

## YAHWEH AND WEAPONS IN THE ISRAEL-PHILISTINE IRON I-AGE WARS

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### ABSTRACT

The name of God being attached to weapons and war seem to be an oxymoron or even sacrilegious. Yet, the Bible presents God as a “God of war.” How so? What was the mentality and worldview of the Ancient Near Eastern people that necessitated God being presented as One who is involved with war? This article explored this phenomenon in the biblical stories of the military match-up (or mismatch) between the technologically and militarily advanced Philistines and the peasant army of ancient Israel in the Iron Age I period. As time went on, there seemed to be a balance of weaponry between the two sides. Yet, what was the role of God through these stages? What does this have to do with the concept of “holy war” and “just war?” This paper contributed to this discussion.

**KEYWORDS:** War; War Theories, Weapons, Philistines, Arms Control; Iron Age I, Metalworking