

"War! What is it good for? Nothing. Uhumph. Absolutely nothing!" These lyrics written during the Vietnam War anti-war peace movement may sound good or true, at least on the surface. Isn't it interesting that so many protest songs were written by children whose own fathers had defended the United States and the rest of the free world in World War II? Without that war, they might not even have a college or country with free speech to protest from! We are in a new generation now, but the same songs are being sung again and the same feelings prevail throughout society - including the church. Even today it sounds good to say war is good for nothing and always evil.

In the book, *"Seven Military Classics of Ancient China"* based upon the art of war of seven of China's greatest ancient generals, though they may disagree on the method and tactics of warfare, they all agree **there are only two kinds of war are justified:**

1. Protecting people who are or are about to be oppressed
2. To eradicate a governmental evil.

Today many Christians are asking the question: *"Is war ever justified? Is there a just war?"* I believe the answer must be yes - a war can be just. This is my premise not because I agree with seven ancient Chinese generals, but because I agree with the Word of God.

Satan's Plan

The Bible teaches us a worldview that has Satan opposing God by influencing the minds of mankind. Satan, the Prince of Evil, has one main objective - to destroy mankind. His objective is worked through the minds of men who do not recognize they are pawns in the great satanic plan and that they too will be ultimately destroyed. Satan plants the seeds of prejudice, hatred, ethnic cleansing, religion, economic gain, etc. in the mind and heart to lure men into plundering and destroying their neighbors. Evil swells in the hearts and minds of some men causing them to impose despotic dictatorships or oppressive forms of government such as communism, fascism or Nazism. Imperial expansion is birthed out of great pride and pursued for many of the preceding reasons. All of these kinds of actions are bad and evil reasons to go to war. **War is not always evil, it is the evil in some Governments, powers and principalities that enact murder and start wars, which is evil.** Most wars are not just, many are started by evil intentions.

"The Lord is a Warrior."

Both the Old and New Testaments support fighting evil by both spiritual and natural warfare. Exodus 15:3 says, "The Lord is a warrior." God sent kings and others to go forth and he anointed and appointed them for battle such as Joshua, David, Gideon, Samson, Deborah and others who fought physical battles to rid the land of evil people. The people they conquered had been given centuries to turn from their evil practices, which they continually inflicted upon their own people and surrounding nations. God

which they continually inflicted upon their own people and surrounding nations. God showed miracles, signs and wonders in the midst of their natural battles to assist his warriors and prove He was with them to win the victory. Battles were not entered into lightly, but with much council, prayer and worship. Jehoshaphat employed worship, which we could also term, "warship" and saw the enemy annihilated (2 Chronicles 20 20-26). Nehemiah instructed the workers to hold a trowel in one hand and a weapon in the other in case of attack during the rebuilding of Jerusalem. 2 Samuel 22:35 says, "He trains my hands for battle, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze."

Has God changed? No! His presence can be shown not only in the midst of spiritual realms of warfare, but in the earthly ones, which must be waged for defense of life - as long as they are eradicating evil. Eradicating evil makes war justifiable. Removing evil leaders is essential to remove the fear of harm from the people.

Someone once said, "War is hell!" They meant that the battlefield is a scary and terrible place with sights and sounds no one would ever want to be in. We are seeing that too well on today's news. Yet after all the diplomacy, prayer and warship sometimes war is the only way to secure peace. St. Augustine said, "The purpose of war is peace." There will always be aggressors until there is a new heaven and new earth. In the meantime, are we to stand by as pacifists, while evil invades killing and destroying our lives and the innocents viciously and without provocation? Passivity is a tactic of Satan to diminish the authority and power of Christians. Peace without war is preferable, but it is not realistic as long as there is evil driving the minds of men.

Jesus taught the principles of the power of prayer as a force and a necessity to overcome evil. Fervent intercessional warfare prayer and deliverance warfare prayer has the power to cast out evil. He also said, "And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time, the kingdom of heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force."(Matt. 11: 12 Amp). He goes on in Matt. 11 condemning the cities that did not repent from their evil ways and receive the truth and proof that he was the way to life. These are not pacifist statements.

In the New Testament all believers are empowered to cast demons out of the body of man in the name of Jesus. In the Church, the Elders are empowered to cast out people who are living in evil and non-repentant from the body of Christ. This is taking authority over evil to protect or deliver man and the church both in the heavenly and the earthly realm.

