

HIS BATTLE

GOD'S PLAN FOR VICTORY

JACOB A. SHEPHERD
WITH SHERI ROSE SHEPHERD



Revell

a division of Baker Publishing Group
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Jacob A. Shepherd with Sheri Rose Shepherd, *His Battle: God's Plan for Victory*,
Revell Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, © 2010. Used by permission.

© 2010 by Sheri Rose Shepherd

Published by Revell
a division of Baker Publishing Group
P.O. Box 6287, Grand Rapids, MI 49516-6287
www.revellbooks.com

Printed in Singapore

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy, recording—without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotations in printed reviews.

ISBN 978-0-8007-1923-4

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture is taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved.

Scripture marked CEV is taken from the Contemporary English Version © 1991, 1992, 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.

Scripture marked ESV is taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture marked Message is taken from *The Message* by Eugene H. Peterson, copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group. All rights reserved.

Scripture marked NIV is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL READER'S VERSION™. Copyright © 1995, 1996, 1998 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Scripture marked NIV is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Scripture marked NKJV is taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture marked TNIV is taken from the Holy Bible, Today's New International Version™ Copyright © 2001 by International Bible Society. All rights reserved.

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

A Note to the Reader from Jake Shepherd	9
A Note to the Reader from Sheri Rose Shepherd	12
The Front Line	17
Prepare for Battle	20
The Power of Prayer	25
Fueled by Faith	28
Run to Win	33
When Life Hits	37
Battlefield of the Mind	40
Truth Is Your Armor	45
No Weapon Will Prosper	48
Become Fearless	53
Courage to Change	57
Get Up	60
The Bait of Bitterness	65
Sovereign Suffering	68
A Way of Escape	73
Pick Up Your Cross	77
Identity Crisis	80
Hopelessness Is an Illusion	85
Stand	88
Relational Wars	93
In the Dark	97
Tender Warrior	100

A Time for War	105
Not of This World	108
Rebuild What Is Broken	113
Rest for the Warrior	117
Conquer Evil	120
The Power of Purity	125
Amazing Grace	128
Women	133
Praise through the Pain	137
Born to Lead	140
The Trust Factor	145
The Workforce	148
Break Through	153
Driven by Eternity	157
Conquer Compromise	160
Capture This Day	165
The Invisible War	168
Powerless apart from God	173
Blessed	177
Release Your Prisoner	180
Count the Cost	185
Never Underestimate	188
Take Your Appointed Position	193
Life without Limits	197
Warrior Wisdom	200
Speak Words of Life	205
The Legacy	208
It Is Finished!	213

A NOTE TO THE READER FROM JAKE SHEPHERD

As a fellow follower of Christ, a seeker of the truth, and a man chasing after the heart of God, I have found it is never easy to stay on the right path. It seems that around every corner there is something waiting to hinder us from running the race the Lord has set for us. In fact, it seems to me that the harder I push after God, the harder the enemy pushes back against me. Often I have found myself discouraged, disoriented, tired, and ready to quit.

I'm sure you have felt the same way at one point or another in your life. Maybe you are there now. Every man who has ever sought after God has felt lost and discouraged, has

suffered defeat, and has seen dark times and seemingly hopeless situations. But in the end, the man who perseveres also sees victories won, wounds healed, relationships mended, and lives restored. And he experiences the powerful, forgiving love of the Father.

It is my hope that this book will help you experience encouragement and love from your heavenly Father on a personal level. It is my hope that the intercessory prayers I offer in this book will help refresh you, renew your mind, and transform you. I hope you will be encouraged in your desire to become a righteous man of action, one who chooses life and recognizes all the blessings your Father has placed before you. I hope and pray that you will find yourself better able to stand strong for a heavenly standard of living and that you

will be a man who overflows with the perfect love of God.

I trust you will be open and able to apply the letters and prayers in this book to your life, wherever you are. And I trust that you will let God's Holy Spirit lovingly convict and correct you and mold you into a man after God's own heart.

May God bless you and keep you fighting the good fight.

A NOTE TO THE READER
FROM SHERI ROSE SHEPHERD

A few years ago I was waiting to catch a plane at the Atlanta airport. I glanced across the room and saw a young soldier waiting for his flight. His face was filled with fear and uncertainty, and it was clear that he was being deported to war. Having a mother's heart, I had to walk over and attempt to bring the young man comfort and encouragement.

As we began to talk, he shared how hard it was to say good-bye to his family and how heartbroken his mom was that he was leaving. I opened my bag and handed him my book *His Princess Love Letters*, and I told him to give it to his mom. He thanked me. I prayed with him, said good-bye, and went back to

my own seat. To my surprise I watched him open the book and begin to read. Then I saw tears rolling down his cheeks.

