

TAKE POSSESSION OF THE LAND!
A study in Deuteronomy
 AMEN Bible Study 2010-2011

MEN, REMEMBER YOUR CALLING: COVENANT STIPULATIONS
VENGEANCE AND WARFARE: GET IT RIGHT

Deuteronomy 19:1-20:20

March 10, 2011

God's people must protect human life, even in response to murder and warfare, because human beings bear the image of God.

19:1-21 I. Protect life in the administration of civil justice.

- :1-3** A. Provide asylum against personal revenge.
"...you shall set apart three cities..."
 cf. Numbers 35:6-34; Exodus 21:12-14; Deuteronomy 4:41-43
- :4-10** B. Defend the life of manslayers who had no malice aforethought.
"If anyone kills your neighbor unintentionally without having hated him in the past... he may flee to one of these cities and live..."
- :11-13** C. Execute murderers.
"But if anyone hates his neighbor and lies in wait for him and attacks him and strikes him fatally so that he dies, and he flees into one of these cities, then the elders of his city shall...hand him over to the avenger of blood, so that he may die." "You shall purge the guilt of innocent blood from Israel so that it may be well with you."
 cf. Hosea 6:8-9
- :14** D. Protect the people's livelihood.
"You shall not move your neighbor's landmark..."
 cf. Job 24:2-4; Proverbs 23:10f; Hosea 5:10
- :15-21** E. Provide for the integrity of witnesses.
- :15** 1. Plurality of witnesses
"A single witness shall not suffice..."
 cf. Matthew 18:16; I Timothy 5:19
- :16-21** 2. Punishment of malicious witnesses
"...if the witness is a false witness...then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst."
 cf. Exodus 23:1-3; 21:23-25; Leviticus 24:17-20; Matthew 5:38-42

20:1-20 II. Protect life in the prosecution of warfare.

- :1-9** A. Fight God's battles unafraid.
- :1a** 1. Be sure it is God's battle.
"When you go out to war against your enemies..."

The Just War

I. Jus Ad Bellum (*right cause*)

- Under proper authority (Rom 13:1, 2)
- Just cause (Rom 13: 3,4)
- Due warrant
- Good intentions
- Last resort
- Proportionality
- Probability of success

Alternative Theories
 Militarism – Terrorism (revolution) – Realism – Self Defense – Just War – Non violent resistance - Pacifism

- :1b-4** 2. Do not be afraid.
"...and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt."
 cf. Exodus 15:1
- :5-8** 3. Excuse any who have special burdens.
"Is there any man who has build a new house...planted a vineyard...betrothed a wife...who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go back to his house..."
 cf. Judges 7:2, 3
- :9** 4. Appoint leaders.
"...then commanders shall be appointed at the head of the people."
- 20:10-20** B. Fight God's battles justly.
- :10, 11** 1. Negotiate for peace.
"...offer terms of peace. And if it responds to you peaceably and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labor for you and shall serve you."
- :12-15** 2. Protect non-combatants.
"...you shall put all its males to the sword, but the women and the little ones, the livestock, and everything else in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as plunder..."
 cf. Amos 1:3, 6, 9, 13
- :16-18** 3. Execute God's justice.
"But in the cities of these people that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, but you shall devote them to complete destruction...that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices..."
- :19-20** 4. Protect the environment.
"...you shall not destroy its trees..."

<p><u>The Just War</u></p> <p>II. Jus In Bello (<i>right conduct</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on peace • Discrimination • Restraint and mercy <p>III. Jus Post Bellum (<i>right conclusion</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just termination • Public terms of peace • Justice applied to war criminals • Reconstruction and reparations
