War: What is it good for? --- Joshua B

What do you think of war? Is it ever legitimate?
What would you be willing to die for?
For what would you kill someone?
Can academics decide this issue?

War 4 views: Non-resistance

Mat 5:39: turn the cheek;
Peter uses sword rebuked Mat 26:52-54;
Love neighbor not = killing (?) [murder]
Separation of church and state (Jn 18:36 If my kingdom were of this world my servants would fight)
Christ’s dying for others example

Problem with Non-resistance

Dualism: spiritual / natural world; do you eat?
Dual citizenship
Other Scriptural remarks: Matt 10:34; Lk 22:35-38—I did not come to bring peace but the sword...
What if you saw someone being raped, would you not act forcefully? Dialogue?

Pacifism:

Mic 4:3 beat swords into plowshares
Kingdom of God: lion laying down with calf (Isa 11:6-9) Shalom rules
Passive resistance: dying / self-sacrifice
Possibility of individual calling (diversity)
Beware of flag burners, spitting on Vets
Caution Prophets of Shalom: Jer 6:16/ 8:11; 23:17

Just War theory

Go to war for good cause
What constitutes a good cause?
Joshua – some wars are right—War is never the answer? Is that true?
Eccles 3:8 -- a time for war

God portraying himself as a warrior
(Exod. 15:3; Ps. 18:8ff.).

Jesus too (SM versus Revelation on Scripture twisting, Rev. 19:15, 21)
—sword out of mouth=justice/peace?

How does one fight a good war?

*Biblical reasons for going to war:*

- *land,* --Og
- *divine command,* --Jericho
- *moral violation,* --Gibeah & concubine
- *insult,* --Rabbah & David
- *defense,* -- Sennacherib
- *oppression,* -- Gideon

*helping others* – Gibeonites &Joshua

*Preventive War*

First strike to avoid latter conflict or prevent damage

What do you think?

Future problems: nukes in cities; blackmail, no national entity—ideological groups of individuals not nations

*Final Thoughts*

Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 1:8

Beginning Prophets-Josh 1:8, Kethubim Ps. 1:2 same idea

Covenant renewal at Shechem 24:25f—adds to the Book of the Law-

Final call to decision: 24:15 as for me...