

**General Topics :: War****War - posted by jlosinski, on: 2006/11/30 1:18**

this seems to be worn out but I thought I would give my two cents...

I was in Iraq from Feb 2003 to Sept 2003 I was in India co. 3/5 USMC, I was a SAW gunner. I don't believe that a Christian can follow the two greatest commandments while engaged in war. I saw it for eight months, I didn't sit in Kuwait for months on end and then fight a four day war like in the first Gulf war.

If I could draw, I would draw a picture of a soldier shooting an Iraqi in the face while Jesus had His hand on the soldier's shoulder, looking on with approval. That would show the absurdity of war and the believer. Also, if a Christian isn't willing to kill to defend Christianity, why would they kill for anything less?

Re: War, on: 2006/11/30 7:38

I was one of those who sat in Kuwait for months, and then fought a "four day war". I was in the middle of it, and I can assure you it wasn't as simple as that. Be nice if it was... but it wasn't. So please don't minimize what guys like me did there. I remember scuds going off long before the "four day war" started... and I remember crossing the border long before the "four day war" started.

Thank you for your service, by the way. Semper Fi.

Having said that, while I was in the Corp I was not saved, so I really wasn't conflicted at all. Now that I am, would I do it again? Well, I would not be honest if I didn't say that I think I would feel conflicted now. However, what are good people to do when someone like Hitler comes along and murders over 6 million Jews? Nothing? The President of Iran has vowed to wipe Israel off the map, and take us along with it. So what do we do? Nothing?

No where in the Bible does it forbid military service. In fact, Paul encouraged soldiers to fulfill their duties to those in authority over them. He didn't say "get out... war is murder". Some of the great heroes of the Bible were warriors. King David, a warrior since childhood, was considered by God to be a man after His own heart.

As you well know, no one likes war, but unfortunately as long as we live in this world it will be a part of it. Just the fact that you can come to a site like this and voice your opinion shows that you are enjoying freedoms that were bought with a price... blood.

If you yourself believe that it goes against your conscience to fight in a war, then you shouldn't. If you go against your convictions, right or wrong, you are sinning. So I'm not trying to convince you that being a warrior is ok... I'm just saying that your feelings on this are noble. And I'm not even sure I disagree with you completely.

As for Iraq... what a mess. But as you know, we're not getting the full story from the media. Saddam has killed many innocent people, and that should have been our motivation for going in. I don't believe he was a threat to us militarily.. I think we proved that. I think the murderer needed to be stopped.

Bad things happen when good people do nothing.

Semper Fi.

Krispy

Re: War - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/11/30 10:07

Quote:

-----Also, if a Christian isn't willing to kill to defend Christianity, why would they kill for anything less?

that's a good question...

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/11/30 11:05

bro Krispy

Quote:

-----Having said that, while I was in the Corp I was not saved, so I really wasn't conflicted at all. Now that I am, would I do it again? Well, I would not be honest if I didn't say that I think I would feel conflicted now. However, what are good people to do when someone like Hitler comes along and murders over 6 million Jews? Nothing? The President of Iran has vowed to wipe Israel off the map, and take us along with it. So what do we do? Nothing?

you bring up a good point in that your view of things now is different than it was in the first gulf war namely you're saved now. After salvation our perspective on things should become more and more the same with God's ie seeing things in the context of His plan being fulfilled. i suppose one can wonder what if someone **had** taken Hitler out, or Stalin out. if you think Hitler killed a lot of Jews, Stalin saw to the deaths of almost 4 times as many, 20 plus million, yet that is not something people talk about as much for whatever reason. the world would have been different without all that for sure, but would it fit into what God was/is doing is the main thing. For one part of all that was indeed judgement on the Jews for apostasy and the worship of the Germanic culture. however the second part is more exciting, after WW2 what happened? the Jews got a piece of their old homeland back fulfilling prophecies and reminding them that even after judgement, there is reconciliation and restoration. God didn't spare the Jews in the old days and God hasn't changed. if even they were not spared, being His chosen people, we certainly will not escape...

so what should we do in light of such? whatever our Lord requires. Some will be called to fight and others not, at the end of the day, God's plan marches on. as long as we see things from that perspective, one can't get frustrated.

