

## Facilitator Notes for "Knowing God by Name"

### Lesson 13 – Yahweh Sabaoth – The LORD of Hosts - 1 Samuel 17:20-50

PLEASE DON'T READ THESE NOTES UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR LESSON.

## Questions

**Historical Background** – The setting for this lesson and the story of **David and Goliath** takes place two hundred years or so after the **Book of Judges** (*Gideon* in **Lesson 12**). After the time of the "judges," Israel asked for a monarchy and **Saul** was anointed as the first king of Israel. However, **Saul** disobeyed God on a number of occasions and eventually lost the royal line to **David**, whom God chose to be his successor. But at the time of this story, Saul is still king and David is an adolescent boy whose main job is caring for his father's sheep.

Throughout Saul's reign, Israel was in a continuing war with the Philistines, an aggressive tribal group that occupied part of southwest Palestine. In **1 Samuel 17**, we read about a battle in this war, in which the two armies were at a standoff, facing each other over a valley. During this standoff, a giant Philistine warrior named **Goliath**, would regularly come out and taunt the armies of Israel, offering to battle any Israelite warrior, with a "winner-take-all" proposition (**17:1-11**). **King Saul** and the Israelites were terrified of this Philistine champion and their fear paralyzed them from taking any action at all. It was into this situation that the young boy David came to deliver a care package from home to his older brothers who were fighting in King Saul's army.

Read **1 Samuel 17:20-31**.

1. Read the description of Goliath in **1 Samuel 17:4-11**. Compare David's response to Goliath's taunts (**17:26**) to that of Saul and his army (**17:24**). What do you think accounts for the difference?

David's knowledge of God and experience with God makes the difference. David saw Goliath as an insult to the Lord of Hosts – the God who has everything that exists under his control. David knew from experience who God was and how God can and will protect his people. Saul and his army were comparing themselves to Goliath. David was comparing Goliath to the Lord of Hosts and he knew it was no match. David could not believe that Israel's army was letting Goliath get away with his threats and insults because he saw Goliath's insults and insults against God. "Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy **the armies of the living God?**" **17:26**

♥ What circumstances can cause a person or group of people to lose heart? What usually causes you to lose heart? **We usually lose heart when we feel our resources or strength is inadequate and we will somehow be hurt or destroyed by what is facing us – and there is no one to help.** What situations in your life have caused you to be paralyzed with fear and uncertainty?

♥ Name three of the biggest "giants" you have faced in life so far. What is your most typical reaction to facing a situation that is way bigger than yourself?

♥ What affect, if any, does your knowledge of God have on you when you face a challenge or difficulty? **If we only know **about** God and don't really **know** God and have no past experience of trusting God or experiencing God's deliverance, it is hard for us to trust God to help and deliver us when we face a challenge or difficulty. If we want to be able to trust God to take care of us during a difficulty, we need to get to know God and develop a close relationship with him before a hard time hits. When we know and experience God in every day life, it is much easier to trust him when you are faced with a challenge.**

2. What could be some reasons why David's older brother reacted the way he did (**17:28-29**)?

It could be a some sibling rivalry or it could have been some resentment and jealousy toward David because of David's lack of fear. David's older brother probably knew in his heart that David was right and that the army should not be threatened by Goliath. Often, people who know and trust God make others angry because they are viewed as being simplistic and "unrealistic."

♥ How do you feel when someone casts doubt on your ability to do something? Do others have more or less confidence in you than you do yourself? How so?

♥ What do you do when someone says "you don't belong here" or questions your motives (**17:28-29**)? What does your response tell you about yourself? What do you think is the "right" response?

Read 1 Samuel 17:31-40.

3. How did David persuade Saul to let him fight Goliath and why did David have such confidence in his abilities (17:34-37)?

David relied on his past experiences with God, knowing that God had given him what he needed to kill the lion and bear as he tended sheep. David was sure that God would come through for him again since Goliath had defied and insulted the armies of the living God. David clearly saw this battle as God's and not his own.

