

War as Justice

Mighty warrior, strap your sword at your side. In your majesty and splendor - in your splendor ride triumphantly in the cause of truth, humility, and justice. May your right hand show your awe-inspiring deeds. Your arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies; the peoples fall under you. Your throne, God, is forever and ever; the scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of justice. – Psalm 45:3-6 HCSB

It always interests me to watch the theological contortions well-meaning Christians go through in order to make the Scriptures fit their pacifistic views. Besides the simple facts of Yahweh describing Himself as a Warrior,¹ as the Lord of Hosts², and as being strong and mighty in battle,³ He repeatedly commands us to be strong and to take courage.⁴

The Bible commands us to be trustworthy,⁵ God-fearing,⁶ capable⁷ “point men” who will risk going into enemy territory in order to safeguard our families.⁸

Over and over again, He has commanded His people to bravely⁹ fight¹⁰ for what is right.¹¹ We should be models fit to be emulated¹² by our children who are largely disgusted with the last generation’s waffling on issues of social and ecological justice.

Modern society has loudly broadcast its philosophy of weakness, tolerance, perversity and cowardice. It wants Christians to be confused about their identity and God’s role in their lives. Somehow, mealy-mouthed confusion has become a hallmark of modern intellectualism just as it had in Jesus’ day.¹³

A doll was found at “ground zero” in Manhattan that once belonged to a little child who was killed on bloody 9/11. Who among us would not try to save that child? What man would not seek to bring the perpetrators of that horrible act to justice?¹⁴

What man would not want to protect women and children? What if the last generation had not stood up and fought Adolph Hitler? Where would we be? What if over two hundred years ago our forefathers had not gone to war? Where would America be?

Abraham waged war in order to recover his captured nephew’s family. He did not simply accept the injustice. He did not burn his draft card. He did not just allow Lot to sleep in the bed he’d made. He did not simply forgive the enemy and love him while hoping that he would change. Unjust, barbaric acts brought about a righteous indignation that caused him to follow God’s will – which is always justice.¹⁵

Amalek fought against the Israelites and Israel defended itself.¹⁶ They did the same thing with the Midianites.¹⁷ The only way we can discount the hundreds of examples of tzaddiks going to war is to discount two-thirds of the Bible. Each of us must decide whether we will conform to God’s image or futilely attempt to conform Him to ours – and we know where that leads!¹⁸

¹ Exodus 15:3

² Psalm 89:8; Isaiah 3:1; 10:16; Jeremiah 35:17

³ Psalm 24:8; 89:8

⁴ Deuteronomy 31:6-7, 23; Joshua 1:6, 9, 18; 10:25; 1 Chronicles 22:13; 28:20; 2 Chronicles 32:7

⁵ Exodus 18:21

⁶ Exodus 18:21

⁷ Exodus 18:25; 1 Chronicles 26:6

⁸ Numbers 13:2; 14:38

⁹ 1 Samuel 10:26

¹⁰ Joshua 1:14; 6:2-3, 13

¹¹ Job 17:8; Psalm 11:7

¹² Philippians 2:29

¹³ Matthew 7:28-29; Mark 1:27

¹⁴ Proverbs 24:10-12

¹⁵ Genesis 14

¹⁶ Exodus 17:9-10

¹⁷ Numbers 25

¹⁸ Romans 1:18-22