Quote:

-----No where in the Bible does it forbid military service. In fact, Paul encouraged soldiers to fulfill their duties to those in authority over them. He didn't say "get out... war is murder". Some of the great heroes of the Bible were warriors. King David, a warrior since childhood, was considered by God to be a man after His own heart.

indeed and if one is in the military he should fulfill his duties inasmuch as they don't violate God's statutes. David indeed was a warrior but he eventually retired from fighting perhaps in his 50s. there was a battle in which he went faint and was almost killed, thereafter he was advised to chill. David being a man after God's own heart had to do with the fact that in spite of all the bad things he did, he did seek whatever God wanted him to do in all things. incidentally, it seems there are some things which having blood on your hands can keep you from, i thought that was interesting that David wasn't allowed to build the temple (though he made preparations for it) for that reason.

Quote:

-----As you well know, no one likes war, but unfortunately as long as we live in this world it will be a part of it. Just the fact that you can come to a site like this and voice your opinion shows that you are enjoying freedoms that were bought with a price... blood.

You know i had been pondering what it means to be free and some time ago reflected on our war of liberation in Zimbabwe from '67-'79 and it seems things have worsened. What is freedom? i am beginning to see freedom as one thing and nothing else, being reconciled to God by the blood of Christ. anything else is simply going from 1 bondage to another. to defend what we call freedom requires arms, we have thrown off one yoke and put on another. When we come to Christ we cast off the old yoke and put on His which is light and not one of bondage like the old yoke. i think of those who suffer

red in the communist states and still do today for Christ. They didn't have the freedoms we have here and so many were thrown in jails, murdered etc yet it seems to me they had become uncoupled to the world's standard of what freedom was (democracy etc) and taken on Freedom in/of Christ. They may not have been allowed by law to preach Christ and when they did they got in trouble but they still preached with joy and suffered with joy because the gospel had such a gravity for them which I think we miss out on because we are "free". Perhaps in all this I am beginning to see the difference in the freedoms bought by the blood of men which keep having to be defended (kinda like the old covenant where the blood of bulls and such was constantly required) and the Freedom bought by the blood of Christ which is sufficient for ALL. Whoo...oh the Blood of Jesus! Freedom! FREEDOM! FREEDOM!!!

Quote:
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indeed we're not getting the full story from the media on Iraq. It is interesting to see the difference in what we see on say Fox or CNN vs some of the overseas channels like BBC and others. It is even more interesting who has popped up and is an even bigger threat to us, North Korea will sell a nuke to anyone in a N.Y. minute, Iran will not hesitate to use one once they get it, meanwhile Iraq has us kinda bogged down...are we in a position to stop these other people now?

anyhow we could go on and on but the bottom line is this, God's plan marches on. Ephesians 3 tells us the purpose for all creation, to reveal God's manifold wisdom through the Church to the principalities and powers and all things work to that end whether we like it, agree with it, see it or not. It's about Him. As I see it from His perspective, God has us in Iraq right now to put a bit more strain on the economy to set it up for collapse and as I believe I heard from Him, next year. Additionally this will usher in the collapse in general of our nation, societally, militarily, and governmentally. I look forward to it because it will bring as many of us as God has called to fall on our faces and REPENT, REPENT, REPENT UNTO ETERNAL LIFE!!! This will usher in REVIVAL and I can't wait to be in the company of saints on their faces before God and being wholly about His business! Counting the days till REPENTANCE, REVIVAL then RAPTURE!!!

Re:, on: 2006/11/30 11:20

A lot of people love Bonhoeffer, and he was a great theologian and took a stand for God in the face of the Nazi's... and in the end paid for it with his earthly life. What I'm not sure people are aware of is that he was involved in a plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler. It obviously failed, but that was what got him arrested.

Was he wrong? Was he in sin?

Interesting question. I don't know how to answer that. I do know that a lot of lives (not just Jews, but soldiers killed in battle, and innocent citizens of Europe) would have been spared if the attempt succeeded.

God has instituted earthly government to mete out justice. Many governments fail at this, but that doesn't mean that God's intended purpose is mute. Sometimes war is necessary. No one would argue that the main result of the American Civil War (known to us Southerners as the "War of Northern Aggression") was a good thing: the abolition of slavery in the United States. Without war it would have continued for a lot longer, and perhaps would still persist today... who knows? But it took a war to finally end it and begin the long process of **everyone** in our country being considered created equal. That struggle still goes on today.

