

One of the problems we have in the Bible is, of course, that, in the Old Testament, there are wars which are fought. I think I said before that once we gave a New Testament to an Iranian Muslim guy. He read it through, and he really liked the bit about Jesus being a peacemaker, about loving your enemies and all that stuff. He said: *'That's so different from Islam,'* and *'I hate Islam and all that war and the stuff in it.'* And he really related to it. And then, we gave him a whole Bible. He started reading the Old Testament. He read about wars and people fighting each other and God having vengeance upon tribes, and he said: *'Well, I don't like that at all'.*

And I had to explain to him a little bit about how it was. That God had chosen Israel to be a people and as they were a people, as they existed in the world which was hostile to them, they would have to face enemies who tried to attack them and to wipe them out. And therefore, they'd have to have a physical war to defend themselves against these enemies.

In fact, the whole Exodus is seen in one sense as a war against Pharaoh, a liberation war if you like, liberating them from slavery. And as they come into the land there are going to be those who can try to dispossess them. And they're going to have to defend themselves against them. Pretty much as it is today with Israel going into the land, where they're surrounded by enemies and they have to have an army which is going to defend them from the enemies who want to drive them out.

And basically, their army in fact, is modern Israel's army, called the **Israel Defense Forces** (אָבִיב - *Tsva ha-Hagana le-Yisra'el* לְיִשְׂרָאֵל הַהַגָּנָה). It's a defence force against those who come to wipe them out.

In a sense, if you think about it, we are not in a physical war against physical enemies, but we do have a spiritual enemy. And we have an enemy who wants to try and wipe us out and, therefore, we have to stand against him and to put on the armour of God to stand against that enemy who's coming against us. And we live in a hostile realm spiritually, and we have to take the armour of God to fight against the enemy. And there's a war which is not just in the flesh, it's in the spirit as well.

And this battle here is not just a battle in the flesh.

"The purpose of the IDF is to preserve the State of Israel, to protect its independence, and to foil attempts by its enemies to disrupt the normal life within it."

Conflict	Combatant 1	Combatant 2	Results	Israeli commanders			Israeli losses		
				Israeli Prime Minister	Defense Minister of Israel	Chief of Staff of the IDF	IDF forces	Civilians	
War of Independence (1947–1949)	Israel	Egypt Iraq Transjordan Syria Lebanon Saudi Arabia Yemen Holy War Army ALA	Victory • Arab League invasion of former Mandatory Palestine repelled. • Armistice Agreements; Israel captured 50% of area allotted to Arab state.	David Ben-Gurion		Yaakov Dori	4,074 ^[4]	~2,000 ^[4]	
Sinai War (1956)	Israel United Kingdom France	Egypt	Victory • Sinai demilitarized, UNEF deployed.				Moshe Dayan		231
Six-Day War (1967)	Israel	Egypt Syria Jordan Iraq	Victory • Israel captured the Gaza Strip, Sinai, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights.	Levi Eshkol		Yitzhak Rabin	776	20	
War of Attrition (1967–1970)	Israel	Egypt Soviet Union PLO Jordan	Both sides claimed victory • Continued Israeli occupation of Sinai. • Black September in Jordan	Golda Meir	Moshe Dayan	Haim Bar-Lev	1,424 ^[5]	227 ^[6]	
Yom Kippur War (1973)	Israel	Egypt Syria Iraq Jordan Algeria Morocco Saudi Arabia Cuba North Korea	Victory ^[7] • Arab invasion repelled, UN ceasefire. • Egypt–Israel Peace Treaty ^[8] • Agreement on Disengagement				David Elazar		2,688
Operation Litani (1978)	Israel FLA	PLO	Victory • PLO retreat from South Lebanon.		Ezer Weizman	Mordechai Gur	18	None	
First Lebanon War (1982–1985)	Israel SLA Lebanese Front	PLO Syria Jammoul Amal	"Tactical victories, strategic failure" ^[10] • PLO expulsion from Lebanon. ^[11]	Menachem Begin		Ariel Sharon	Rafael Eitan	657	2–3

The Israel Defense Forces launched **Operation Northern Shield** (2018-19) to expose and neutralize cross-border attack tunnels that Hezbollah dug from Lebanon into Israel.

Hezbollah, the Iran-backed terror group, has overtaken southern Lebanon. Their plan of attack against Israel, called "Conquer the Galilee," is comprised of several components. The underground attack tunnels were the most clandestine of all, intended to aid the terror group in surprise attacks and kidnappings of Israeli civilians and soldiers. Operation Northern Shield foiled this plan.

Both this plan and the tunnels themselves constitute a grave violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which was implemented as an end to the Second Lebanon War in 2006. It calls for a disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon, ...

The IDF will continue conducting a broad defense effort on the Lebanese border until the neutralization effort is completed. This includes integrating various means and technologies, such as continuing the construction of the defensive barrier (the Defensive Obstacle Project)...

As the sovereign power in the country, the Lebanese government is responsible for all terror that emanates from within it, including Hezbollah's cross-border tunnel efforts. The IDF is determined to carry out the task of protecting Israeli civilians and will continue operating in the area and will monitor possible underground activity...