

ABATT Holy War

Christian Life Assembly
Jim Hoffman

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Holy War

444 GENTLE JESUS. 7. 7. 7. 7.

CHARLES WESLEY, 1707-1788 MARTIN SHAW, 1876-

1. Gen - tle Je - sus, meek and mild. Look up - on a lit - tle child;
 2. Lamb of God, I look to Thee; Thou shalt my ex - am - ple be;
 3. Fain I would be as Thou art; Give me Thine o - be - dient heart;
 4. Lov - ing Je - sus, gen - tle Lamb, In Thy gra - cious hands I am;

Pit - y my sim - ple - i - ty. Suf - fer me to come to Thee.
 Thou art gen - tle, meek and mild; Thou wast once a lit - tle child.
 Thou art pit - i - ful and kind; Let me have Thy lov - ing mind.
 Make me, Sav - iour, what Thou art, Live Thy - self with - in my heart. A - MEN.

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Holy War

- There have been times in history when God initiated what we would call a “Holy War” against sinners.
- He never does so with any other character than what He possesses.
- He is always just, loving, kind, and merciful even while waging war on a people.

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• Deut 7:1-2 "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, 2 and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. NKJV

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• Josh 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. 21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword. NKJV

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• Ezek 33:11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.' NKJV

• So how do we reconcile the command of God for his people, who are called to be holy, for them to go to war and show no mercy, with everything else we know of Him?

• In particular, what Ezekiel wrote above and God's command to destroy a city without mercy?

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- It is easy for us to pass over the slaughters of the O.T. and simply look for an application to our lives today.
- The application might be something like - the O.T. battles show that God can cause his people to triumph against all odds.
- Do you think that a citizen of Jericho would have drawn any comfort whatsoever from the fact that their slaughter would help Christians thousands of year later to understand some scriptural principle?

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- **What must have been on the minds of the Israelite army as they slaughtered the innocent children of Jericho?**
- Answer = a greater fear of God than of killing the innocent.

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- Many of the world's religions have gods who not only look like warriors but are even said to be about conquest and war.
- God is not like that. The best pictures we have of him are found in Jesus who was the epitome of non-violence.
- For God to ask his people to resort to violence something must have been terribly wrong in the world.

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- Gen 15:15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." NKJV
- Israel will one day take the promised land from it's current inhabitants, but not just yet because the Amorites, though wicked people, had not yet passed the point of no return.
- God's position is that of extending time and mercy offering additional time to repent.

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- The fact that the "sin of the Amorites was not complete" or full is evidence of God's patience and that He keeps very accurate records.
- The descendants of Cain, called the Canaanites and sometimes the Amorites, had been warned of the consequences for their sin yet they ignored God.
- For God to know when their sin had reached its point of no return, or full measure, it stands to reason that God was keeping track.

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Question?

Why would God wait until the societal 'point of no return' before sending judgment when he already knew there would be no repentance as a society?

Answer = because there is evidence that some citizens of the society did repent. (Rahab)

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- So when we see societies and governments behaving in violent and brutal ways be assured that God is watching and waiting for the right time.
- He waits and watches with mercy in his heart and with the best of intentions for the worst of people.
- His Spirit strives with the evil perpetrators of the worst kinds of violence faithfully working to convince them of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come. (John 16)

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- The Amorites were descendants of Cane and the Canaanite societies were extremely wicked.
- In Leviticus 18 we see exactly what the Canaanites were about.
 - Sex with anyone was accepted practice.
 - Homosexuality was common.
 - Bestiality was rampant.
 - Infants were burned alive to Molech.

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- It is believed that idols of Moloch were giant metal statues of a man with a bull's head. Each image had a hole in the abdomen and possibly outstretched forearms that made a kind of ramp to the hole. A fire was lit in or around the statue. Babies were placed in the statue's arms or in the hole. When a couple sacrificed their firstborn, they believed that Moloch would ensure financial prosperity for the family and future children.



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- People who grow up in such perversion are doomed to repeat the same sins.
- Imagine a child who was born into such a society. They would, in all likelihood, grow up thinking that all of the perversions they see are normal behavior.
- Fast forward to 21st century America and tell me why our kids are not at risk for repeating the mistakes of our generation.

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- Someone had to stop the cycle or the result would be untold millions following the same ungodly path.
- So when God ordered the Israelites to wipe out entire cities and cultures he was in fact exhibiting one of his prominent attributes; mercy.
- If you develop gangrene in your toe, your doctor will recommend something very radical; cut it off because he is interested in saving the rest of you.

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- When God had Israel 'cut off' whole societies his interest was in saving the race.
- What chance would the current and future children of those societies have?
- In addition, since I believe in degrees of punishment, the longer the wicked live the more judgment they stack up for themselves.

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Luke 12:47 And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes . 48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes , shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. NKJV

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- Nazi Germany is a more current example of God's judgment coming to rest on a nation.
- The rise of the Nazis in the 1930's certainly seems like a case where sin had reached it's full measure.
- Like in bible times, it also appears that God raised up a nation to judge them for their sin.

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- As much as the genocides of Israel were about the purging of sin they were also about the very survival of the worship of the one true God.
- Israel had a history of being drawn away from the true God through the enticements of surrounding cultures.
- God was at work then doing what He continues to do today – He is preserving a remnant of believing people to ultimately save the maximum number of souls.

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Holy War

Is the past prologue?

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Holy War

- There is a coming “Holy War” that will be directly initiated by God on all the ungodly inhabitants of earth.
- The day of reckoning for the world is coming soon where God is going to unleash His wrath against sin and all its practitioners.
- This will be a “Holy War” like the ones of the old testament, but worldwide in scope and much greater in scale.

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- Millions, if not billions, of innocent children will be snuffed out in the judgments we see in Revelation.
- At that point in history God’s motive will not be saving future generations or about preserving monotheism – it will be undiluted judgment.
- So how do we “square” the slaughter from the seals, trumpets, and bowls with the grace and mercy of God?

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- We may cite “the age of accountability” argument, but we have sort of reasoned our way to that one out of exasperation for something soothing to say.
- 2nd Samuel 12:23 But why should I fast when he is dead? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him one day, but he cannot return to me.”
- We may just have to trust God with the answer.
- “We do know that no person can be saved except through Christ. We do not know that only those who know Him can be saved by Him.” C.S. Lewis

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Questions

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