

Grace Bible Church
Pastor teacher
Robert R. McLaughlin
Tree of Life
Weekly Review
042918

We are now on our fourth principle concerning the place of war in the plan of God. We are now dealing with the Biblical Principle of Universal Military Training.

Serving one's nation in the military is said to one of the greatest manifestations of patriotism and appreciation that an individual can have toward his country.

Look at this principle which is brought out in PSA 149:9 which says that the mature soldier is to execute on the enemy the judgment written; This [execution or killing the enemy] is an honor for all His godly ones [or mature believers.] Praise the Lord!

Notice the context that this individual is said to be a part of where he honors his Lord and praises his Lord for his ability to execute judgment on the enemy.

Let's read it in its context.

PSA 149:1-9, Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise in the congregation of the godly ones. Let Israel be glad in his Maker; Let the sons of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise His name with dancing; Let them sing praises to Him with timbrel and lyre. For the Lord takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the afflicted ones with not salvation but deliverance in battle. Let the godly ones [in context, the mature believer] exult in glory; Let them sing for joy on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, And a two edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, And punishment on the peoples; To bind their kings

with chains, And their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute on them the judgment written; This is an honor for all His godly ones. Praise the Lord!

And that, my friends, is the mind of Christ which is the Word of God. When it says this is an honor for his godly ones it is the mature soldier that is said to be **hadar**, meaning it is called magnificent. That is how to winner soldier is viewed by the Lord.

Usually the protocol for most militaries in the ancient world is to leave or kill the little babies and the elderly. This is also why the Lord guided and directed them to do such things or say such things concerning the treatment of Israel's enemies. For example, look at our Lord's attitude toward the depraved Babylonians and killing their children in war; PSA 137:8-9.

PSA 137:8-9, O daughter of Babylon, you devastated one, How blessed will be the one who repays you with the recompense with which you have repaid us. How blessed or happy will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones against the rock.

Notice that God's people are said to be happy in verse 8 if they repay their enemies back for what they have done to them with the same type of recompense they used in the battles.

When the Jewish leaders and their tribes wanted to get rid of evil in the nation notice what the Lord told Moses to teach. Tell the people that when someone does evil to them this should be their response; **DEU 19:19, then you shall do to him just as he had intended to do to his brother.** [Now, if you do that then] **Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.**

Notice how to purge or get rid of the evil among the people. It's the principle of reap what you sow. Just because God is a God of grace that does not mean that you allow others to walk all over you and take advantage of you. Nor does it mean that we do not reap what we sow!

Our life is filled with decisions that we have made along with the consequences of those decisions.

So, these are just some principles and reasons why our Lord taught the Jews to have universal military training concerning Him our warlike hero, our Lord Jesus Christ!

When 2SA 22:35 says, **“He trains my hands for battle, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.”**

This is basically dealing with war although it can have a spiritual application to our spiritual battles. This is why draft dodgers, slackers, and deserters are sinful before the Lord, NUM 32:6-23.

Let’s take a quick look at the passage in view.

As you turn there note that the Lord is not easy on those who do not support the military or those who go AWOL either in the natural realm or the spiritual realm.

In NUM 32:4, Moses reveals the principle of the Lord blessing His people by describing what the Promise Land was all about, **the land which the Lord conquered before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock; and your servants [those who are captured] have livestock.”**

You will recall that 10 spies came back with a negative report saying that they are not able to defeat the giants. However, two of the other spies, Joshua and Caleb, said **“We can defeat and kill the giants in the land because the Lord of Hosts is with us and He will fight for us.”**

Apparently the negative reports of the 10 spies got the best of MOST of them because they thought they would not be able to defeat the giants in the land...and they were spreading all that negativity among the people.

So that in **NUM 32:5**, **“If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession; do not take us across the Jordan.”** In other words,

“Let us settle for something less than the Promise Land that the Lord had promised.” In other words, they are willing to settle for less. They’re not interested in receiving God’s best.

So. we have the evaluation and doctrinal opinion of Moses in **NUM 32:6**, **But Moses said to the sons of Gad and to the sons of Reuben, “Shall your brothers go to war while you yourselves sit here?”**

What are you doing here not fighting the enemy while your brethren are on the battlefield?

Remember what happened to King David in **2SA 11:1**, **Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.**

And as he stayed in Jerusalem please notice what the king is doing.

2SA 11:2, **Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king’s house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.**

King David had been sleeping all day and playing around during the night and he has become passive and slothful.

He should have been leading his men on the battlefield but instead he chose to fool around with their women rather than protecting their nation.

And so it is sad that these men or troops are on the battlefield while their leader is not around. Like a loser believer he has failed to glorify the Lord on the battlefield. What is the problem with this type of soldier who is not willing to fight his country? They did not guard their steps when they went into the house of God and they offered the sacrifice of fools for they do not know they are doing evil.

The loser believer or loser soldier lacks respect for the spiritual life. Doing evil is what some have fallen into as they forget their commitment to the Lord.

In ECC 5:4, they were the kind of believers who would make a vow to God and then are late in fulfilling to pay it and do not realize that God takes no delight in fools. They should pay what they vow!

But in LUK 14:18, “They have bought a piece of land and they need to go out and take care of it so they want to be excused.”

Or, in LUK 14:19, “They have bought five yoke of oxen, and they I am going to try them out; so they want an excuse to quit.”

For others, in LUK 14:20, “They have married a wife, and for that reason they cannot come.”