

Preface: On more than one occasion I have been asked what the Bible teaches of war. In most cases the one questioning already has his mind made up thinking Christ's teachings would make war an anathema in a Christian nation.

1. I was reminded of my past experiences by an editorial written by Frank Turek in which he recalled being asked by a taxi driver "didn't Jesus tell us to love our enemies? And therefore the war in Iraq is wrong." I read with pleasure Mr. Turek's response:

"First 'loving your enemies,' like 'turn the other cheek,' is a command for individuals in personal relationships. It is not a command for governments or for individuals put in grave bodily harm. As individuals we should pray for our enemies and 'turn the other cheek' instead of returning insult for insult. Such behavior demonstrates supernatural love aimed at securing the offenders conversion to Christ. But those commands do not mean that we have no right to personal self-defense, nor do they mean that a nation should not protect its people from other hostile nations.

"With regard to self-defense, not only does the Old Testament affirm the right to self-defense (Exo 22:2), Jesus himself told his disciples to sell their cloak and buy a sword (Luk 22:36).

Exo 22:2 If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him.

Luk 22:36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

"Jesus later told Peter 'put your sword away' so Christ's sacrifice would go forward and the Scriptures would be fulfilled (Mat 26:54). But the very fact that Jesus told Peter and the other disciples to buy a sword shows that its use for personal protection is appropriate. (By the way, Jesus never condoned the use of the sword as a means of religious conversion. It's impossible anyway. Genuine conversion, by definition, is freely accepted. It cannot be coerced.)

Mat 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Mat 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Mat 26:54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

"With regard to war, the New Testament does not order newly baptized soldiers to get out of the military. Instead John the Baptist told them not to abuse their power and to be content with their pay (Luk 3:14).

Luk 3:14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

“Soldiers are needed because, as Paul pointed out in Romans 13, governments have a God given responsibility to use ‘the sword’ to protect their people from harm.

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Rom 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Rom 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Rom 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; **for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.**

“In fact Paul himself accepted military protection when he was in danger and Jesus affirmed the right of governments to impose capital punishment, saying that such a right was given by God (Acts 22:22-25; Joh 19:11).

Acts 22:22 And they gave him audience unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live.

Acts 22:23 And as they cried out, and cast off their clothes, and threw dust into the air,

Acts 22:24 The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him.

Acts 22:25 And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?

Joh 19:10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

Joh 19:11 Jesus answered, **Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above:** therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Joh 19:12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

“Second, ‘love your enemies’ cannot mean that all use of force is prohibited because such an interpretation would contradict the passages just cited and result in absurd conclusions. It would be absurd to say that ‘love your enemies’ means ‘allow them to kill your family.’ How would that be loving your family? It would be absurd to say that ‘love your enemies’ prohibits all wars. What about the war against Hitler? not justified? Please. How would that be loving to the Jews or the countries overrun?

“With such an absurd interpretation we could not even have police protection, a court system, or prisons. Why believe that police can use force but not Armies? There is not much difference. Without some use of force we would have anarchy, and innocent people would be hurt or killed ... One thing is for certain: Christians contradict Scripture when they say no war or use of force can ever be justified. As terrible as war is, war is sometimes the least bad choice available. In other words, Christians are not for war; it's that we are against the alternative.”

2. In a fallen state this world has only one chance and that is to support the four divine institutions listed in the Scriptures and these are volition, marriage, family and nationalism. To protect these institutions often requires force and that force may include war. There is so much more information about war in Scripture so I hope each of you are edified as you follow what the Word of God has to say about war.

3. The U.S.A has not fought a war as the Bible describes since WWII. In fact most of our young people today have no idea how WWII was fought. Several years ago I had a brief conversation with a young man who asked, "What does the Bible teach about war?" When I got to the part about killing the enemy he said, "Oh, you mean like Bush is doing now?" I said, "no sir far from it; Bush is killing our boys because we don't want to kill the enemy; I told him we could bring all our boys home and win that Iraq war by simply bombing the country into the Stone Age. His reply was, "but what about civilian casualties?"

4. A friend of mine who is a retired (my age) navy pilot overheard the conversation and afterwards in private said; "Young people today have no idea how WWII and the Cold War were fought." We then reminisced how the Army Air Corps and later the Strategic Air Force (now disbanded) had the mission of killing civilians in order to demoralize our enemies. Sadly, Jimmy Carter, George Herbert Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush later introduced a whole generation to terms like "civilian casualties," "collateral damage," and "a kinder and gentler nation."

