

Doctrine of War

Introduction

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

I was reminded of my past experiences by an editorial written by Frank Turek. 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 offender's 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 shouldn't 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 cloaks 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).

Mat 26:54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

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.)

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 (Acts 22:25f), and Jesus affirmed the right of governments to impose capital punishment, saying that such a right was given by God (Joh 19:11)

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 19:11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest 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.

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? (Notice that even that my driver friend isn't against all wars. He thinks that the war in Afghanistan is justified.

But if 'love your enemies' meant you could never use force, then how can Afghanistan be justified?)

With such an absurd interpretation we couldn't even have police protection, a court system, or prisons. Why believe that police can use force but not armies? There's not much of a difference. Police use force to protect people from enemies inside a country. Armies use force to protect people from enemies *outside* a country.

Without the proper use of force, we'd have anarchy, and innocent people would be hurt or killed. That's why complete pacifism is not only unbiblical, it is a dereliction of duty.

Individuals have a responsibility to protect themselves and their families from harm, and governments have a similar responsibility to protect their citizens.

Christians can and should, of course, oppose specific wars that don't meet what theologians call 'just-war theory ...' I believe the Iraq war is just. But I didn't get enough time with my driver friend to hear his complete case against the Iraq war. Maybe he knows something I don't, but it didn't seem so.

One thing is for certain: Christians contradict Scripture and common sense when they say no war or use of force can ever be justified. As terrible as it is, war is sometimes the least bad choice available. In other words, it's not that Christians are for war; it's that we're against the alternative--the oppression and death of the innocent. And in a fallen world like this, sometimes the use of force is necessary to protect the innocent. Without it, we wouldn't even be able to love our friends."

The leaders of our nation have a responsibility for protecting the four divine institutions. These are "volition, marriage, family and nationalism." To protect these institutions often requires force and that force may include war. The United States of America has not fought a war like the Bible recommends since WWII. In fact, most of our young people today have no idea how WWII was fought. I recently 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. 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?"

A friend of mine who is a retired 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," "a kinder and gentler nation."

So much for our introduction, now let's proceed with our categorical study of war.

The Doctrine of War

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

Mat 24:6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

Mar 13:7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

Luk 21:7 "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"

Luk 21:8 He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them.

Luk 21:9 When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away."

2. There will never be world peace prior to the Second Advent of Christ.

3. Individual nations can, however, stay out of war if they elect to maintain a dominant military with a population and leadership willing to use its overwhelming military power. A good king prepares for war during times of peace; a client nation does not overlook the possibility of future wars.

2Ch 14:2 Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.

2Ch 14:3 He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles.

2Ch 14:4 He commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to obey his laws and commands.

2Ch 14:5 He removed the high places and incense altars in every town in Judah, and the kingdom was at peace under him.

2Ch 14:6 He built up the fortified cities of Judah, since the land was at peace. No one was at war with him during those years, for the LORD gave him rest.

2Ch 14:7 "Let us build up these towns," he said to Judah, "and put walls around them, with towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God; we sought him and he has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

4. 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.

4.1 We can safely assume that wars are to be avoided, and when our country has to go to war, it's because some other nation or nations think our misguided and pusillanimous authorities won't use our overwhelming force--assuming we have that force. In the words of General George S. Patton, "Wars are made by mad men and the world never seems to have a shortage of mad men."

Psa 68:30 ... Scatter the nations who delight in war.

Psa 120:6 Too long have I lived among those who hate peace.

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

5. 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.

6. 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, **you who did weaken the nations!**

7. 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.

7.1 Nationalism is an institution provided by God to protect people within certain geographical boundaries. The borders uniquely were established, according to the Scripture, for the needs of Israel.

Gen 10:5 **By these were the borders of the nations divided in their lands; everyone after his tongue after families in their nations.**

Deu 32:8 When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, **he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel.**

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

Heb 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy **him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--**

Heb 2:15 and **free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.**

9. Mankind overlooks the often doubted, but self-evident, truth: "God provides opportunity for salvation to all."

Tit 2:11 For the grace of **God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.**

Joh 1:9 The true light that **gives light to every man** was coming into the world.

