

# Deuteronomy 20 - "Our warfare"

Fight the good fight of faith...

Lay hold of eternal life...

The weapons of our warfare...

[Deu 20:1-20 KJV]

## V1 - Make ready for War

1 When thou goest out **to battle** against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, [and] a people more than thou, **be not afraid of them:** for the LORD thy God [is] with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Prepare for Warfare - the way forward into what God has promised - is a fight.

- Israel is going forth in to war - prepare...
- **to battle** against thine enemies

Facing the enemy - what will you do when you see?

- afraid, fear, reverence, how things will appear to the sight
- should I yield without a fight?
- Whom shall you fear?
- **be not afraid of them:** for the LORD thy God [is] with thee
  - decide in the heart - the fear of the LORD... choose it... learn it... do not be afraid of the lesser... fear the greater...

out of Egypt

- it took warfare... it took a battle... it is the LORD - our God of battle and war
- [Exo 15:1-3 KJV] 1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. 2 The LORD [is] my **strength** and **song**, and he is become my **salvation**: he [is] my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. 3 **The LORD [is] a man of war:** the LORD [is] his name.

## V2-4 - drawing near to fight

2 And it shall be, **when ye are come nigh unto the battle**, that **the priest** shall approach and speak unto the people, 3 And shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: **let not your hearts faint**, fear not, and do not tremble, **neither be ye terrified because of them;** 4 **For the LORD your God [is] he that goeth with you,** **to fight** for you against your enemies, to save you.

When war comes near... **when ye are come nigh unto the battle**

- that the priest shall approach and speak
- he represents the people before God... and God unto the people...
- is this a spiritual matter that needs direction, leading and guiding from God in my life??

how Israel is to approach the day of battle against their enemies...

- **let not your hearts faint**
  - **faint** - Hebrew - "rāḱak" - tender, soft, weak, timid, fearful
  - command in the grammar - concerning the outcome and effect upon them if they give their hearts to be weak and soft and tender...
- **fear not, and do not tremble**
  - you can obey and not fear... power over the feelings of fear... not given to fear... resisting the urge to fear...
  - **tremble** - to hurry to fear... the need to do something... NOW! NOW!.... if I don't get away.... NOW!!!!
- **neither be ye terrified because of them**
  - suddenly alarmed to danger
  - detect and know the difference between

For the LORD your God [is] he that goeth with you, **to fight** for you against your enemies, to save you

- God... He is the LORD our God...
- He is with you
- He fights your enemies
- He saves you

### V5-7 - addressing fear of death

5 And the officers shall speak unto the people, saying, What man [is there] that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it? let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man dedicate it. 6 And what man [is he] that hath planted a vineyard, and hath not [yet] eaten of it? let him [also] go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man eat of it. 7 And what man [is there] that hath betrothed a wife, and hath not taken her? let him go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man take her.

now the officers shall speak

- those that arrange and organize and get the people ready...
- the officers that carry out the instructions
- those called to be overseers...

There are three things that can affect all the men and prevent them from going forth in the day of battle...

- some life controlling desire in a good thing that he has not partaken of but is preparing in his personal life
- his preoccupation with those other "good" things that will keep him from risking his life in the day of battle...
- it is better to turn back before you get into the battle and then turn back

- IT IS BETTER TO TURN BACK BEFORE YOU GET INTO THE BATTLE AND THEN TURN BACK

The only man you cannot kill is a dead man....

- living already dead...
- we must crucify our flesh with its lusts and desires... and live for Jesus Christ...
- [Rom 6:11 KJV] 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### V8-9 - fearful men are not good in the fight

8 And the officers shall speak further unto the people, and they shall say, What man [is there that is] **fearful and fainthearted?** let him go and return unto his house, lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart. 9 And it shall be, when the officers have made an end of speaking unto the people, that **they shall make captains** of the armies to lead the people.

fear is contagious...

- **fearful and fainthearted?**
  - afraid and soft?
- go back home so that you don't make your brothers afraid and soft...

lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart

- are you given to fear and softness
- afraid of what may or may not happen?