But as General Robert E. Lee said: "It is good that war is so terrible... lest we grow fond of it."

Krispy

reasoning together - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/11/30 12:50

bro Krispy

Quote:
-----A lot of people love Bonhoeffer, and he was a great theologian and took a stand for God in the face of the Nazi's... and in the end paid for it with his earthly life. What I'm not sure people are aware of is that he was involved in a plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler. It obviously failed, but that was what got him arrested.

Was he wrong? Was he in sin?

well on the one hand it's not right to kill, however if we look at the history of Israel, there is a lot of bloodshed. There may seem to be a discrepancy but the underlying issue is that God was working something, He was taking back the lands which the heathens had usurped so nobody got in trouble for that. if Bonhoeffer was led of Holy Spirit to do what he did, then it's all good. however we ought to remember that the things which may seem good and noble to us be viewed the same way by God, namely nothing, no matter how good it may seem to us is acceptable before Him unless it is inspired by Holy Spirit. The bottom line is that you're may be right in that many lives may have been spared, but you could be wrong also. i don't know and don't think that the death of Hitler would have ground the final solution to a halt. that was something which would have gone one no doubt. the flip side is that the allies even upon seeing the pics didn't do a whole lot either (at least right away)so i guess lots of blame can go around. Imagine hitler had died though. the military blunders he made would probably not have been made, perhaps russia would have been taken and then the western front opened with the russians behind germany and it's not likely the allies would have won. England may have been invaded (Hitler hesitated to launch Operation Sea Lion)and if england was taken, we would have had nowhere in europe to launch attacks on germany....maybe if hitler had died the war would have been lost...scary thought...

in the end, the issue is not really whether Bonhoeffer's idea was good, it was not even about how many lives could have been spared if it had worked and the war continued on as we know from history, its about Him. the bottom line is this, God was and is working out His plan and His ideas on how that is to go through will rub us the wrong way unless we see from His perspective. Many lives may have been spared, but how would that have benefitted what God was/is doing?

Quote:
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indeed every government is set up by God, whether we like the guy or not and ultimately the purpose for all this is summed up in Ephesians 3. IT'S NOT ABOUT US, IT'S ABOUT HIM. Even the War of Northern Aggression as you call it :-D was about much more than slavery. in fact lincoln really didn't care whether the slaves were freed or not, he wanted to preserve the union at whatever cost. in his eyes that was the deal. in God's eyes the purpose is infinitely higher, it's about the revelation of His manifold wisdom through the Church and forging this country to play it's part in that. We have to start seeing everything from this perspective bro. we see the civil war had a profound effect on shaping the nation in terms of civil rights etc but ultimately God's plan marches on!

Quote:
-----But as General Robert E. Lee said: "It is good that war is so terrible... lest we grow fond of it."

indeed, even so wars are instruments of God to that Most Lofty, Most Magnificent and Ultimate Purpose...The revelation of His manifold wisdom of God through the Church to the principalities and powers of the air...

God bless you bro

Re: reasoning together, on: 2006/11/30 13:15

Good discourse, IRONMAN... you really bring up some good points.

As far as the Hitler thing goes, I believe firmly that as incredibly horrible as all that was, God was at work. He was on the throne.

Think about this... if we are indeed in the last days (which I am convinced we are), then one of the prophecies that need ed to be filled was that the Jews be back in Israel. Now, I have heard some pretty wacky opinions that what we see right now is not the real Israel... I reject that, it's a silly notion. But the fact is that since the end of WWII Jews from all over the world have been migrating to Israel.

This may not have ever happened if it had not been for WWII. Does this mean that God wanted 6 million Jews to be mur dered in order to make this prophecy happen? No. But God did use this for His own divine purposes, and we can not ev en begin to fathom God's mind. I dont understand why God allowed that to happen, but I do know the result is His will. H e fulfilled one of his promises as a result of a great evil.

And that wasnt the first time in history that God used Israel's enemies to work His will.

Some will say "God would have kept His promise with or without WWII." This is true, but the fact remains, WWII is the w ay He chose to work it out. Whats done is done.

