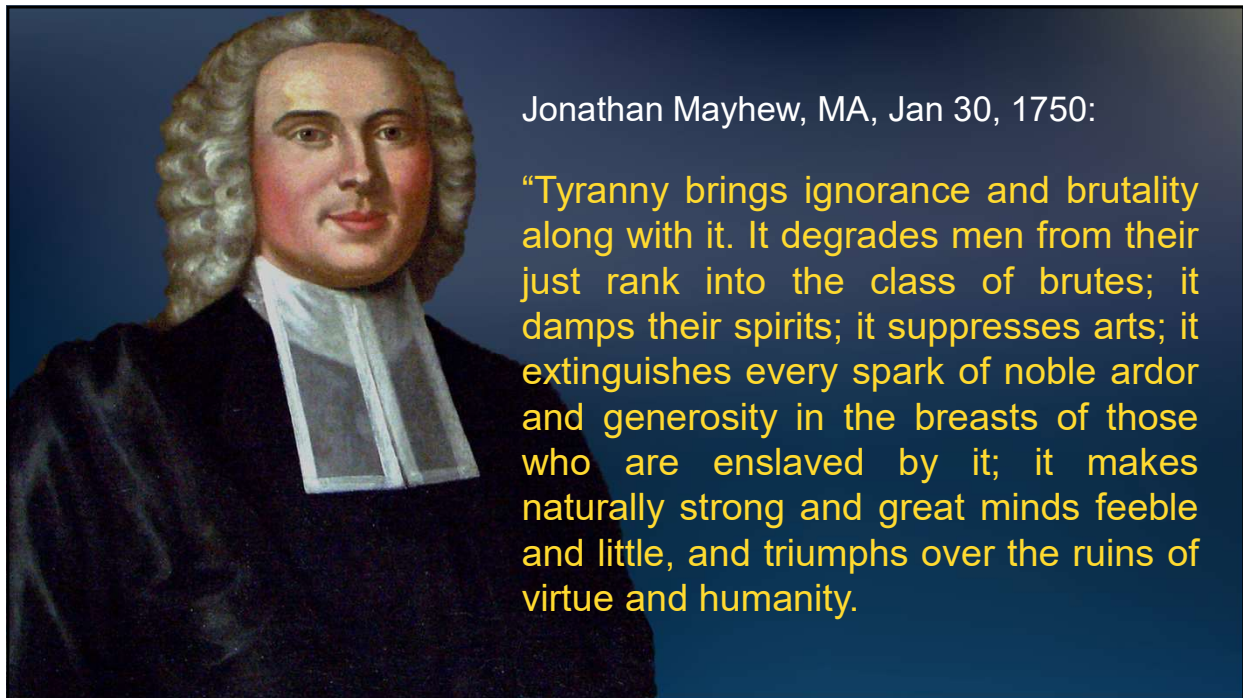


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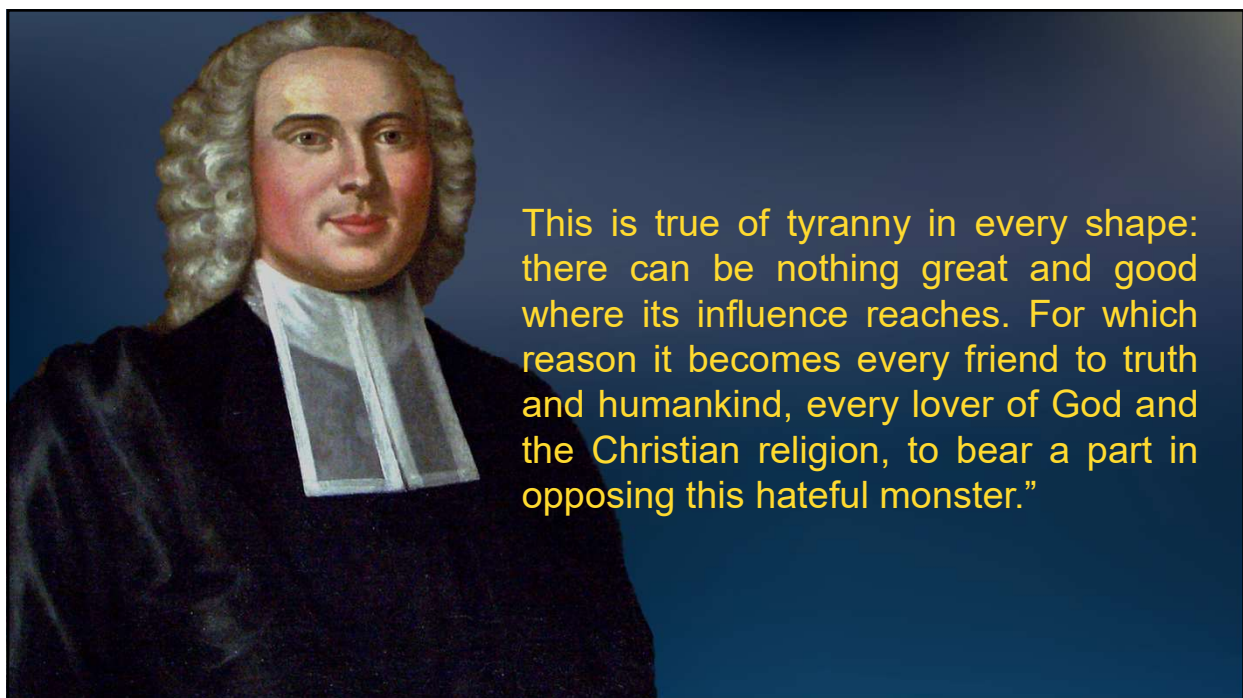


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They did not want conflict

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Samuel Cooper, MA, Oct 25, 1780:

“Peace, peace, we ardently wish; but not upon terms dishonorable to ourselves, or dangerous to our liberties; and our enemies seem not yet prepared