**Holy War**

Doctrine and Application

(Slide 1) Holy War

* Leviticus 27:29
* Numbers 21:2; Deuteronomy 7:2
* Examples: Numbers 31 (Midian), Joshua 6 (Jericho), Joshua 8 (Ai), Joshua 10

(Slide 2) Holy War Characteristics

* It is conducted based on revealed Oracle (Command) from God.
* It is national rather than personal.
* It is limited rather than prevalent.
* A few important pre-suppositions
* Scripture as the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rile of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.
* The whole of Scripture consist of all the books of the Old and New Testament (69 books)
* The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself

(Slide 3) A few important pre-suppositions

* Scripture as the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rile of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.
* All-encompassing and total depravity of man
* John 3:16; Romans 5:12-19

(Slide 3A) A few important pre-suppositions

* Scripture as the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rile of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.
* All-encompassing and total depravity of man
* Absolute Holiness and Moral purity of God
* Habakkuk 1:13; 1 John 1:5

(Slide 3B) A few important pre-suppositions

* Scripture as the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rile of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.
* All-encompassing and total depravity of man
* Absolute Holiness and Moral purity of God
* God’s sovereign right over His creation
* Romans 9:17; Isaiah 29:16

(Slide 4) Problems arising from text on Holy War

* What is the purpose of such Holy War in the Old Testament?
* How do we reconcile the God in the Old Testament (Warrior) with the God revealed through Jesus in the New Testament (the suffering Savior)?
* How shall we understand and apply these text in our current time and age?

(Slide 5) How shall we look at Holy War in OT

* Judgment on the Canaanites
* Conduct of war in historical, cultural perspective
* Progressive revelation
* How shall we look at Holy War in OT

(Slide 6) Judgment on the Canaanites

* God’s physical judgment will come, at His timing (Gen 15:16)
* A list of the pervasive sins of the Canaanites (Lev 18:6-23)
* God is the master landlord, He evicts those whose has grossly outstayed their welcome (Lev 18:24-30)
* Note the warning given to Israel, God is fair (Deut 9:4-5)
* Survival of the Canaanite is detrimental to the long-term wellbeing of Israel (Num 33:55)

(Slide 6A) How shall we look at Holy War in OT?

* Judgment on the Canaanites
* Conduct of war in historical, cultural perspective
* God deals with man in accordance with the prevalent, accepted cultural context; this is a tribute to God’s mercy!
(a good article: *www.christianthinktank.com/qnoslave.html*)
* Example: the issue of slavery
beginning – Exodus 1:13-14
Provisions – Leviticus 25:35-43
Christian attitude (slave) – Ephesians 6:5-9
Christian attitude (master) – Philemon
Real perspective – Galatian 3:28

(Slide 6B) How shall we look at Holy War in OT

* Judgment on the Canaanites
* Conduct of war in historical, cultural perspective
* Progressive revelation
* Hebrews 1:1-2
* OT is historical making allusions to Christ; NT is propositional making assertions about Christ. Example: Isaiah 43:3
* OT is physical, illustrative while NT adds spiritual dimensions to God’s revelation
* Why? Because of the necessity to accommodate human weakness and limitations

(Slide 7) Is God different in OT and NT?

* God fights the flesh and blood enemies of Israel
* God fights Israel (Deut 28:7, 25; Dan 1:1-3; Lam 2:5)
* God will come in the future as warrior to free His people (Hos 11:8-9; Dan 7)
* Jesus Christ fights the spiritual powers and authorities (Col 2:13-15; Eph 4:8/Ps 68)
* The final battle (Mark 13:26; Rev 1:7, 19:11-21)

(Slide 8) Application for today

* We are still in a Holy War (Eph 6:12) but our enemies are now more clearly defined.
* God is the warrior-captain, but are we on His side (Joshua 5:13ff)?
* Our principle enemy is Satan; the battle ground are in truth (doctrine/gospel) and our conduct (life)
* In every such battle, we aim to completely eradicate our enemies, “*show them no mercy*” do apply!