Introduction: War will always be with us, at least until the Lord returns at His Second Advent.

Luk 21:7 And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass?

Luk 21:8 And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

Luk 21:9 But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.

Luk 21:10 Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom:

1. There will never be world peace prior to the Second Advent of Christ. Individual nations can however stay out of war if they elect to maintain a dominant military with a population and leadership willing to use their overwhelming military power. A good king prepares for war during times of peace.

2. George Washington was quoted: "In time of peace prepare for war."

3. When a nation has to go to war, it is because the nation did not maintain a strong military force. God is pleased when nations prepare for war and thus avoid war. Nations that delight in war are subject to God's discipline.

Psa 68:30 Rebuke the company of spearmen, the multitude of the bulls, with the calves of the people, till every one submit himself with pieces of silver: scatter thou the people that delight in war.

Psa 120:6 My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace.

Psa 120:7 I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war.

4. Nations are God's way--He made this clear at the Tower of Babel.

Gen 11:1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

Gen 11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

Gen 11:3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

Gen 11:4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

Gen 11:5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

Gen 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Gen 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Gen 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

Gen 11:9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

5. It is Satan who wants to weaken the nations.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

6. Internationalism and other coalitions are evil and a tool of Satan. The Antichrist will be the ultimate "internationalist."

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Rev 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

7. Nationalism is an institution provided by God to protect people within certain geographical boundaries. Borders were established uniquely for the needs of Israel, according to the Scripture. Gen 10:5 and Deu 32:8

Gen 10:5 By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations.

Deu 32:8 When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.

8. Man has reacted emotionally to war because of an apotheosis of life. Life is glorified and death is feared; this fear is sponsored by Satan.

Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Heb 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

9. Mankind overlooks the undoubted and self-evident truth "God provides opportunity for salvation to all."

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Joh 1:7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

Joh 1:8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

Joh 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

10. Before death everyone has maximum opportunity to be saved. Death is gain to a believer and life is opportunity to serve Christ.

Phi 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Col 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

11. The Word of God does not prohibit killing. In fact, it authorizes killing as in capital punishment, self-defense, war and the protection of private property.

12. The word for kill in the Hebrew is **Qatal**; the word for homicide or murder is **Ratsach**. In Exo 20:13 we have **Ratsach** not **Qatal**.

Exo 20:13 Thou shall not commit homicide.

13. It is God's will that we never have war. Wars come from the cumulative lust patterns being exercised within a national entity.

Jam 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

Jam 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

Jam 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

14. It is God's will that every nation be so strong militarily that other nations are afraid to attack; weakening the nations is one of Satan's chief ploys. Satan is described by Isaiah as the ultimate in arrogance and pride, but an ultimate failure.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Isa 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Isa 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

Isa 14:17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

Isa 14:18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, everyone in his own house.

Isa 14:19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet.

Eze 28:12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

Eze 28:13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Eze 28:14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Eze 28:15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Eze 28:16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Eze 28:17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Eze 28:18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

Eze 28:19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

15. Satan is not simply the personification of evil influences in the heart, as many liberal theologians have asserted. He is a real created being. Moreover, his personality is asserted in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

16. Wars are a result of not heeding God's edict to wield the big stick. Satan has successfully convinced the United States and many other nations to reduce their military and to even seek international ties and treaties. This clearly has resulted in a great loss of life and the repeated fighting of "wars to end all wars." Keep in mind, politicians, in the manner of new puppies, begin wars, and the military has to clean up their collective messes.

17. Jeremiah understood how the permissive will of God had permitted false prophets to deceive Judah into thinking they would have peace--thus there would be no need to prepare for Babylon's attack.

Jer 4:10 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! surely thou hast greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall have peace; whereas the sword reacheth unto the soul.

18. During the Millennium war will be abolished, therefore we know war is not of God; for in perfect environment there is no war.

Isa 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

18.1 Until Christ returns as the ultimate warrior, nation shall rise against nation. The first act of Christ at His Second Advent is to defeat His enemies, "the blood shall run as deep as the horses' bridle, and then Christ, as the victor, will judge both Israel and the nations.

Rev 14:19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

Rev 14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

The Bible and War: The word war in the NIV can be found 134 times. Many wars are mentioned in Scripture. In fact, God commanded Israel to keep a record of those wars.