to allow it upon any other. At present the voice of providence, the call of our still invaded country, and the cry of everything dear to us, all unite to rouse us to prosecute the war with redoubled vigor; upon the success of which all our free constitutions and all our hopes depend.”



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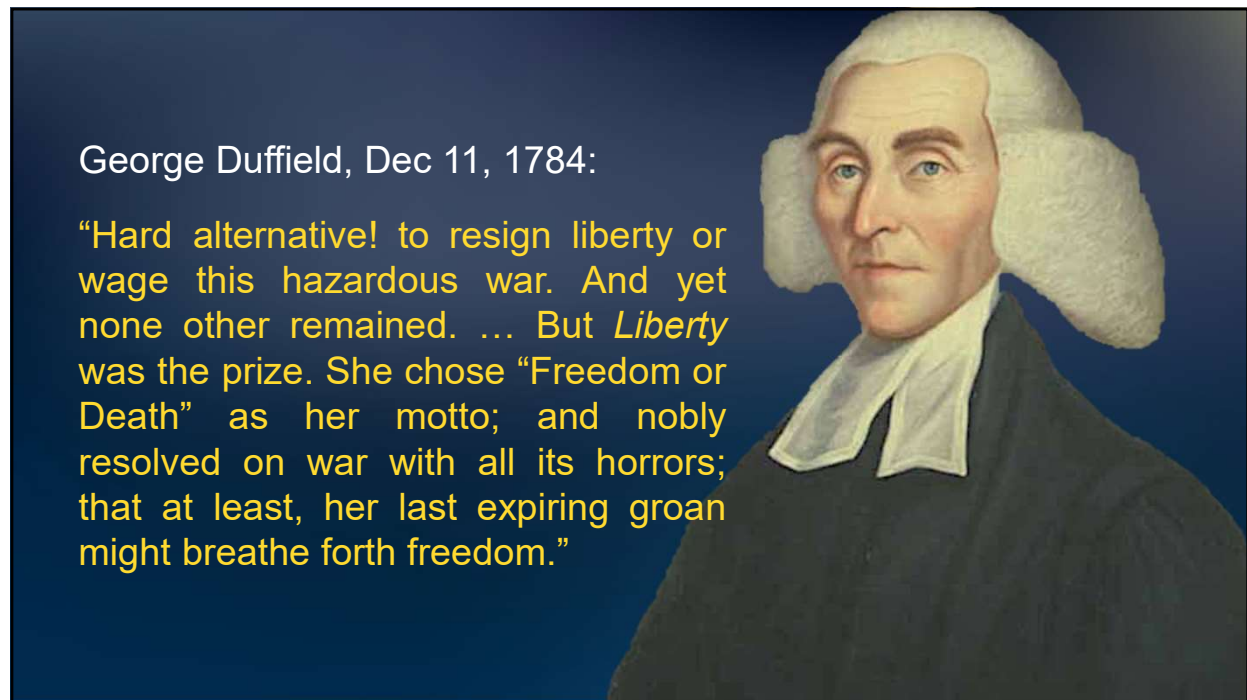
They believed they had no choice but  
to stand against tyranny

