

“God at War: What's Up with That?” **Selected Scriptures**

Question: How do we reconcile this *power-under*, “love your enemies” theme, this *love your enemies* strategy that is so clearly articulated and then demonstrated by Jesus in the New Testament, with all of the places in the Old Testament where God seems to use a *power-over* strategy?

How do we deal with this apparent contradiction between the Old and the New Testament? *The only way to do that is by going back to the beginning of the story.*

- *One of the effects of the fall and sin...*
A culture of violence and war...

So what's the plan God? **Here's the plan:** to call out from this mess a people of His own, and to form from this horror, a nation. Then to move them, *sometimes a very small step at a time*, out of darkness into light... all the way to Jesus, who would culminate this “*calling out of a people*” by showing the human race an entirely different way. A better way.

- **“Enough!”**

Joshua –

Judges –

Kings –

The Prophets –

Jesus –

Application: What do you believe will further the influence of the Kingdom of God? What do you believe is the way of fulfilling the purposes of God in the world, of manifesting the Kingdom of God in the world, of revealing the face of God to the world?

- The way of the sword – *power-over*, or the way of the cross, a *power-under* strategy?