

A WORD ON WAR 1 SAM. 4:1-2, 10-11, 7:10-11

In Scripture we come across war – real war. Usually we spiritualize it to draw lessons / truths for life from it. This certainly has value.

However, this doesn't change the war into being non-war!

I. War is evil.

1 Samuel 4:1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Philistines to battle, and pitched beside Ebenezer: and the Philistines pitched in Aphek. **1 Samuel 4:2** And the Philistines put themselves in array **against** Israel: and when they joined battle, **Israel was smitten before the Philistines:** and they **slew of the army in the field** about four thousand men.

1 Samuel 4:10 And the Philistines **fought**, and Israel was **smitten**, and they **fled** every man into his tent: and there was a **very great slaughter**; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen. **1 Samuel 4:11** And the ark of God was **taken**; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, **were slain**.

War is evil in **many** ways:

- You might just lose.
- Men must kill other men!

1 Peter 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill. [ESV: **Exodus 20:13** "You shall not murder.]

Genesis 9:5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. **Genesis 9:6** Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

- Wars are often **entirely unjust**
- Often both the means and the end are unjust
- War harms the warriors
- War inevitably harms the non-warriors

1 Samuel 4:11 And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

1 Samuel 4:12 And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head. **1 Samuel 4:13** And when he came, lo, Eli sat upon a seat by the wayside watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out. **1 Samuel 4:14** And when Eli heard the noise of the crying, he said, What meaneth the noise of this tumult? And the man came in hastily, and told Eli. **1 Samuel 4:15** Now Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see. **1 Samuel 4:16** And the man said unto Eli, I am he that came out of the army, and I fled to day out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son? **1 Samuel 4:17** And the messenger answered and said, Israel is fled before the Philistines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people, and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken. **1 Samuel 4:18** And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy.

And he had judged Israel forty years.

1 Samuel 4:19 And his daughter in law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, near to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father in law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her. **1 Samuel 4:20** And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast born a son. But she answered not, neither did she regard it.

II. War is a necessary evil.

Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

Matthew 24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. **Matthew 24:7** For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

Matthew 24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Thoughts:

- We are fallen people
- Fallen people do evil things
- **Self-defense** becomes a necessary evil
- **Pacifism only works when others will defend you &/ are not pacifists**
- **A pacifist nation is either a conquered nation / a nation defended by a non-pacifist nation**

Romans 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. **Romans 12:18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. **Romans 12:20** Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. **Romans 12:21** Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 5:38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

Matthew 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. **Matthew 5:40** And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. **Matthew 5:41** And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

Matthew 5:42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

III. A necessary war **doesn't** remove all the evil.

We support democracy where we can and other forms of government where we must.