Rom 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Rom 1:19 **since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.**

Rom 1:20 **For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.**

Rom 1:21 **For although they knew God,** they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:28 **Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God,** he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

10. Before death everyone has maximum opportunity to be saved.

11. 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.

11.1 "Ah, then let's all commit suicide!" But wait, suicide is arrogance and assumes God does not any longer have a plan for "poor little me."

11.2 Suicide, like murder, violates the principle "if there is life, there is purpose."

1Th 5:18 In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

11.3 As a wonderful friend said to me many years ago, "I would be afraid to attempt suicide because it may not be my time and I would simply put myself in a comatose state."

11.4 Is suicide an unforgivable sin? No! just one of many sins for which Christ died!

11.5 So much for our brief divertissement let's return to our subject of war.

12. 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. The command in Exo 20:13 is better translated "Thou shalt not commit homicide."

12.1 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 shalt not kill (**Ratsach**).

13. It is God's will that we never have war. Wars come from the exercise of the cumulative, misguided lust patterns extant in a national entity.

Jam 4:1 From whence come wars and fighting 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. Satan is the one who weakens the nations; this is one of his chief ploys. Let's take a look at several Scriptures describing the antics of Satan.

14.1 Satan is described by Isaiah as a creature full of 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, you who did 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, every one 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.

14.2 He is described by Ezekiel as a created being who was "the living end," but then he fell, was sentenced and is now awaiting the execution of that sentence. Satan is placed in the Lake of Fire at the end of the appeal phase of the angelic conflict: the end of the Millennium.

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 traffic; 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.

14.3 He is described by John as the loser in a future battle with Michael. In the middle of the Tribulation Satan and his minions are cast down to earth.

Rev 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Rev 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Rev 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

Rev 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

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; 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 pruning hooks: 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.**

19. 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.

Gen 14:2 Abram went to **war** against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

Num 31:3 So Moses said to the people, "Arm some of your men to go to **war** against the Midianites and to carry out the LORD'S vengeance on them.

Num 32:6 Moses said to the Gadites and Reubenites, "Shall your countrymen go to **war** while you sit here?"

Deu 20:1 When you go to **war** against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you.

Jos 4:13 About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the LORD to the plains of Jericho for **war**.

Jos 11:16 So Joshua took this entire land: the hill country, all the Negev, the whole region of Goshen, the western foothills, the Arabah and the mountains of Israel with their foothills,

Jos 11:17 from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, to Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and struck them down, putting them to death.

Jos 11:18 Joshua waged **war** against all these kings for a long time.

Jos 11:19 Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle.

Jos 11:20 For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts of the Canaanites to wage **war** against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Jos 11:21 At that time Joshua went and destroyed the Anakites from the hill country: from Hebron, Debir and Anab, from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua totally destroyed them and their towns.

Jos 11:22 No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.

Jos 11:23 So Joshua took the entire land, just as the LORD had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from **war**.

1Sa 8:12 Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of **war** and equipment for his chariots.

1Sa 15:18 And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make **war** on them until you have wiped them out.'

1Sa 17:20 Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the **war** cry.

1Sa 19:8 Once more **war** broke out, and David went out and fought the Philistines. He struck them with such force that they fled before him.

2Sa 11:1 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to **war**, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.

Num 21:14 Wherefore it is said **in the book of the wars of the LORD**, What he did in the Red sea, and in the brooks of Arnon,

Jos 12:1 Now these are the kings of the land, which the children of Israel smote, and possessed their land on the other side Jordan toward the rising of the sun, from the river Arnon unto mount Hermon, and all the plain on the east:

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

22.1 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.

22.2 Satan has throughout history motivated various nations to work at eradicating the Jew. It is important that there always be a remnant. Today it is quite small, only thirteen million Jews in a world of some eight 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.

23. 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.

23.1 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.

23.2. 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:

23.3 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;

23.4 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.

23.5 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.

23.6 God mandated military service for all males 20 years of age except for those with new homes, new businesses and 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."

23.7 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.