I know I'm kinda getting off point here. By the way, you're absolutely right about Lincoln. It's amazing how our public sch ool systems have brainwashed people into thinking that the Civil War was all about slavery. For better or for worse, it wa snt the main issue. And Lincoln was no abolitionist before the war. It was a rallying point in the middle of the war. He w as losing support of the general population at that point because my ancestors were whippin' up on 'em pretty bad. Then came the Emancipation Proclamation... and then Gettysburg... and the momentum shifted.

The war ended the right way for America. No doubt about that. But hind-sight is 20-20.

Krispy

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/11/30 14:35

bro Krispy

Quote:
-----Good discourse, IRONMAN... you really bring up some good points.

thanks bro, as you do.This is why i bless God for you and the other saints on S.I. God ministers to us all through us all to His glory! bro i have learned so much more from these couple of yrs on S.I. than i have at any other time.

Quote:
-----As far as the Hitler thing goes, I believe firmly that as incredibly horrible as all that was, God was at work. He was on the throne.

Indeed and this is the bottom line, God was on His throne and at work to do what He saw fit to do.

Quote:
-----Think about this... if we are indeed in the last days (which I am convinced we are), then one of the prophecies that needed to be fille d was that the Jews be back in Israel. Now, I have heard some pretty wacky opinions that what we see right now is not the real Israel... I reject that, it's a silly notion. But the fact is that since the end of WWII Jews from all over the world have been migrating to Israel.

oh indeed bro we are in the last days! Although the land Israel sits on now is much smaller than the original expanse giv en it by God, the fact remains that those are her lands of old. Now at this time Israel has not come to know Messiah so s

he is not yet 100% as she ought to be but God's plan to see that to fruition is on track and marching on. His people have been moving back home and continue to do so.

Quote:
-----This may not have ever happened if it had not been for WWII. Does this mean that God wanted 6 million Jews to be murdered in order to make this prophecy happen? No. But God did use this for His own divine purposes, and we can not even begin to fathom God's mind. I don't understand why God allowed that to happen, but I do know the result is His will. He fulfilled one of His promises as a result of a great evil.

AMEN bro, our Lord certainly did use the death of all those people Jew and gentile alike to see His plan through.

Quote:
-----And that wasn't the first time in history that God used Israel's enemies to work His will.

and so you beginning to see what the deal is!

Quote:
-----Some will say "God would have kept His promise with or without WWII." This is true, but the fact remains, WWII is the way He chose to work it out. What's done is done.

and this is the thing right here which underlines the fact that it's not about us, it's about HIM.

Quote:
-----I know I'm kinda getting off point here. By the way, you're absolutely right about Lincoln. It's amazing how our public school systems have brainwashed people into thinking that the Civil War was all about slavery. For better or for worse, it wasn't the main issue. And Lincoln was no abolitionist before the war. It was a rallying point in the middle of the war. He was losing support of the general population at that point because my ancestors were whippin' up on 'em pretty bad. Then came the Emancipation Proclamation... and then Gettysburg... and the momentum shifted.

oh yeah the civil war was a very complicated issue and like you said, it ended right because it ended the way it did and more importantly, His plan keeps marching on...

God bless you bro

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/11/30 15:05

Here is a thread I stated some time ago that provoked a lot of discussion.

(https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?viewmodeflat&order0&topic_id7499&forum36&post_id&ref reshGo) This is war??!!

Re: War ... What Is It Good For? ... - posted by Rahman, on: 2006/11/30 15:36

Hi guys ...

i originally posted this on bro Krisp's thread ...

Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi Killed in Bombing Raid

... from some thoughts i had about THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC ...

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

(hope you don't mind my reposting this portion here)

--- Quote;

i like history a whole lot, and am always fascinated that like the words of the Battle Hymn of the Republic as we men vie back and forth with one another be it verbally, or with sticks, stones, swords, shields, ships, guns, cannons, bombs, airplanes, rockets or nuclear weapons, His truth, His plan, His will goes marching on ...

i also am fascinated by the fact that somehow many folk think that what we "will" as men is somehow apart, separate and above His "will" ... i certainly don't claim to understand how "man's will" operates within the confines of "His will" for as of late i've really been brought to the point of understanding that i don't really understand the workings of the Father at all, but personally i believe that nothing happens apart from the will of God, that somehow every event that transpires on this planet down to the death of a sparrow and below all serves toward His ultimate purpose and goal, and therefore i see the hand of a really long-suffering God in everything ...

