Holy War

Doctrine and Application

(Slide 1) Holy War

- Leviticus 27:29

- Numbers 21:2; Deuteronomy 7:2

- Examples: Numbers 31 (Midian), Joshua 6 (Jericho), Joshua 8 (Ai), Joshua 10

(Slide 2) Holy War Characteristics

- It is conducted based on revealed Oracle (Command) from God.

- It is national rather than personal.

- It is limited rather than prevalent.

- A few important pre-suppositions

- Scripture as the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rile of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.

  - The whole of Scripture consist of all the books of the Old and New Testament (69 books)

  - The infallible rule of interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself

(Slide 3) A few important pre-suppositions

- Scripture as the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rile of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.

- All-encompassing and total depravity of man

  - John 3:16; Romans 5:12-19

(Slide 3A) A few important pre-suppositions

- Scripture as the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rile of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.

- All-encompassing and total depravity of man

- Absolute Holiness and Moral purity of God

  - Habakkuk 1:13; 1 John 1:5

(Slide 3B) A few important pre-suppositions

- Scripture as the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rile of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.

- All-encompassing and total depravity of man

- Absolute Holiness and Moral purity of God

- God's sovereign right over His creation

  - Romans 9:17; Isaiah 29:16

(Slide 4) Problems arising from text on Holy War

- What is the purpose of such Holy War in the Old Testament?

- How do we reconcile the God in the Old Testament (Warrior) with the God revealed through Jesus in the New Testament (the suffering Savior)?

- How shall we understand and apply these text in our current time and age?

(Slide 5) How shall we look at Holy War in OT

- Judgment on the Canaanites

- Conduct of war in historical, cultural perspective

- Progressive revelation

- How shall we look at Holy War in OT

(Slide 6) Judgment on the Canaanites

  - God's physical judgment will come, at His timing (Gen 15:16)

  - A list of the pervasive sins of the Canaanites (Lev 18:6-23)

  - God is the master landlord, He evicts those whose has grossly outstayed their welcome (Lev 18:24-30)

  - Note the warning given to Israel, God is fair (Deut 9:4-5)

  - Survival of the Canaanite is detrimental to the long-term wellbeing of Israel (Num 33:55)

(Slide 6A) How shall we look at Holy War in OT?

- Judgment on the Canaanites

- Conduct of war in historical, cultural perspective

  - God deals with man in accordance with the prevalent, accepted cultural context; this is a tribute to God's mercy!
  (a good article: *www.christianthinktank.com/qnoslave.html*)

  - Example: the issue of slavery
  beginning – Exodus 1:13-14
  Provisions – Leviticus 25:35-43
  Christian attitude (slave) – Ephesians 6:5-9
  Christian attitude (master) – Philemon
  Real perspective – Galatian 3:28

(Slide 6B) How shall we look at Holy War in OT

- Judgment on the Canaanites

- Conduct of war in historical, cultural perspective

- Progressive revelation

  - Hebrews 1:1-2

  - OT is historical making allusions to Christ; NT is propositional making assertions about Christ. Example: Isaiah 43:3

  - OT is physical, illustrative while NT adds spiritual dimensions to God's revelation

  - Why? Because of the necessity to accommodate human weakness and limitations

(Slide 7) Is God different in OT and NT?

- God fights the flesh and blood enemies of Israel

- God fights Israel (Deut 28:7, 25; Dan 1:1-3; Lam 2:5)

- God will come in the future as warrior to free His people (Hos 11:8-9; Dan 7)

- Jesus Christ fights the spiritual powers and authorities (Col 2:13-15; Eph 4:8/Ps 68)

- The final battle (Mark 13:26; Rev 1:7, 19:11-21)

(Slide 8) Application for today

- We are still in a Holy War (Eph 6:12) but our enemies are now more clearly defined.

- God is the warrior-captain, but are we on His side (Joshua 5:13ff)?

- Our principle enemy is Satan; the battle ground are in truth (doctrine/gospel) and our conduct (life)

- In every such battle, we aim to completely eradicate our enemies, "*show them no mercy*" do apply!