39

“All it takes for evil  
to triumph is for  
good men to do  
nothing.” Edmund Burke

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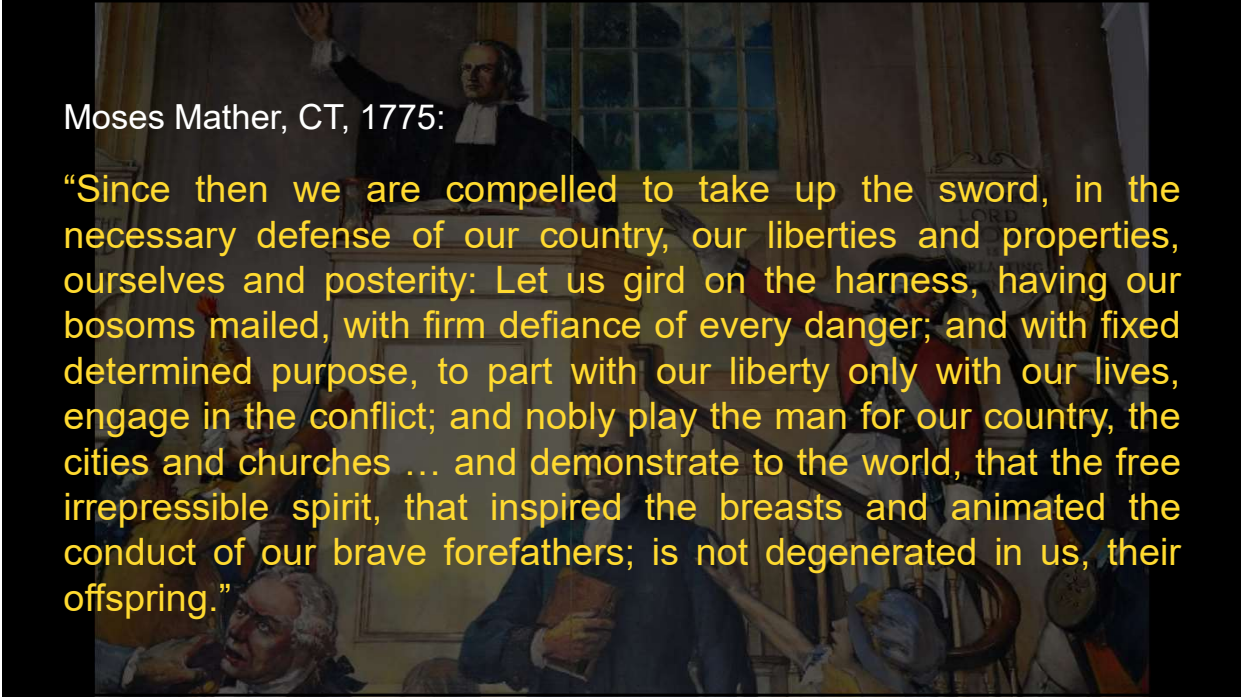