### captains

- choosing the men that will lead others into battle

### V10-11 - Extend Peace - submission

10 When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then **proclaim peace** unto it. 11 And it shall be, if it **make thee answer of peace**, and open unto thee, then it shall be, [that] all the people [that is] found therein shall be **tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee**. 12 And if **it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee**, then thou shalt besiege it: 13 And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword: 14 But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, [even] all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the LORD thy God hath given thee. 15 Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities [which are] very far off from thee, which [are] not of the cities of these nations.

### proclaim peace

- this is not war for destruction sake...
- they shall serve you... not you serve them...
- for peace or for war

[Rom 12:18 KJV] 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, **live peaceably with all men**

[ROM 12:18 KJV] 18 IT IS BE POSSIBLE, AS MUCH AS LIETH IN YOU, **live peaceably with all men.**

- [2Co 13:11 KJV] 11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.
- be at peace with one another... and all those that will live that way with you
- in the marriage between a believer and an unbeliever - 1 Corinthians 7

### **V16-20 - set for destruction**

16 But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee [for] an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: 17 But thou shalt utterly destroy them; [namely], the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee: 18 **That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God.** 19 When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an axe against them: for thou mayest eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the field [is] man's [life]) to employ [them] in the siege: 20 Only the trees which thou knowest that they [be] not trees for meat, thou shalt destroy and cut them down; and thou shalt build bulwarks **against the city that maketh war with thee, until it be subdued.**

Some are determined by God for destruction

- those peoples that by their sin in the land of promise...
- God will destroy them...
- ∴ • not allowed to live and remain that they may destroy the people of God by their iniquity of idolatry...
- **against the city that maketh war with thee, until it be subdued.**

Our Application

#### **1. God is a God of war - He will fight our enemies**

1. we should fight too!!! - spiritual warfare
2. resist the enemy... he will flee...
3. learn the heart of God... and learn to live like Him in this world

#### **2. Daily in the Word of God - a proverb a day...**

1. [Pro 24:1-34 NKJV] 1 Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them; 2 For their heart devises violence, And their lips talk of troublemaking. 3 Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established; 4 By knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches. 5 A wise man [is] strong, Yes, a man of knowledge increases strength; 6 For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors [there is] safety. 7 Wisdom [is] too lofty for a fool; He does not open his mouth in the gate. 8 He who plots to do evil Will be called a schemer. 9 The devising of foolishness [is] sin, And the scoffer [is] an abomination to men. 10 [If] you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength [is] small. 11 Deliver [those who] are drawn toward death, And hold back [those] stumbling to the slaughter. 12 If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who weighs the hearts consider [it]? He who keeps your soul, does He [not] know [it]? And will He [not] render to [each] man according to his deeds? 13 My son, eat honey because [it is] good, And

the honeycomb [which is] sweet to your taste; 14 So [shall] the knowledge of wisdom [be] to your soul; If you have found [it], there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off. 15 Do not lie in wait, O wicked [man], against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place; 16 For a righteous [man] may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity. 17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; 18 Lest the LORD see [it], and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him. 19 Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the wicked; 20 For there will be no prospect for the evil [man]; The lamp of the wicked will be put out. 21 My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not associate with those given to change; 22 For their calamity will rise suddenly, And who knows the ruin those two can bring? 23 These [things] also [belong] to the wise: [It is] not good to show partiality in judgment. 24 He who says to the wicked, "You [are] righteous," Him the people will curse; Nations will abhor him. 25 But those who rebuke [the wicked] will have delight, And a good blessing will come upon them. 26 He who gives a right answer kisses the lips. 27 Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house. 28 Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, For would you deceive with your lips? 29 Do not say, "I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work." 30 I went by the field of the lazy [man], And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; 31 And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. 32 When I saw [it], I considered [it] well; I looked on [it and] received instruction: 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; 34 So shall your poverty come [like] a prowler, And your need like an armed man.