- ♥ How do past battles encourage you in a present difficulty? How do you think your present difficulties will encourage you in future battles? How can you rely on God and his power to deliver right now?
- ♥ David's past experiences with God led him to believe that God would deliver him. What past experiences lead you to believe that God will deliver you? What past experiences cause you to doubt?
- ♥ When facing a difficulty, is your attitude usually more like Saul's or David's (17:32-36)? Why? What would help you become more confident like David? Is there something you need to do?

4. Why do you think the story emphasizes David's inability to do battle in the king's armor (17:38-40)? Saul is unable to trust that God will be able to work without the help of the best and most up-to-date resources. David is unwilling to use anything other than the resources which he is competent to use and through which he has known God's help on previous occasions. David is comfortable with who he is and knows how God works through him. He is able to trust God to work through his "ordinary" abilities. Refusing Saul's armor also made sure that Saul nor his armor got the credit for the victory. God got all the credit and glory when David killed the giant with just his slingshot and one stone.

- ♥ What did Saul's reasoning in 17:33 and his provision for David in 17:38-39 reveal about his belief in God? It revealed that Saul was not in any way trusting God to fight for him. He was totally relying on human strength and power. 17:47 reveals that David knew God did not need human weapons to rescue his people. Saul had not such assurance. When facing a difficulty, what do your actions and attitudes reveal about *your* belief in God?
- ♥ When you face an enemy, on what or whom do you usually depend? Your own resources? Expert advice? Your wits? Manipulation and control? Gamesmanship? Cleverness? Brute force? Other? What would it look like for you to truly depend on God?
- ♥ What do you usually do when you don't feel comfortable with what is going on (17:38-39)? What does this reveal about yourself? What do you wish was different about yourself? How might this happen?

Read 1 Samuel 17:41-50.

5. Despite the "mismatch," why was David absolutely sure that he would overcome the giant (17:45-47)?

David knew that it would not be human weapons (sword and spear - 17:47) that would win the battle. No human weapon (sword, spear or javelin) was any kind of match against the power behind the **Name of the LORD of Hosts** (17:45). Even though David would be doing the fighting, he knew this was not his battle and that God could and would win it in any way he chose. Again, David could trust God because he knew God – and God honored his faith and trust. How well do you know God? How sure are you of his character? How certain are you of what his will is because of what he has said in his Word? David absolutely knew that God would come through for him because he knew God (on a first name basis)!

- ♥ What made it possible for David to have this kind of trust and faith in God? Does this kind of faith just happen? What would it take for you to have the same kind of faith in God that David had?
- ♥ Goliath taunted David (17:41-44). How do your "giants" taunt you? What do you fear *could* happen if you turned and faced the "giant" that taunts you? What do you want to believe *would* happen?
- ♥ What is the difference between trusting in "sword, spear and javelin" and trusting in the name of the **LORD of Hosts** (17:45)? How do you know in which "weapon" you are placing your trust?

6. What was David's motive in wanting to defeat Goliath (17:45-47) and why is this important? In 17:47, David says that after God has won the battle, "all those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves . . ." It would have been easy for David to have taken the credit for what God had done. His motive in fighting could have been to show off his own skill and bravery. Instead, he knew his action was a sign, not of his own greatness, but of God's power. **It would indicate to everybody**, Philistine and Israelite alike, the extent of God's sovereignty and that God did not need an army or armor or weapons to defend his cause and do his will. David was eager to show off God's power and to make clear to everyone that the important thing was **dependence on God and God's dependability**.

♥ Who else, besides yourself, might benefit if you were to fight your battle trusting in the *LORD of Hosts*? We all are encouraged and learn to trust God more when we see someone else relying and depending on God.

♥ Share a time when your *faith* and *courage* during a hard time brought glory to God.

7. **All creation** is under the *LORD of Hosts'* control and obeys his sovereign command. What part of the victory over Goliath depended on David and what part of it depended on God (17:48-50)? What does this teach you about your own battles?

In the battle with Goliath, David needed to listen to what God wanted him to do – and then do it. The Spirit within David was directing him and David needed to do his part in the battle. God used what David did and through David, defeated the enemy.

It is the same in our own battles. We can't assume that we have nothing to do and that God will do it all, not do we come up with our own "battle plan." We, too, must listen to the Holy Spirit within us and then be willing to obey and do what God is directing us to do. As we obey and do our part, God will surely do his part!