1. Rom 13:4 is often misinterpreted as prohibiting war. Such interpretation flies in the face of a categorical study of war. This verse speaks to the use of constituted authority against criminals.

Rom 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

2. The military, law enforcement and the judiciary are the principle protectors of the four divine institutions; these institutions were designed to protect a nation and to offer its citizens peace, prosperity and stability. As earlier noted, the four are volition, marriage, family and nationalism.

3. As noted "one worldism" was first established by Satan at Babel. It should also be remembered that the boundaries of the nations were established for the needs of Israel. Nations are needed today for the protection of Israel.

3.1 The gathering of Israel into one land before the Lord's regathering is a satanic trap. A client nation must therefore protect the Jews living within its borders and develop pro-Semitic policies.

3.2 Satan has throughout history motivated various nations to work at eradicating the Jews. But it is important that there always be a remnant. Today it is quite small, only thirteen million Jews in a world of some seven billion people. The remnant will become even smaller during the Tribulation, when the Antichrist actively pursues their destruction. Nevertheless, God will miraculously protect His chosen people.

4. Several case studies show how God has used the military to protect His nation Israel.

Neh 4:13 Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

Neh 4:14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people,

Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

Neh 4:15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

4.1 When Jehovah, Jesus Christ, led the nation of Israel out of Egypt, He told them at the Red Sea to watch Him fight for them.

Exo 14:14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

4.2 God told Moses to take Israel around the land of the Philistine because they had not as yet been trained in war.

Exo 13:17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:

4.3 God left certain nations in the Promised Land so that future generations of Israel who had not learned war could be tested. There was a generation who had never fought for their freedoms.

Jdg 3:1 Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan;

Jdg 3:2 Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof;

4.4 Jesus taught King David the art and skill of war.

Psa 18:34 He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

4.5 Jesus said a wise king seeks advice from his military leaders before going to war.

Pro 24:5 A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength;

Pro 24:6 for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers.

Luk 14:31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

Luk 14:32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

4.6 God mandated military service for all males twenty years of age except for those with new homes, new businesses or new wives—and cowards.

Num 1:2 Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names, every male by their polls;

Num 1:3 From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies.

Deu 24:5 When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year and shall cheer up his wife which he hath taken.

Deu 20:5 The officers shall say to the army: "Has anyone built a new house and not dedicated it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else may dedicate it.

Deu 20:6 Has anyone planted a vineyard and not begun to enjoy it? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else enjoy it.

Deu 20:7 Has anyone become pledged to a woman and not married her? Let him go home, or he may die in battle and someone else marry her."

Deu 20:8 Then the officers shall add, "Is any man afraid or faint hearted? Let him go home so that his brothers will not become disheartened too."

4.7 The effectiveness of a soldier is determined by his love for the Lord.

Jos 23:10 One man of you shall chase a thousand: for the LORD your God, he it is that fighteth for you, as he hath promised you.

Jos 23:11 Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.

4.8 God has historically used the military of certain nations to discipline Israel and the nations. Assyria destroyed Israel, Babylon destroyed Judah, Persia destroyed Babylon, Greece destroyed Persia, Rome subjugated Greece and the United States disciplined both Nazi Germany and Japan, etc.

4.9 When the Israelites entered the Promised Land, her election to embrace the idolatrous practices of the indigenous peoples rather than destroy them brought horrific discipline.

Jdg 5:8 They chose new gods; then was war in the gates: was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?

5. War is cruel—losing a war is doubly cruel.

5.1 After being defeated by Babylon, Zedekiah, king of Judah saw his sons killed and they put out Zedekiah's eyes and led him as a prisoner to Babylon. Jer 39:4-7

Jer 39:4 And it came to pass, that when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls: and he went out the way of the plain.

Jer 39:5 But the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment upon him.

Jer 39:6 Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah.

Jer 39:7 Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.

5.2 Women suffer greatly during war.

Isa 3:24 And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.

Isa 3:25 Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war.

Isa 3:26 And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground.

6. Warfare demands stability and courage. For this reason, the priest spoke to the troops before they went into battle.

Deu 20:1 When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Deu 20:2 And it shall be, when ye are come nigh unto the battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people,

Deu 20:3 And shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them;

Deu 20:4 For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

7. Draft dodgers are evil; it is their sin that God will not overlook. God has reserved a special discipline for them.

Num 32:6 And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?

Num 32:7 And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD hath given them?

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