

YOU AGAINST YOUR ENEMIES >>>

DEUTERONOMY 20:1 – 21:21

~ Our next several reports from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God will deal with practical life issues. We're going to examine many of the problems we face today; and they are issues we have wrestled with for centuries. We have had very difficult lessons so far in this book of the Bible, and it doesn't get a whole lot easier. We're going to look at war and who should fight and who should not fight; and when and under what circumstances. We'll also see laws concerning murder, marriage, divorce, juvenile delinquency, relationships amongst brothers, the dress code, the building code, the planting of seed, the world and the flesh, false religion and Satan. This is a very pertinent section of Scripture, and it is critical to understand if you call yourself a child of God.

Most people tend to regard Deuteronomy as a far outdated book. Well, I disagree; and I firmly believe when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this earth, He will be quoting exclusively from this book of the Bible. If these lessons don't touch your life where you are living today, then there is something radically wrong with your relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ; and that something is, there is no relationship. These laws were given to the nation Israel, yes; but there are certain spiritual principles that, if we incorporate into our everyday Christian living, it will bring happiness and well-being. It is a Christian privilege to be shown these available precepts. The lost man cannot attain unto this high level of living. It is very, very important to discern these truths on a spiritual level.

The men who authored the Constitution of the United States of America were Bible oriented individuals. You may disagree with that, and you have a right to be wrong. I do not say our founding fathers were all born-again believers, but they had a healthy respect for the Word of God as inspired Holy Writ. The entire problem in our society today is a complete and total ignorance – and rejection of – the Bible. The lawmakers in this country are, obviously, just plain stupid; and the crowds that proclaim "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus" are woefully and intentionally oblivious to the laws and precepts of the True and Living God. The blinders in politics and the lawlessness on our

streets are enough to make us all weep and howl; but we still refuse to do anything about it. In short, man is very, very far from God. They do not know Him - at all, while simultaneously and erroneously believing they are saved....

XX

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.

~ This was an all-important promise to the children of Israel. I have my doubts whether anyone considers the spiritual blessing associated with this promise for us today. Frankly, I doubt many people ever even read this passage; and of those who do, they usually pass over this first verse without a second thought. The liberal "Jesus" of the United States just lost a war to Allah in Afghanistan, friends. I think we should be making notes as to what promises the Lord is keeping and which ones He isn't keeping in this country. We went through a "make love – not war" era not long ago, which was a super sounding cliché for an anti-war motto. Unfortunately, it was – and is – absolutely meaningless, as meaningless as the proclamation of a false God by the churches of this world today.

There just happens to be a time to make war. That time is when God says so. We live in a sinful world where the heart of man is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things. Sometimes, we must protect our rights and freedoms – not to mention our beliefs. In any war, I truly believe God is on one side or the other – not both. Both sides of an opposing war cannot be trusting Christ because, if they were, it could not remain a war in progress. If neither side is trusting the Lord, then both sides lose; irrespective of a physical and tangible victor. That would be Satan's divided house rebelling against each other. It's never pretty - and it never ends. Think of the Middle East in connection with millennium's of perpetual warfare. Napoleon said, "... God is on the side with the largest battalions." Napoleon discovered his error in defeat. So, we can relegate that statement to the ramblings of a drunken fool. Our basis for engaging in war should be if God is in it – so are

we; but if God is NOT in that war – we ought not be fighting, either. Tragically, our contemporary politicians are incapable of discerning the difference. That type of right and correct thinking just happens to have been abandoned and forgotten today by this so-called Christian nation; the one whose "Jesus" just lost in Afghanistan. Make a note....

2 And it shall be, when ye are come nigh unto the battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people,

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;

4 For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

~ If we declare or join a war, we had better be absolutely certain God is on our side - first. Beginning in verse five, God puts down four reasons for a man NOT to fight in a war. These four reasons outline a man whose heart would not be altogether for fighting. A man who is not completely convicted to fight for a cause will be nothing but a liability to that nation's army. When a man has his heart and affections set on something besides the war at hand, that man will be useless to the overall campaign. The children of Israel were an agrarian people; mainly farmers at the time we are studying. Planting a vineyard would mean a man has just opened a new business. Well, that man was to stay behind and contribute to the nation in the way God had directed; and God directed all of the proceedings of the nation Israel. Naturally, a man in love who was smitten in heart would also be problematic in the heat of battle. Lastly, some men might simply admit they are cowards and too afraid to fight. God says those men should not fight.