♥ Consider a present difficulty with which you are struggling. What is the worse case scenario? Having imagined that, what might be the end result with the *LORD of Hosts* intervening on your behalf?

♥ What is the hardest part of the battle with a "giant" you are facing? Trusting God? Courage to advance? Using God's weapons? Battle fatigue? Feeling alone? Too many battles at once? Would believing that *the battle is the Lord's* (17:47) change anything? Why or why not?

David faced Goliath with *certainty* and *courage* because he believed in the **reality** of God's power over all creation **and** God's **willingness** to intervene on the behalf of his children. Although Goliath was a superior soldier with better armor and weapons, David knew he was not fighting alone. He came against Goliath in the name of the *Yahweh Sabaoth – The LORD of Hosts* – Commander over all the powers in the universe, including all the protective powers of mighty angel armies – the *hosts of heaven*. The *LORD of Hosts* only had to speak the word to guide David's pebble to Goliath's forehead – giving David the victory. David proved his faith by living and acting as if everything he knew about God was actually true! That is what it means to trust in the name of the *LORD of Hosts* as we face our "giant," whether it be a weakness, a person or a hardship. We *live* and *act* as if ***what we know about God is actually true!***

8. Read each of the following Scriptures. What, specifically, does the *Lord of Hosts* have under his power and command and how does knowing this about God encourage you to trust him? (Remember that *Lord of Hosts* is translated *Lord Almighty* in the NIV and NLT.)

**Psalm 91:11; Psalm 103:20-21; Hebrews 1:14 -**

The LORD of Hosts has all of the mighty angel armies of heaven under his command. We are told in the Bible that these beings number in the myriads and myriads (Deut. 33:2; Dan. 7:10). Further, these ministering spirits (with superhuman powers and abilities) do God's bidding, carry out his plans, serve God and do his will. Hebrews tells us that besides all this, angels are ministering spirits sent to serve and care for those have received salvation – those who belong to Jesus! This should greatly encourage us and build our faith that the Lord of Hosts not only has the ability to take care of us -- but he actually will, sometimes using his mighty angels to care for us!

♥ Read **2 Kings 6:8-17**. What might we see around us if we would ask the Lord to open our eyes? Just because we can't see with our physical eyes the mighty armies of heaven does not mean they aren't present and don't exist! This is a wonderful story of Yahweh opening the spiritual eyes of Elisha's servant so that he could actually see the Hosts of Heaven that were ready to do battle against the physical armies surrounding the city.

If we ask to see with our eyes of faith – the eyes of our hearts – we too may become aware of spiritual powers and beings that surround us.

**Isaiah 40:25-26; Psalms 147:4; Genesis 15:5 -**

God has under his power and command all the starry hosts of heaven. He created them all, calls them all by name and knows the location of each. To really grasp the greatness of God's power we need to be aware of just how huge the heavens are. Modern science has opened this to us in ways not possible before. When the Bible was written, the authors were just talking about the heavens they could see with the naked eye and even that was mind boggling. Now we know that there are millions upon millions of universes just like ours. When we get a grasp of the vastness of space and that God created all of it and knows and cares for it intimately, we are reassured of power to take care of us!

The vastness of the heavens is almost too much for us to wrap our minds around. Two things have helped me in appreciating these verses. One is the pictures from space that the Hubble spacecraft has sent back from space. If you go to the GTBS website ([www.growingtogetherbiblestudy.com](http://www.growingtogetherbiblestudy.com)), click on Resources, click on Links – you will see a link to the Hubble's Pictures from the Heavens. Also, the movie *Contact* (starring Jody Foster and others) has opening scenes that show the vastness of space. When viewed from the perspective of knowing the *Elohim* (Mighty Creator) created all of these worlds, it can be quite moving. In fact, someone has posted the opening 3 minutes of the movie on YouTube if you want to check it out! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNAUR7NQCLA>

**1 Kings 17:2-6; Genesis 16:11-15; Daniel 6:21-22**

These references show three examples of Yahweh Sabaoth's command and control over the hosts of animal life – birds, fish and animals. Again, these demonstrate God's greatness and mighty power, but also shows us that he can and will command and control even animal life to serve and take care of humans – those created in the image of God. There are many more incidents like this in Scripture – Jonah and the fish, Balaam and his donkey, Jesus taking the coins from a fish's mouth to pay taxes, etc. What an awesome God we have!!