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42



Moses Mather, CT, 1775:

“Since then we are compelled to take up the sword, in the necessary defense of our country, our liberties and properties, ourselves and posterity: Let us gird on the harness, having our bosoms mailed, with firm defiance of every danger; and with fixed determined purpose, to part with our liberty only with our lives, engage in the conflict; and nobly play the man for our country, the cities and churches ... and demonstrate to the world, that the free irrepressible spirit, that inspired the breasts and animated the conduct of our brave forefathers; is not degenerated in us, their offspring.”

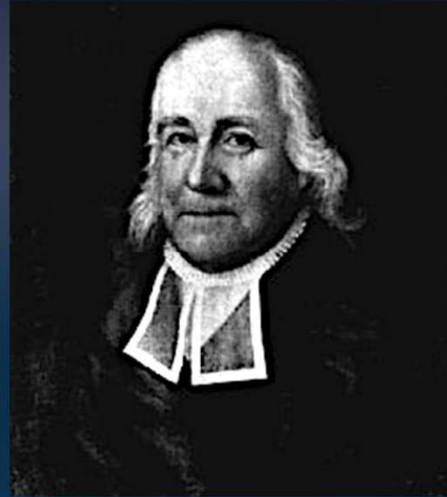
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They believed God calls upon believers  
to stand against tyranny

44

Henry Cummings, NH/MA, Apr 19, 1781:

“When God purposes to restrain the wrath of his people’s enemies, he usually rouses a spirit of opposition, stirs them up to make a resolute resistance, and animates and excites them to the most vigorous efforts for the maintenance of their rights.”



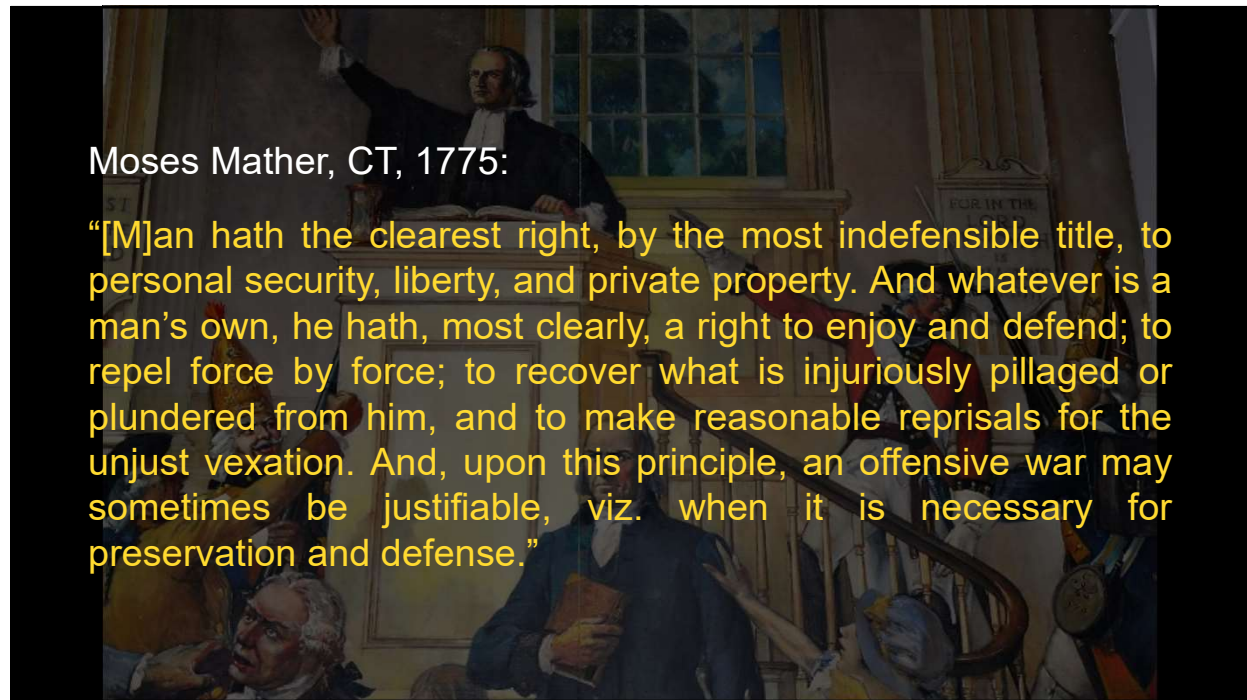
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Daniel Shute, MA, Jun 1, 1767:

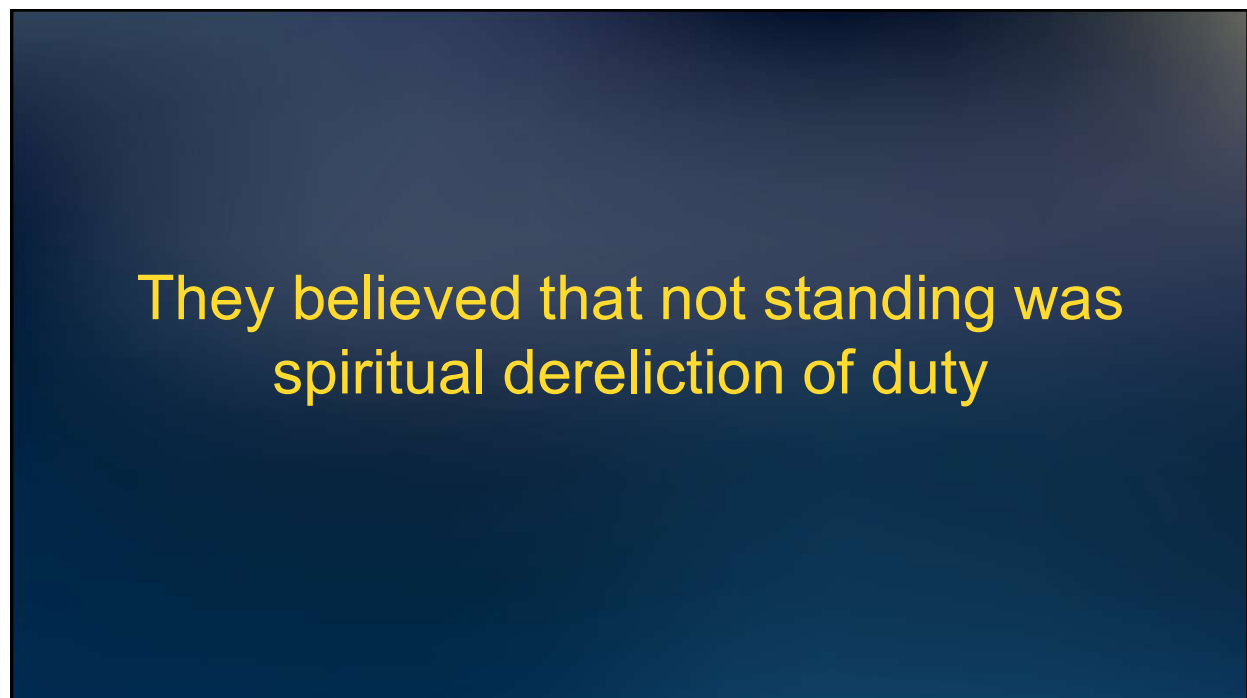
“Defensive war is then right according to the constitution of God and supported by the written declarations of his will; and in particular, is consistent with the rules of the gospel; ... [including] the principles of natural religion, which allow and require the defense of our being, with all the privileges of being, in every capacity, private or public.”

