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## *Biblical Principles of War, Pt 3*

### **Selected Passages**

**Keywords:** War, Violence, Government, Peace

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** none

**SermonAudio Blurb:** Though there are many opinions and approaches to war and violence within the Church-at-large, the opinions do not necessarily reflect all the subtle aspects that come with war. The same is true of Christians and internal conflicts that involve police action. The result too often is a conviction that is not based as much on the bible as the passing, ever-changing cultural climate of the time. Nations obviously exist. Police obviously need to exist. Evil cannot be ignored. And war and violence are part of life. So how does a Christian begin to approach dealing with these realities? Having surveyed the broad causes of war and violence and the common positions Christians take, in this related series we consider the many principles in the bible that relate to war, violence and even law enforcement.

#### **I. Introduction.**

- A. We start a new, related series on war and violence and how a Christian ought to view these realities.
- B. So four principles about war and violence for you to consider.
  - 1. #1 War is used by God for His purposes.
  - 2. #2 The Divine purposes in any war are manifold and mysterious.
  - 3. #3 Violence and War are not the way to build a nation.
  - 4. #4 Deadly force is specifically ordained by God.
  - 5. #5 War and violence are never glorified in the bible.
  - 6. # 6 The bible does not reject the role of soldier or police.
  - 7. #7 The New Testament does not speak directly to war.
  - 8. #8 The Christian, in living out his faith, is to take on a meek stance toward the world.

#### **II. Biblical Principles of War.**

- A. #9 The basic posture, opposed to a Christian's posture, for all of humanity is war and violence.
  - 1. The default for all of mankind apart of the heart changing work of the Holy Spirit through the gospel is fighting, resisting and selfishness.

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- a. Keep that in your minds: there is a corporate resistance to peace and righteousness as well as an individual resistance to peace and righteousness.
- b. Romans 8:5-8, five brutal truths about humanity apart of Jesus Christ:
  - c. These realities have real world consequences. The slide for humanity is not upward but downward.
    - (1) Ecclesiastes 9:3.
    - (2) Ecclesiastes 8:11-14.
    - (3) In 1:2 it says, “Vanity of vanities. . . .” The term is key to understanding this strange book and in the Hebrew it is *hevel*.
      - (a) This is a superlative statement.
      - (b) In the bible you see them usually by restating the term in the genitive, so, “Holy of holies,” “The Song of songs,” or “The King of kings and Lord of lords.”
      - (c) *Hevel* means: insubstantial and transitory, deceitful and ineffectual, emptiness (such as false gods; every person in this room understands how things keep coming up empty), absurd, waste of time or fruitless or not beneficial, and finally there is a breakdown in the moral order.
  - d. Behind all of this is the reality that sin is so great that without the restraining hand of God, both externally through the presence of

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governing authorities, and internally through the Holy Spirit, anarchy would reign.

e. 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7.

(1) Context is vss 1-2.

(2) vs 3:

(3) vss 6-7:

(4) vs 7:

(a) Many views over the centuries of this one who restrains.

(b) The best is to see Him as the Holy Spirit. Essentially He holds back this man of lawlessness **until** it is the appointed time

(c) He is the son of destruction speaking of his hatred of God and God's purposes. No matter what this one preaches, destruction is always the fruit.

(d) He will oppose and exalt himself above every god or thing of worship (4a).

(e) He will take a seat in the temple of God, which simply means it must be rebuilt (4b).

(f) He will exalt himself as God (4c).

(g) His destiny is to accomplish the final purposes of God's plan and then Christ shall destroy him (8).

(5) Mankind will act out of the sin that dwells in every person but not to the fullest. The fear of punishment or the guilt of conscience will limit us. But as we see with decriminalization of activities, this never reduces evil, it expands. And each explosion of violence, war and such is a small glimpse of what is to come when the Antichrist is free to unleash all that already exists but, which he is kept from accomplishing at this time.

B. #10 If you are a defeated nation then you should seek to be a faithful citizen in the new nation.

1. Jeremiah 29:4-12.

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2.     Examples of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.
  - a.     These men were not ungodly. They were faithful and believers in YHWH. Their nation was not, but as individuals we see no indication of being under God's judgment.
  - b.     Yet, war and oppression became their life. They were swept up in the whole chaotic mess caused by the nation of Israel's unbelief
  - c.     Daniel is an example in trusting God and living out that trust even in difficult situations:
    - d.     Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are better known as Shadrach, Meshack and Abed-nego.
    - e.     The point is simple. The norm for a Christian is to be a peaceful, law-abiding and faithful citizen. You are not seeking to do harm but to do good in the nation and to the people of the nation.
- C.     #11 War and oppression is a means for God to judge people and nations
  1.     The bible is replete with examples of God using wicked rulers to discipline, judge and punish people and nations.
  2.     Judges 3:1-2
  3.     Judges 6:1.
  4.     Isaiah 10:5.
  5.     Isaiah 13:5.
  6.     However, we need to be careful in assuming we understand why some nation rises up to prominence or why a war breaks out. Though God used these nations to punish and test Israel, many other nations were also attacked and destroyed and yet not for the same reasons. Without the

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knowledge of special revelation we can guess but never know for certainty.

- D. #12 The believer must always put his trust in God and not military might.
  - 1. Psalm 20:6-9.
  - 2. Isaiah 31:1-9.
  - 3. This is not a statement of passivity where you wait for God to somehow do something. That is like the man on the roof of his house in a great flood. Prays for God to save him and a rescue boat comes and he rejects it. Then a helicopter seeks to pull him to safety and he rejects it. Then he complains that God has not yet saved him.
  - 4. “The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But victory belongs to the YHWH” (Proverbs 21:31). You prepare but never do you trust in those things.
  - 5. Psalm 33:16-22 is our answer.

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A. War is our constant companion in this age.
  - 1. While one area of this globe rests in peace, another is raging with intrigue and another is actively fighting.
  - 2. Give it a little time and those people will be in some level of peace and it will be us who are involved in war and violence.
- B. War and violence are constant reminders of what I started out with teaching today. The futility of this age.
  - 1. Sadly in America things are so comfortable and there are so many options and possibilities open to us that we keep buying the lie that we can finally have peace and fulfillment here and now.
  - 2. But it only takes a little bit of scratching and digging for you to break through to what is real. Spend some time in a police car or an ambulance. Walk the halls of a hospital for a few days talking to nurses and visitors. Visit a morgue and see and learn.
  - 3. Ever since Adam sinned and brought sin and death into this realm we have been at war with our Creator and Sustainer. All other battles are merely overflow from that great war in our souls.
- C. And it is here that Jesus Christ comes into focus. He is our Warrior. He shall triumph over all enemies and for all eternity.

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1. He is the One who brings reconciliation for the sinner with God.
2. He is the One who brings peace to those who have no peace.
3. He is the One who draws us near to God through His death and resurrection.
4. He is the One who humbles the proud heart.
5. He is the One who delivers a person out from under sin and death.
6. And He is the One who, at the end of the final war, that great war, shall take sin, Satan and death and cast them away forever.
7. So do not gaze upon the might of any nation with envy. Be, instead, a wise man or woman and trust in Christ alone, through faith alone to be your refuge and very present help in time of trouble.

## **Benediction**

**Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing the good news of Jesus Christ, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**