♥ Read **Numbers 22:21-33**. Share a time when a "roadblock" turned out to be God's protection.

**Isaiah 14:24-27; 46:9-11**

These verses speak the power of God's plans and that nothing can thwart what he has purposed to do. He sees history from beginning to end and he knows how it all perfectly fits together. He uses kingdoms, nations, and people to further his purposes. The Isaiah text has some very strong, powerful wording and images. When you are doubting God or his power or his willingness to work on your behalf, read these verses from Isaiah aloud. See how they build your faith!

**Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8; Job 1:8-12; 2:3-6**

As we have seen in past lessons, we are in a spiritual battle in this life that is very real and affects us in every way. This is a spiritual battle we will be fighting our whole life, to some degree, until we finally leave this life and see Jesus face to face. These verses, however, assure us that even though the battle continues, the war has already been won. Never do these powers of darkness become stronger or even leave the control of God Almighty. Jesus destroyed the power of the enemy through his death and resurrection, and even though we may have to fight, we can have the victory. Even for all the power that our enemy has, he is always under the control of the Lord of Hosts – as we see in the story of Job. Even though we engage in spiritual battle, we have

mighty spiritual weapons to use and God is always in control. The devil is on the Lord of Hosts' leash!

**Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 19:11-16**

Praise God we know how the story ends! Jesus, Immanuel – God with us – will reign on Dave's throne and over all the kingdoms of the earth – ruling with fairness and justice. Someday, he will come back to earth with the armies of heaven and make every thing right. He is King of kings and Lords of lords. No matter how bad things might get on this earth – we know that someday all will be made right! The passionate commitment of the **Yahweh Sabaoth** (LORD Almighty) will guarantee this!

## ♥ Heart Therapy

Are you facing a "giant"? Do you have an impossible situation? Are you completely without resources? Are you living with a difficulty that has altered your life? Has a weakness, a person or a hardship gotten the best of you? Tell the **LORD of Hosts** exactly what you are up against and ask him for his help. You might want to pray this prayer:

*Yahweh Sabaoth – LORD of Hosts,*

*All power in heaven and earth is yours. You alone are in charge of all things and have at your disposal all the resources of heaven and earth. Send me help today, I pray. I run to you for deliverance and I ask that you deliver me **in** my impossible situation, **through** my impossible situation and **out of** my impossible situation. You are able to fight my battle today, for you are stronger than any enemy I face. Today, with your help, I can do all things through Jesus, who gives me the strength I need. Amen.*

*Be strong in the Lord, and in his mighty power – **Ephesians 6:10***

BELOW IS THE SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURE FOR THIS LESSON THAT CAN BE PRINTED OUT FOR SMALL GROUP TIME

## NIV

**Psalms 91:11** For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

**Psalms 103:20-21** Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. **21** Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

**Hebrews 1:14** Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

**Isaiah 40:25-26** “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. **26** Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

**Psalms 147:4** He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

**Genesis 15:5** He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

**1 Kings 17:2-6** Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: **3** “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. **4** You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there.”

**5** So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. **6** The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

**Genesis 8:6-9** After forty days Noah opened the window he had made in the ark **7** and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. **8** Then he sent out a dove to see if the water had receded from the surface of the ground. **9** But the dove could find no place to set its feet because there was water over all the surface of the earth; so it returned to Noah in the ark. He reached out his hand and took the dove and brought it back to himself in the ark.

**Daniel 6:21-22** Daniel answered, “O king, live forever! **22** My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.”

**Isaiah 14:24-27** The LORD Almighty has sworn, “Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand. **25** I will crush the Assyrian in my land; on my mountains I will trample him down. His yoke will be taken from my people, and his burden removed from their shoulders.” **26** This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations. **27** For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

**Isaiah 46:9-11** Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. **10** I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. **11** From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.

