

Aggressive & Defensive Warfare

Do You Know The Difference?

by Pastor John Hamel

"Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel ... every male by their polls; From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies." (Num.1:2-3)

Almighty God knows how to subdue crime and prevent aggressive nations from controlling the world. This is why He gives us government officials to execute judgment upon aggressive individuals and nations. It's for our protection. Satan is temporarily the "god of this world" (small "g") so there will be violent aggressors in this Earth until Jesus returns. (Matthew 24:4-21; 2Corinthians 4:4) There's no getting around the fact that we are going to have to go toe-to-toe with some of these aggressors from time to time. That's their decision, not ours.

Although America will not engage in Aggressive Warfare, she will not hesitate to respond to any and all aggressors through Defensive Warfare.

In the Bible the Nation of Israel was surrounded by aggressive nations that didn't hesitate to rape, kill, plunder and keep them from entering the Promised Land. God commanded Israel to enter into Defensive Warfare with all aggressors and to show no mercy. This was to encourage all other aggressors to back off and allow Israel to live in peace. (Job 5:20) Defensive Warfare is not "sinful," as some Believers insist, because God backed Israel in it and God doesn't sin. (Exodus 21:12-17; Numbers 25:17; Deuteronomy 7:2) Aggressive Warfare is crime on a national level. Bringing aggressive nations to justice is no more wrong or cruel than bringing any individual murderous criminal to justice.

It's not wrong when a heinous, bloody murderer is dealt with swiftly and justly. It's not wrong when a heinous, bloody murdering nation is dealt with swiftly and justly. Awhile back I was taking a lunch break from writing this study you are reading today for my book, "The Person Of Almighty God: 65 Study Outlines." I was walking away from the microwave when I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit as clearly as I've ever heard Him at any other time in nearly 25 years of listening to Him. He said, "When Jesus said to '*turn the other cheek*' He was talking about personal offense, not national defense." (Matthew 5:39) I stopped in my tracks. It was as if He were standing right there in that room speaking to me. I hope you heard it today as clearly as I did then. We are not to "*turn the other cheek*" when Satanically motivated aggressor nations come to kill, steal and destroy us. (John 10:10)

The problem with most God-fearing individuals who "oppose warfare for any reason" is ignorance, meaning "a lack of knowledge," not stupidity. They simply have been blinded to the fact that there are two kinds of warfare in the Bible. One is "Aggressive Warfare." God condemns this kind of warfare. He doesn't tolerate violent aggression of any kind. (Psalm 68:30) The other is "Defensive Warfare." This is the kind of warfare that God honors. He promises to help us defend ourselves against all aggressive individuals and all aggressive nations. (Psalm 91) When every attempt to negotiate with aggressors has failed, it's time to resort to Defensive Warfare. (Deuteronomy 20:12)

"But the Bible says, '*Thou shalt not kill.*'" (Exodus 20:12-16) No, the literal Hebrew says, "*You shall not take a life in an unjustifiable manner.*" No need to be a Hebrew scholar to borrow your local library's Hebrew lexicon and read it for yourself. Or you can go to Bible.com and research it. Taking lives for anger, jealousy, malice, etc., is "unjustifiable." Unfortunately for all aggressive nations, God considers the taking of their lives through Defensive Warfare to be "justifiable." This is what Solomon referred to as "*A time to kill... a time of war...*" (Ecclesiastes 3:3,8)

Anyone who says, "All warfare is uncompassionate." is

simply living in Fantasy Land! It is God's compassion for law-abiding citizens that won't allow aggressive nations or individuals to run rampant in defiance of His Moral Laws. (Numbers 10:9; Romans 13:1-8) The God of Compassion loves His obedient ones too much to allow this to happen. (Psalm 145:8,9) When God defended Israel it wasn't through signs, wonders and miracles alone. It was through supernatural Defensive Warfare. (Deuteronomy 4:34) Moses was raised up to defend Israel against Aggressive Warfare (Exodus 3:1-14:31), as was Joshua (Joshua 6:1-27), as was Gideon (Judges 6:14), as was King Saul (1Samuel 15:1-35) and as was King David (1Samuel 29:1-30:25). If national bullies are not dealt with defensively, they'll get more and more aggressive, showing up at your house and wanting your family and your stuff!

Recently in the community where Barbara and I live Churches came together to protest the war in Iraq. They had no idea what the Bible teaches about the two kinds of warfare. They said their basis for doing so was because "Jesus is the Prince of Peace." Shamefully, they were basing their demonstration on a "Dr. Seuss" book about peace but they had no other Scriptural support for what they were doing other than one of Jesus' Names being taken completely out of context. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Peace between God and believing man. (Romans 5:1) But He is not a "Peace-nik". Christians joining arms in solidarity, pointing towards Heaven and blocking traffic while singing "Kum Ba Yah" is exactly how Satan wants Believers to respond to his outright attack on their Country. If you are a Believer in Jesus Christ and the Bible and you have been "antiwar" because you thought it was the "peaceful" thing to do, it's time to awaken to righteousness. It's time to read the Bible, make the necessary adjustments and be thankful that America, your America, is the most powerful, prepared, anti-Aggressive Warfare, pro-Defensive Warfare nation in the world.

In closing, we must also realize that the Bible says Defensive Warriors are National Heroes and must be treated as such. (Numbers 31:26,27,49,53; 1Samuel 18:5-7) We owe those who fight defensively on our behalf so much more than "Kum Ba Yah" and disgusted looks when they're in our presence. These

individuals leave their families willingly to go and do the hard things so that we can stay home and do the easy things in a war-free zone. We owe them respect and honor.

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