This law was applied in the account of Gideon.. He started out with quite a few men but whittled his army down from several thousand to about three hundred. If you are familiar with Gideon you will know that the men who went down on all fours to drink were half-hearted; but those who lapped it

up with their hands while asking the way to the battle were the ones chosen by God to fight for Israel. If a man does not have the attitude of desiring to protect and serve their nation, they have no business in the army. It is in the best interest of that country to exclude those men from participating.

In the American nineteen seventies, those men who burned their Viet Nam war draft cards did so under the auspices of a prideful self righteousness. I am sure this country's treatment of the draft dodger would have been totally different if they had just come out and admitted they were cowards. I can remember being deathly afraid of being drafted and forced to fight in Viet Nam when I was about seven years old. I don't think my knees would have supported my shaking frame if I had been carried to Hanoi and given a hand grenade and a machine gun. I like to think I am a mighty valiant man – but – truth be told – not so much.

So, two things God wants us to know before we go to war: one, that we are on the right side – His side. If we are not fighting for that which is right and just, then God will NOT be with us. Secondly, our forces have to be enthusiastic. Today, we have members of the armed services that protest going to war. What type of craziness is that which we have come to? Well, it's the type of lunacy that ALWAYS comes along with rejecting God and His laws and precepts; see how that works? War is never a good thing when it is not directed on this Godly basis and war is ALWAYS a good idea when God says to us, "go fight now!"

Today, we have degenerated to a motley mob that does NOT fight for our country holding a Godly set of values; and, in fact, we are fighting for a lost cause of special interest groups who can afford to make war on their terms – using other people's sons and daughters as the pawns. Yes, friends, this nation called the United States of America is FINISHED as a people; and we're finished because we have shut God out of every facet and every aspect of our lives while claiming that we love some undocumented "Jesus" character. Our flag and so-called patriotism are just ancient relics relegated to the museum and history books. As it turns out: God is very wise and always correct – even in time of war....

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

6 And what man is he that hath planted a vineyard, and hath not yet eaten of it? let him also go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man eat of it.

7 And what man is there that hath betrothed a wife, and hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her.

8 And the officers shall speak further unto the people, and they shall say, What man is there that is fearful and fainthearted? let him go and return unto his house, lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart.

9 And it shall be, when the officers have made an end of speaking unto the people, that they shall make captains of the armies to lead the people.

10 When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it.

11 And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, that all the people that is found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee.

12 And if it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it:

~ General Douglas MacArthur was the last general the United States to have believed in NOT fighting a war we didn't intend to win, conquer and dominate the land thereon. Today, we fight as a mediator, or the world's police, and that just doesn't happen to be the purpose of war. That is the entire curse upon our army in this country right NOW. Gods principle says,

“conquer and destroy if you fight a war.” I, personally, think the U.S. flag should fly in EVERY country we have fought in and won.

The compromise and the phony piety we exhibit as a people are downright shameful. It has permeated the church and the government, and we are just a great big treacherous sister-wife in Satan's harem to the world as a result. I love this country, and my father fought MANY years for it in Viet Nam. I love, and I value our way of life - BUT- I hate to see what we have become. We have drifted so far away from, departed, doubted and despised these God given truths so deeply that I just don't see us making our way back. Professing themselves to be wise - God gave them up - epistle to the Romans chapter one. I hope I am wrong, but I seriously doubt I am....

13 And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword:

14 But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, even all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.

15 Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are very far off from thee, which are not of the cities of these nations.

16 But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:

17 But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:

18 That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God.

19 When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an axe against

them: for thou mayest eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the field is man's life) to employ them in the siege:

20 Only the trees which thou knowest that they be not trees for meat, thou shalt destroy and cut them down; and thou shalt build bulwarks against the city that maketh war with thee, until it be subdued.