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

23.9 When the Israelites entered the Promised Land, their 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?

24. War is cruel--losing a war is doubly cruel.

24.1 After being defeated by Babylon, Zedekiah, king of Judah saw his son killed. They then put out his eyes and led him as a prisoner to Babylon.

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.

24.2 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.

25. 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.

Deu 20:5 And the officers shall speak unto the people, saying, What man is there that hath built a new house, and has not dedicated it? let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man dedicate it.

26. 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?

Num 32:8 Thus did your fathers, when I sent them from Kadeshbarnea to see the land.

Num 32:9 For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the LORD had given them.

Num 32:10 And the LORD'S anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying,

Num 32:11 Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:

27. God said the Promised Land rested because of successful military victories.

Jos 11:23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.

28. Jesus Christ wins the last battle of armageddon and saves Israel from destruction.

Rev 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

29. God will protect the mature believer even in time of war.

Job 5:20 In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.

30. Great Old Testament warriors performed expertly because they had doctrine in their souls.

Heb 11:34 because of their faith these men quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

31. Wisdom is needed for war.

Pro 20:18 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

32. Jesus is often described as a warrior.

Jos 5:13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

Jos 5:14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

Jos 5:15 And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

33. The Bible taught Israel that war is hell and complete destruction of the enemy is the way to wage war.

Deu 3:3 So the LORD our God also gave into our hands Og king of Bashan and all his army. We struck them down, leaving no survivors.

Deu 3:4 At that time we took all his cities. There was not one of the sixty cities that we did not take from them-- the whole region of Argob, Og's kingdom in Bashan.

Deu 3:5 All these cities were fortified with high walls and with gates and bars, and there were also a great many unwalled villages.

Deu 3:6 **We completely destroyed them, as we had done with Sihon king of Heshbon, destroying every city-- men, women and children.**

Deu 2:32 When Sihon and all his army came out to meet us in battle at Jahaz,

Deu 2:33 the LORD our God delivered him over to us and we struck him down, together with his sons and his whole army.

Deu 2:34 At that time we took all his towns and **completely destroyed them-- men, women and children. We left no survivors.**

Jos 6:21 **They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it-- men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.**

Jos 6:22 Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her."

Jos 6:23 So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

Jos 6:24 Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD'S house.

Jos 6:25 But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho-- and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

1Sa 15:2 This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt.'

1Sa 15:3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. **Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys."**

1Sa 27:8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.)

1Sa 27:9 Whenever **David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes.** Then he returned to Achish.

1Ki 20:28 The man of God came up and told the king of Israel, "This is what the LORD says: 'Because the Arameans think the LORD is a god of the hills and not a god of the valleys, I will deliver this vast army into your hands, and you will know that I am the LORD.'"

1Ki 20:29 For seven days they camped opposite each other, and on the seventh day the battle was joined. **The Israelites inflicted a hundred thousand casualties on the Aramean foot soldiers in one day.**

1Ki 20:30 The rest of them escaped to the city of Aphek, where the wall collapsed on twenty-seven thousand of them. And Ben-Hadad fled to the city and hid in an inner room.

34. Israel's reputation as a nation with military power and the will to use it resulted in fear among the nations and thus Israel had an extended period of peace.

Exo 15:15 The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away;

Exo 15:16 terror and dread will fall upon them. By the power of your arm they will be as still as a stone-- until your people pass by, O LORD, until the people you bought pass by.

Exo 15:17 You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance-- the place, O LORD, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, your hands established.

Exo 15:18 The LORD will reign for ever and ever."

Exo 15:19 When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

35. To preserve the USA we must show up when Bible doctrine is taught, support a strong military, train our children in the Word of God and avoid Anti-Semitism.

35.1 In answer to the age old "WWJD"--What Would Jesus Do? We know from Scripture what Jesus will do when He returns as King of kings and Lord of lords. John, in the Apocalypse describes the events.

Rev 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Rev 14:16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

Rev 14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

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.

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Rev 19:12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

Rev 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Rev 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Rev 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Rev 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

Rev 19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Rev 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Rev 19:21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Rev 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Rev 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.