

Study Guide for September 25th, 2005. War – God’s Way. Deut. 20.

Introduction: What are some guidelines for conducting war in a humane fashion?

- I. Do not be afraid because . . . Deut. 20:1-4
 - A. What reason does God give his people for not being afraid?
 - B. Review Ex. 15:1-8. What historical example should God’s people call to mind?
 - C. In the spiritual battles we face, what is the key to overcoming fear?
- II. Dismiss these soldiers because . . . Deut. 20:5-9
 - A. List the four groups of soldiers who were dismissed from service?
 - B. Why do you think God allowed these men to go home? (see Duet. 28:30)
 - C. Review Judges 7:1-15. How are the principles of Deuteronomy 20 applied?
 - D. What has helped you determine if you are indeed fighting God’s battles?
- III. Determine if peace is possible because. . . Deut. 20:10-15
 - A. How was the Israelite army instructed to approach a city?
 - B. What would be the consequences... if the city surrendered? ...if the city refused?
 - C. What evidence do you see in this instruction of **restraint**?
 - D. Give a modern of example of **restraint** in the context of war.
- IV. Destroy completely these cities because. . . Deut. 20:16-18
 - A. What was the Israelite army to do to the cities in the land? Why?
 - B. Respond to this comment, “(The) historical execution of divine justice upon the wickedness of the Canaanites is not incompatible with the overall belief in God’s ultimate intention to bless the nations through Israel.” (Wright, Deuteronomy, pg. 227)
- V. Do not cut the fruit trees because. . . Deut. 20:19-20
 - A. What trees did God allow to be cut and which were prohibited? Why?
 - B. What are some modern examples of how this command has been disregarded?