Defense

Jesus said in Luke 22:36, "but now he that has a purse, let him take it and likewise his scrip and he that has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one." Why is Jesus saying, "buy a sword?" Because there are evil men in the land that would oppose them such as robbers and those who would hate their message. The sword was required not to force their will upon others, but to defend themselves from evil, sinful and unjustified attacks. It was also required to protect any innocent people who they might see being attacked. (Remember the Good Samaritan who tended to the wounded man who had been robbed while traveling.) Who were the men sent forth by Jesus? His disciples; the next generation of leaders and generals!

Governments

Romans 13:1-4 is used by some Christians who are total pacifists to support the idea that all governments are by God, therefore, all war against a government must be evil. The rational is that you are going against what God has ordained. Genesis 9:1-7, Romans 13:1-6 and 1 Peter 2:13-17 clearly state that Christian relationships are one of submission to governments and that these governments are instituted by God. In addition, the stated purpose of the governments is to enact justice and enforce the law for the order and safety of society (Isaiah 11:4-9, 65:20, Daniel 2:21, 4:17-25, 5:21). Therefore, if there is no recourse to stop lawbreakers and evil then the purpose of government is ineffective in protecting that society. It is the duty of Christians, to help when possible, to establish and support civil human governments for the protection and preservation of their society and to promote the peace by abiding the laws of that government (1 Peter 2:13-17 and Romans 13:1). For Christians who live in open societies, they should and must vote and consider involvement in public offices in order to bring Godly principles to government. The key to peace in a society is obeying the Godly laws.

Now let's realize that governments have been empowered by God to govern by force, when necessary, and to bring punishment to those who violate the law and are criminals and evildoers. War is the result (force is employed) when laws of society are broken and refuse to be mended or instituted. Let us not be myopic

here, but look at this with a broader viewpoint and realize that civil governments are local, national and global. This means that when a government is itself a lawbreaker or evil, there are other governments in power to enforce the just laws of God or mankind upon that lawbreaking government. If governments can chase, apprehend and punish criminals globally if necessary, it is also justified to execute war against the larger lawbreakers - criminal, rogue or evil governments. (Romans 13:1-5, 1 Peter 2:13-17, Daniel 2:21, 4:17-25, 5:21) so they "bear not the sword in vain" (Romans 13:4c). The Apostle Peter said, your "well doing" is related to silencing foolish (evil) men. That governors are to "punish evildoers" for "them that do well" (1 Peter 2:14).

Kings

We must remember, **"He removes kings and sets up kings"** (Daniel 2:21, 4:17). In removing kings, the Lord can use diverse ways and agents. Some are removed by democratically voting, some by heart attack or earthquake, and some by war - what matters is not the method, but the removal of the evildoers. If God will judge and remove a five-fold minister who sins or does evil from ministry or even access to heaven, why wouldn't he judge or remove earthly governments? We see it time again though Biblical history. Solomon gave a word of wisdom, "A wise king finds the wicked, lays them out like wheat, and then runs the crushing wheel over them" (Pro. 20:26). And "every purpose is established by counsel and with good advice make war."

Christians

Regarding governments and the intervention of Christians, it is the Godly morals and values which are imperative to establish the righteous rule of God in the earthly realm. If the governments of the world were operated by Godly principles, or at least the moral standard regarding life as sacred, then there would be no need for war. However, as long as there are evil governments, God has the right to choose any method he wants to, whether it is by heavenly or earthly agents to remove that government so the rest of the earth may live in peace.

Conclusion

So in summation let me say as a Christian, I can see a war as just in order to protect or rescue the innocent and overcome evil governments that do more than oppress, but use torture and murder to subjugate the people and threaten the peace of the world.

Apostolic Affirmation

Apostle John Polis, leader of Revival Fellowship International, ICA member and former US Marine, wrote the following to me while I was in Singapore, "The "war theme" is definitely on, the church has accepted their role as "body", "temple", "family" and "bride", we are now being enabled by the Spirit to be the "army" of God. The apostolic anointing is bringing it in because they are the true "end time warriors" who carry an anointing for war. The church cannot do battle as the above metaphors only although they are the most comfortable for us, we can only wage war when we have all the characteristics of soldiers in our lives."

Prayer

Pray with me: May our Nation's leaders and military leaders look to the Lord for guidance and may the Lord grant great wisdom for all during this time of trouble.

Building together with Him and you,

John P. Kelly