After a few minutes, the young man walked back to me and said, “Ma’am, we men need a book like this in our own language.” At that moment, I asked the Lord for a book that would strengthen and encourage men the way my *His Princess* books have for women.

I have three men in my life I consider heroes: my dad Phil, my husband Steve, and my son Jake. Over the years, I have observed their lives and have seen their deep desires to keep their faith, fight for their families, and conquer something great in their lifetimes. At the same time, life hits them hard as men sometimes, and that hero’s heart gets lost for a while. But I have witnessed firsthand how the power of prayer and the truth of God’s

Word have given each of them the strength to get back up from their fears and failures and keep fighting to finish strong.

These three men are my heroes, not because they are perfect, but because they have allowed the Lord to painfully prepare them for greatness through tough times. I believe that God created men with a good kind of fight inside them, and my three men have never quit fighting, especially for their loved ones.

That prayer I prayed, asking God for a book for men like my three heroes—men young and old who are searching for God’s strength, wisdom, and truth—was indeed answered. The Lord in His faithfulness gave me this book’s vision, and my son Jake caught the vision with me from his man’s point of view. Today it is our honor to present *His Battle* to men.

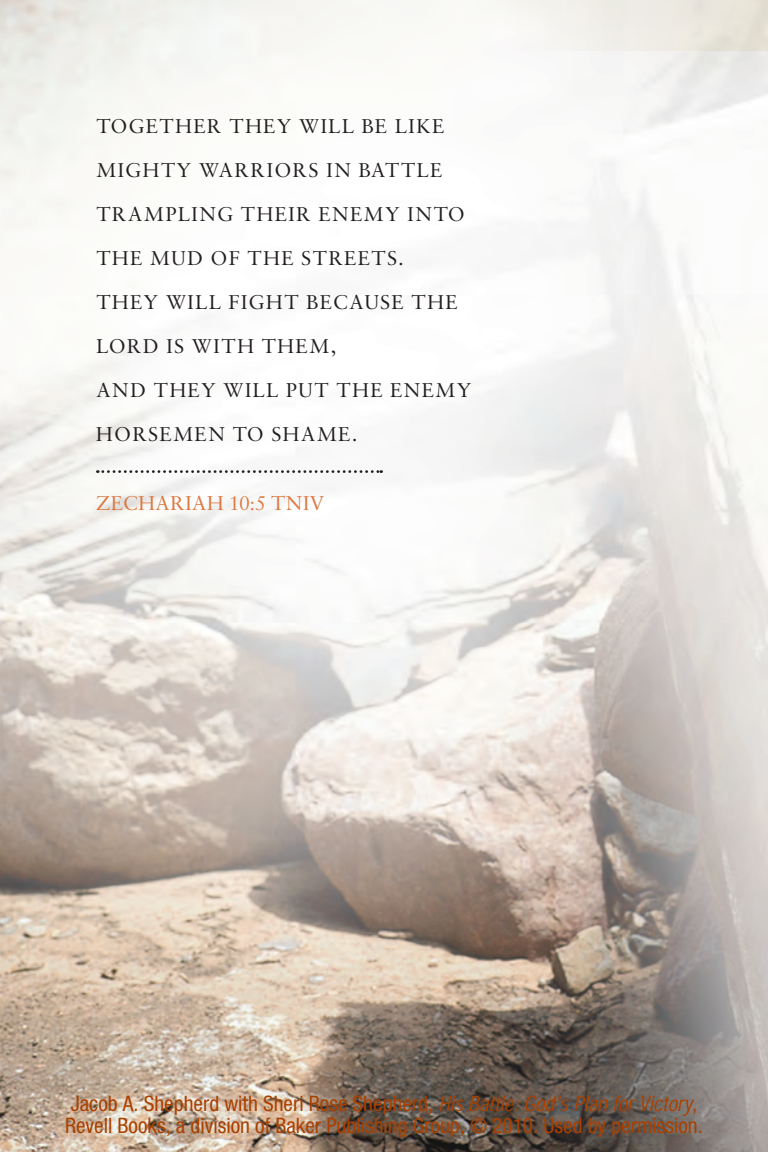
May each of these letters and intercessory prayers encourage and equip you to win any battle you face. As you read, may guilt be replaced with grace, and may pain be turned into renewed passion. You are chosen by God. May you find the strength and wisdom through these readings and prayers to keep your faith, fight the good fight, and finish strong.

All God's best for you.

He trains my hands for battle;
he strengthens my arm to draw a bronze
bow.

You have given me your shield of victory.
Your right hand supports me;
your help has made me great.