46





47



48

John Hurt's 1777 to NJ troops:

"God has assigned each of us our station, and a part which we are obliged to discharge in carrying on the great work of social happiness. If then, I neglect the part appointed me, I am highly unjust; because I take a share of the benefits of society, and yet leave the burden to be borne by others. A greater injustice than this can scarcely be conceived. ... he who withholds from the public the service and affection to which it is entitled, is a criminal of a far higher degree, as he thereby robs a whole body of people, and deprives the community of her just demand. ... if, in short, any be wanting in ... directing his talents to their proper ends, he deserves to be treated as a common spoiler, ..."

49

Samuel Sherwood, CT, Aug 31, 1774:

"There are some who pretend that it is against their consciences to take up arms in defense of their country; but can any rational being suppose that the Deity can require us to contradict the law of nature which he has written in our hearts, a part of which I am sure is the principle of self-defense, which strongly prompts us all to oppose any power that would take away our lives, or the lives of our friends? ... some believe that they please God while they sit still and quietly behold their friends and brethren killed by their unmerciful enemies, without endeavoring to defend or rescue them.

50

... Nor can I wholly excuse from blame those timid persons who, through their own cowardice, have been induced to favor our enemies, and have refused to act in defense of their country; ... to indulge cowardice in such a cause argues a want of faith in God;"

51

Zabdiel Adams, MA, 1782 election sermon:

"It is better to be free among the dead, than slaves among the living. The ghosts of our friends, slain in war; the spirits of our illustrious ancestors, long since gone to rest, who transmitted our fair inheritance to us; a regard to children still unborn, all call upon us to make greater exertions; and will rise up in judgment against us, if, through cowardice, we desert the noble cause, in which, for many years past, we have been engaged."

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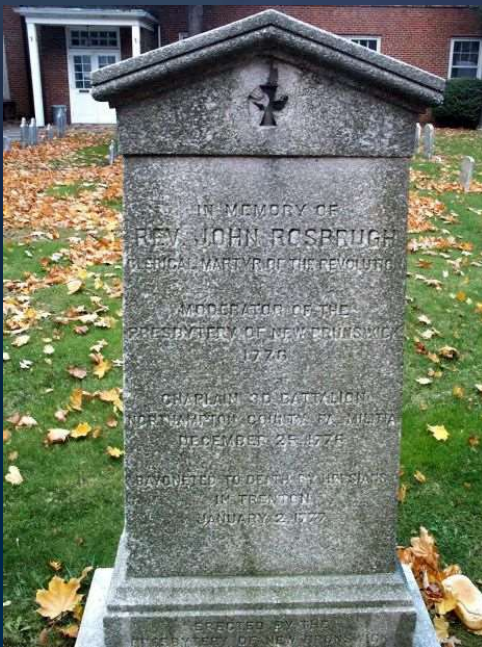


"The brutal outrage at Lexington transformed this peaceful scholar and meek divine into the fiery, intrepid soldier, and seizing a musket he put himself at the head of a party and led them forward to the attack. The gentle voice that had so long spoken only words of peace suddenly rung like that of a prophet of old. A body of British soldiers advancing along the road, he poured into them such a destructive volley that the whole were slain or taken prisoners. He was a man of peace and conciliation, but the first citizen's blood that crimsoned the green grass made a clean sweep of all his arguments and objections, and he entered with his whole soul into the struggle."



Samuel Phillips Payson  
Congregationalist pastor  
Chelsea, MA

53



"Let the scrupulous Christian of today condemn, if he can, this noble divine for fighting in defense of his country. He had no doubts of the righteousness of his conduct when passing with prayer on his lips into the presence of his God. Amiable, kind, and distinguished as a peacemaker, he had to overcome all his natural tendencies to war, to take up arms; but having settled it to be his duty, he had no after misgivings."

54