

## Volunteers

Ponder: An all-volunteer army

Scripture: “Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power” (Psalm 110:3a, NKJV).

In the USA all branches of the armed services are all-volunteer. Young men still have to register for the draft, but no one has been drafted for over 40 years.

Did you know that Jesus also has an all-volunteer army? Have you volunteered to be in it?

Of course it is not an army that shoots literal, physical weapons at other people. “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God . . .” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5a).

King David prophesied that the Messiah’s followers would be volunteers (Psalm 110:3a, quoted above). Psalm 110 is heavily Messianic. Jesus quoted the first verse, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool,’” and said it referred to the Christ (Matthew 22:44). The Hebrews writer quotes the fourth verse, “The Lord has sworn and will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek,’” and applied it to the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ.

The reference to volunteers in verse three, then, applies to the followers of Jesus. We are volunteers in a spiritual army, waging spiritual warfare against everyone and everything opposed to God. The Hebrew word for volunteers is elsewhere translated “freewill offering.” The whole idea in the Psalm is that Messiah’s people will offer their allegiance to Him of their own free will.

When the apostles and other early evangelists proclaimed the gospel, they never coerced anyone to become a disciple of Jesus. No one was marched into the water for baptism at the point of a sword! To the contrary, “those who gladly received his word were baptized” (Acts 2:41).

Have you volunteered to be in the Lord’s army? There is no salary, but the retirement plan is out of this world!