Psalm 18:34–35



TOGETHER THEY WILL BE LIKE
MIGHTY WARRIORS IN BATTLE
TRAMPLING THEIR ENEMY INTO
THE MUD OF THE STREETS.
THEY WILL FIGHT BECAUSE THE
LORD IS WITH THEM,
AND THEY WILL PUT THE ENEMY
HORSEMEN TO SHAME.

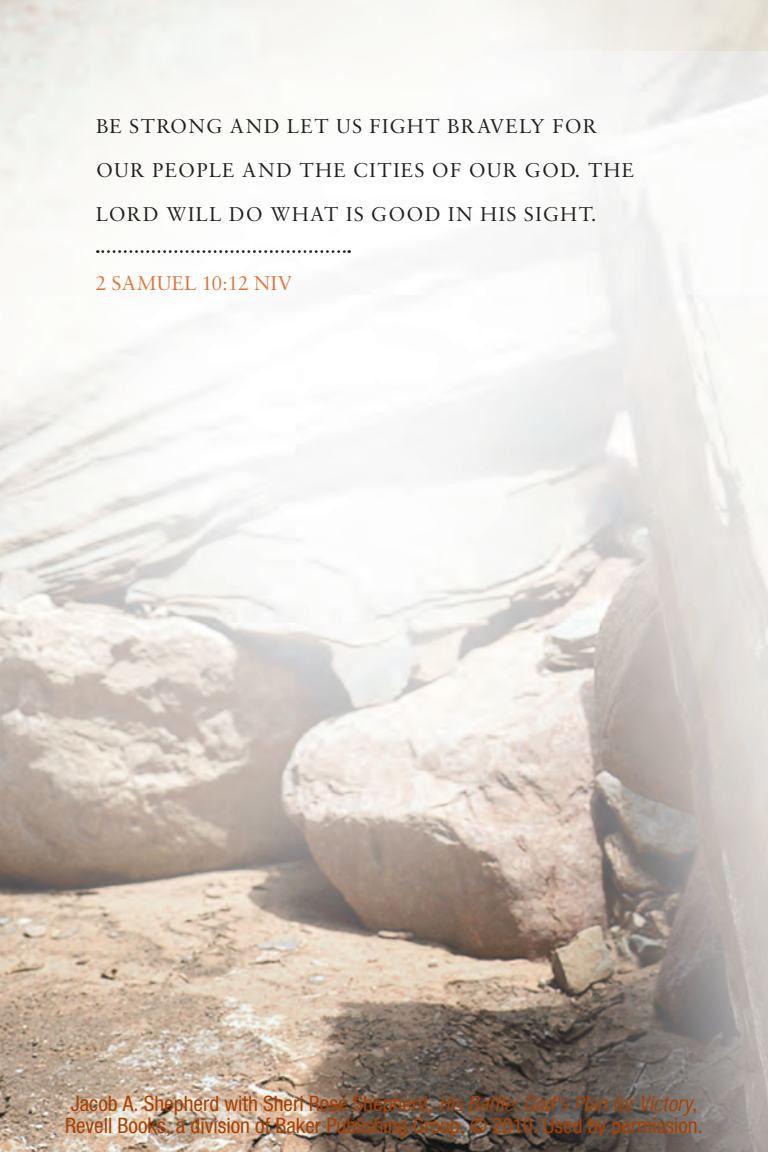
.....
ZECHARIAH 10:5 TNIV

THE FRONT LINE

My Son,

You were born to become a hero. There is a deep desire inside your soul to conquer something great. I know this because I placed it there. The only thing holding you back is you. Don't hide behind your fears and insecurities any longer. There is a fight in your heart, which wants to be on the battlefield. This fight is not just for you; it is for all those you love. I need you to willingly walk to the front line. Don't look back any longer, but look forward to the great victory that lies ahead of you. I will give you the same strength and courage I gave to King David over Goliath. All you have to do is step out in faith.

Your Lord,
who fights for you



BE STRONG AND LET US FIGHT BRAVELY FOR
OUR PEOPLE AND THE CITIES OF OUR GOD. THE
LORD WILL DO WHAT IS GOOD IN HIS SIGHT.

.....
2 SAMUEL 10:12 NIV

THE FRONT LINE

Dear Brother,

I pray you will have the courage and the strength to be the one who fights when no one else can. May you reflect the glory of your Father's faithfulness by leading others into battle and defeating the enemy. I pray that you will wield the divine power the Lord has equipped you with and that you will trample Satan under your feet by the authority of the name of Jesus. May you have vision to see beyond a circumstance to the victory and freedom on the other side. I pray blessing and strength over you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*