**Hebrews 2:14** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

**1 John 3:8** He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.

**Job 1:8-12** Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”

**9** “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. **10** “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. **11** But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

**12** The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

**Job 2:3-6** Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.”

**4** “Skin for skin!” Satan replied. “A man will give all he has for his own life. **5** But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

**6** The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”

**Isaiah 9:6-7** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

**Revelation 19:11-16** I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. **12** His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. **13** He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. **14** The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. **15** Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. **16** On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

NLT

**Psalms 91:11** For he orders his angels to protect you wherever you go.

**Psalms 103:20-21** Praise the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty creatures who carry out his plans, listening for each of his commands. **21** Yes, praise the LORD, you armies of angels who serve him and do his will!

**Hebrews 1:14** But angels are only servants. They are spirits sent from God to care for those who will receive salvation.

**Isaiah 40:25-26** “To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal?” asks the Holy One.

**26** Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out one after another, calling each by its name. And he counts them to see that none are lost or have strayed away.

**Psalms 147:4** He counts the stars and calls them all by name.

**Genesis 15:5** Then the LORD brought Abram outside beneath the night sky and told him, “Look up into the heavens and count the stars if you can. Your descendants will be like that—too many to count!”

**1Kings 17:2-6** Then the LORD said to Elijah, **3** “Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook at a place east of where it enters the Jordan River. **4** Drink from the brook and eat what the ravens bring you, for I have commanded them to bring you food.” **5** So Elijah did as the LORD had told him and camped beside Kerith Brook. **6** The ravens brought him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he drank from the brook.

**Genesis 8:6-9** After another forty days, Noah opened the window he had made in the boat **7** and released a raven that flew back and forth until the earth was dry. **8** Then he sent out a dove to see if it could find dry ground. **9** But the dove found no place to land because the water was still too high. So it returned to the boat, and Noah held out his hand and drew the dove back inside.

**Daniel 6:21-22** Daniel answered, “Long live the king! **22** My God sent his angel to shut the lions’ mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty.”

**Isaiah 14:24-27** The LORD Almighty has sworn this oath: “It will all happen as I have planned. It will come about according to my purposes. **25** I will break the Assyrians when they are in Israel; I will trample them on my mountains. My people will no longer be their slaves. **26** I have a plan for the whole earth, for my mighty power reaches throughout the world. **27** The LORD Almighty has spoken—who can change his plans? When his hand moves, who can stop him?”

**Isaiah 46:9-11** And do not forget the things I have done throughout history. For I am God—I alone! I am God, and there is no one else like me. **10** Only I can tell you what is going to happen even before it happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish. **11** I will call a swift bird of prey from the east—a leader from a distant

land who will come and do my bidding. I have said I would do it, and I will.

**Hebrews 2:14** Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death.

**1John 3:8** But when people keep on sinning, it shows they belong to the Devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy these works of the Devil.

**Job 1:8-12** Then the LORD asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and will have nothing to do with evil.”

**9** Satan replied to the LORD, “Yes, Job fears God, but not without good reason! **10** You have always protected him and his home and his property from harm. You have made him prosperous in everything he does. Look how rich he is! **11** But take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!”

**12** “All right, you may test him,” the LORD said to Satan. “Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don’t harm him physically.” So Satan left the LORD’s presence.

**Job 2:3-6** Then the LORD asked Satan, “Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and will have nothing to do with evil. And he has maintained his integrity, even though you persuaded me to harm him without cause.”

**4** Satan replied to the LORD, “Skin for skin—he blesses you only because you bless him. A man will give up everything he has to save his life. **5** But take away his health, and he will surely curse you to your face!” **6** “All right, do with him as you please,” the LORD said to Satan. “But spare his life.”

**Isaiah 9:6-7** For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the LORD Almighty will guarantee this!

**Revelation 19:11-16** Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. And the one sitting on the horse was named Faithful and True. For he judges fairly and then goes to war. **12** His eyes were bright like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him, and only he knew what it meant. **13** He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. **14** The armies of heaven, dressed in pure white linen, followed him on white horses. **15** From his mouth came a sharp sword, and with it he struck down the nations. He ruled them with an iron rod, and he trod the winepress of the fierce wrath of almighty God. **16** On his robe and thigh was written this title: King of kings and Lord of lords.