

**ESSENTIAL 100 -
DOES GOD APPROVE OF
HOLY WAR?**

Pembury Baptist Church

4th June

Does God approve of Holy War?

**Joshua 10-11 has horrific
accounts of destruction – *in the
Bible?***

**A different God in the Old
Testament?**

**(1) God's holiness and
justice**

Who is like our God?

His unchanging character

Holy...

Desiring exclusive worship...

Passionate, mighty, powerful...

Merciful and loving...

and hating violence

Justice and mercy

**Depravity of the Canaanites –
but still many chances to repent**

**Protecting the holiness of God's
people**

We too are subject to judgement



Romans 6:23 “the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”

(2) God and war in the Bible

*God's war – his people's need to
obey*

**The war in Joshua was God's Holy
War – he can't be “enlisted”**

**The invasion was to fulfil God's
promise**

**God is teaching obedience to his
commands**

*God's gradual education of his
people*

**War a feature of life in Ancient
Near East**

**God's education of the
Israelites...**

**...and his abandonment of
earthly war in the New
Testament**

Luke 6:35 “love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back”

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”

Jeremiah 31:33 “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Onward Christian soldiers?

The just war

Just cause?

Just intention?

Last resort?

Reasonable expectation of success?

Formal declaration by a legitimate authority?

Protection for non combatants?

Onward Christian soldiers!

Our Holy War

Ephesians 6:12 “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”



Ephesians 6:17-18 “Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints”



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Still between D-Day and Berlin...

Conclusions

Validity of Joshua's picture of God - a mighty warrior in pursuit of justice

Our sin and his purity – but also his desire for restored relationship

God's mercy in sending Jesus

God's guidance in concepts of war...

Jesus' call to love our enemies

The “just war”

Spiritual warfare – our Holy War