XXI

1 If one be found slain in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it, lying in the field, and it be not known who hath slain him:

2 Then thy elders and thy judges shall come forth , and they shall measure unto the cities which are round about him that is slain:

3 And it shall be, that the city which is next unto the slain man, even the elders of that city shall take an heifer, which hath not been wrought with, and which hath not drawn in the yoke;

4 And the elders of that city shall bring down the heifer unto a rough valley, which is neither eared nor sown, and shall strike off the heifer's neck there in the valley:

5 And the priests the sons of Levi shall come near; for them the LORD thy God hath chosen to minister unto him, and to bless in the name of the LORD; and by their word shall every controversy and every stroke be tried:

6 And all the elders of that city, that are next unto the slain man, shall wash their hands over the heifer that is beheaded in the valley:

7 And they shall answer and say, Our hands have not shed this blood, neither have our eyes seen it.

8 Be merciful, O LORD, unto thy people Israel, whom thou hast redeemed, and lay not innocent blood unto thy people of Israel's charge. And the blood shall be forgiven them.

9 So shalt thou put away the guilt of innocent blood from among you, when thou shalt do that which is right in the sight of the LORD.

~ That wonderful law and ritual was a God given arrangement; and it was to be an offering for the city the dead man was found closest to. A great basic truth is revealed for us. Someone has obviously been killed and their body discovered. The closest city was held responsible even though that city may have NOT been responsible. Well, you and I bear a responsibility to the city, town or land we live in or on. When a crime takes place, we ALL bear a certain amount of responsibility. On that basis, my statement concerning citizens will ultimately reach a point where we must DEMAND our laws be enforced. Until we do that, the community at large will be held responsible – by God. Maybe you don't like that principle? – well, okay – I suggest you start a demonstration against God and initiate a rally to remove Him from office. Attempts to "de-fund the police" can only possibly lead to the judgment God has already declared.

The lawgiver in the day in which we are studying in the city we are considering says he is not responsible. Well, God says he IS responsible. If that man comes to God and asks forgiveness, then it shall be forgiven him. We don't see a hint, or even a suggestion today, that the United States of America is asking for the forgiveness of God. The religious man isn't repenting; they're demanding the lost do all the repenting. Many crimes and evil happenings are taking place, and they are escalating as quickly as they possibly can. It's one thing to protest and scream incessantly, ".... this is terrible" – but it is another thing entirely to go to God and ask forgiveness as a nation. We need to ask for forgiveness of our sins right NOW. Let's also keep this in total perspective: Christ was murdered; but only His death and resurrection could save His killers from their impending judgment. Think about the centurion at the cross of Christ as the classic example of this account....

10 When thou goest forth to war against thine enemies, and the LORD thy God hath delivered them into thine hands, and thou hast taken them captive,

11 And seest among the captives a beautiful woman, and hast a desire unto her, that thou wouldest have her to thy wife;

12 Then thou shalt bring her home to thine house; and she shall shave her head, and pare her nails;

13 And she shall put the raiment of her captivity from off her, and shall remain in thine house, and bewail her father and her mother a full month: and after that thou shalt go in unto her, and be her husband, and she shall be thy wife.

14 And it shall be, if thou have no delight in her, then thou shalt let her go whither she will; but thou shalt not sell her at all for money, thou shalt not make merchandise of her, because thou hast humbled her.

15 If a man have two wives, one beloved, and another hated, and they have born him children, both the beloved and the hated; and if the firstborn son be hers that was hated:

16 Then it shall be, when he maketh his sons to inherit that which he hath, that he may not make the son of the beloved firstborn before the son of the hated, which is indeed the firstborn:

17 But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.

18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:

19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;

20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.

21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

~ Here we have the law concerning the prodigal son. What do you think should have happened to a prodigal son when he returned home? When Jesus gave the parable of this in the Gospel of Luke, those people who were listening were shocked and stunned with the new ending Christ applied. It was different from what they had been taught. That prodigal son should have been stoned to death. Meeting the son with a robe and a kiss instead of a hickory branch – or a rock – just happened to be abominable to these people; they all winced when Jesus told them that story.

Aren't you glad we're not under the Mosaic Law today? When we turned to God – if He had given us justice at that moment – this account is what we would have received. But we were shown mercy instead. How wonderful God really is to accept us and receive us? Our Spiritual Safari continues right here in the next leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God considering some of the other topics I mentioned at the beginning of this report, but which we didn't cover this time; and we have a whole lot of pertinent and great basic truths to pick up and to learn in subsequent several reports. We have a LONG way to go to complete this Book of Deuteronomy properly and correctly ~

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