

Prevailing upon the Lord and Others: Examples from Scripture

Compiled by Rick McKinney in 2026, using the Revised Standard Version

Genesis 18:32

Then he (Abraham) said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He (God) answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

Genesis 32:24-28

And Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and Jacob’s thigh was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” ²⁷And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” ²⁸Then he said, “Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel,^[b] for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.” Then he (the Lord) said, “Your name shall no more be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have **prevailed.**”

Exodus 17:11

Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel **prevailed**; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek **prevailed** (in the battle).

Exodus 32:11-14

But **Moses besought the Lord** his God, and said, “O Lord, why does thy wrath burn hot against thy people, whom thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, ‘With evil intent did he bring them forth, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from thy fierce wrath and repent of this evil against thy people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou didst swear by thine own self, and didst say to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” 14 **And the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do to his people.**

1 Samuel 17: 37 & 50)

And David said, “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you!” 50 So, David **prevailed** over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine, and killed him; there was no sword in the hand of David.

Esther 6:13-7:6

Then his wise men and Haman's wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, **you will not prevail against him** but will surely fall before him." ... 2 And on the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." 3 Then Queen Esther answered (she and her maidens and her kinsmen had all been fasting in prayer), "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. 4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king." 5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, that would presume to do this?" 6 And Esther said, "A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!"

Isaiah 1:18-19

And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests, and the people of the land. 19 They will fight against you; but **they shall not prevail against you**, for I am with you, says the Lord, to deliver you."

John: 2:1-5

On the third day there was **a marriage at Cana** in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; 2 Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. 3 When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." 4 And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "**Do whatever he tells you.**"

Mark 7:27-29

And he (Jesus) said to her, "Let the children first be fed, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 28 But she answered him, "**Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.**" 29 And he said to her, "For this saying you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter."

Acts 16:15

And when she (Lydia) was baptized, with her household, she besought us (Paul, Silas, Luke and Timothy), saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she **prevailed** upon us.