

# Deuteronomy 20:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

## Analysis

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Divine warfare: 'For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.' God doesn't merely observe or bless battles; He actively fights 'for you.' The Hebrew *lacham* (לחם, fight) indicates direct combat. The purpose: 'to save you' (להושיע, *lehoshi'a*, deliver/give victory). This transforms warfare from human achievement to divine gift. Israelite soldiers participate, but God secures victory. This prevents boasting ('my hand hath saved me,' Judges 7:2) and maintains dependence. When Israel trusted God, they conquered; when trusting themselves, they failed (Ai after Achan's sin, Joshua 7). Spiritual warfare operates identically—'not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD' (Zechariah 4:6).

## Historical Context

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Exodus provided paradigm: God fought for Israel (Exodus 14:14, 'The LORD shall fight for you'). Joshua's battles featured divine intervention: Jericho's walls, sun standing still, hailstones killing more than swords (Joshua 6, 10). David's victories came 'in the name of the LORD of hosts' (1 Samuel 17:45). Jehoshaphat's battle won by worship (2 Chronicles 20:15-22). These demonstrate God fighting for His people. Ephesians 6:10-18 applies this spiritually—spiritual warfare requires divine armor and power, not human strength. Victory belongs to God; we participate through obedient faith.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does understanding that 'the LORD fights for you' transform approach to life's battles?
2. What is the relationship between human effort (fighting) and divine agency (God fighting for us)?
3. How do we apply 'God fights for you' to spiritual warfare without presumption or passivity?

## Interlinear Text

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יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ
H3588	For the LORD	H3068	your God	H430	is he that goeth
				H1980	with you to fight
				H5973	H3898
אֶתְכֶם	לְהוֹשִׁיעַ	אֶתְכֶם	לְהוֹשִׁיעַ	אֶתְכֶם	לְהוֹשִׁיעַ
H853	to save	H3467	for you against your enemies	H5973	H0
			H341		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 14:14** (References Lord): The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

**Deuteronomy 3:22** (References God): Ye shall not fear them: for the LORD your God he shall fight for you.

**Deuteronomy 1:30** (References God): The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes;

**Joshua 23:10** (References God): One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

**Deuteronomy 11:25** (References God): There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.

**Romans 8:37** (Parallel theme): Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

**Joshua 10:42** (References God): And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.

**2 Chronicles 13:12** (References God): And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.

**Deuteronomy 32:30** (References Lord): How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?