The problem with we humans is that we can see His hands in what we think we understand Him having His hand in, but we argue, debate, fuss and fight with one another about what we can't see Him having His hand in ... So therefore even amongst saints we have those who vote because of God, and those who don't, those who enlist in military service to their country because of God, and those who don't ... The list is as endless as our debate, but in the meanwhile whether we agree or disagree God and His plan are ever marching on ... Some would say in spite of us (as i've often said), but actually it's because of us and via us that His plan keeps on marching ... All this crap that every generation from the fall is going thru (including now terrorism and the war in Iraq) has stemmed from one man and one woman's putting humanity at enmity not only with God, but with one another ... God the Father provided His Son to bridge the enmity gap between Him and us, which if we as individuals exemplified Christ to the fullest could even bridge that gap between one another - but it's obvious that we don't, even in Christ, for tho we're suppose to be we don't operate in the accord of oneness (how many denominations do we have?) ... So even we saints go back and forth in debate about matters of "is God of this" or "of that", while the plan, and more importantly the ultimate solution (the fulfilled Revelation) of God, on the backs of mankind, governments, and our international conflicts go marching on! ...

The Battle Hymn was written as a stab of explanation for the "judgment" of the Civil War that came upon this nation due to it's Federal governmentally sanctioned enslavement of an entire group of people toward the financial benefit of the nation ... Thus this stanza in reference to the Union soldiers, "As He (Christ) died to make men holy, let us die to make men free" ... This seems like a pretty noble cause, and even back then the debate amongst saints as to military service or not raged on, but it certainly did not stop God's march on to the Revelation's fulfillment because even after this came both WWI (with saints still debating) and then WWII which arguably was probably the last war America could justify as solely a fight to keep men free ...

Tho this may not make a lot of sense to some, i'm one who has come to believe that God does have a plan for each of us in our lives ... i also believe that (due to OT accounts) His hand may rest harder on some than on others, as i certainly believe this to be the case with me when i look back on my life ... i didn't have to worry about enlisting in the military (tho i wanted to be an airman) because i was raised JW (they don't do war) by a father whom i loved so much that it took me to age 28 to really rebel against ... When i was 17 i sat before a Selective Service Board as a CO, and after my JW tutored answers to their questions was given an "extreme hardship" status and was deferred from service ... Was this by accident or by His design for my life? ... Was i just lucky to be born into an adamant JW household or did God in fact know exactly where He wanted me to be placed? ... God knows that had it been otherwise i probably would have been drafted, sent to Vietnam and more than likely killed ... In my subsequent dealings with our Lord i believe He saved me from that, toward something He has for me yet to do ...

i think the problem with us is this ... History (even that which has not transpired yet) is His-story ... God knows exactly where everything and everybody is going, and whether we're saved or heathen, pacifist or warrior, or whatever, His plan rides atop all that we do, or don't do, and both facilitates His ultimate plan as time goes marching on ... Now in the midst of entertaining the mind-boggling brevity of the will/plan of God ask yourself what is my-story (which is the my-stery) in His-story, for i totally believe finding this out should be the ultimate quest of every Christians ...

My bottom line is to know His ultimate purpose for my life, tho how He gets me there i haven't the slightest idea, but in the meanwhile i do what only any of us can do and that's to continue to walk in the faith place we're all presently at ... We

can do no more or less ... My final comments have to do only with what many saints call the grey areas like voting and military service ...

i believe that if one's faith presently tells them to vote, or not to vote, then one should follow their faith ... i believe that if one's faith tells them to serve militarily for their country, or not, then one should follow their faith ... i'm a firm believer in the scripture that says "whatsoever is not of faith is sin", and that all that we do, or don't do, should be because of God ...

As during the time of the Civil War i believe America (mainly because the salt has lost its savor) is at the onset of His judgment/correction for continuing down the broad and spacious ... And i thank God that no matter what we think, don't think, agree or disagree on, His plan just keeps on marching on till His will is done on earth as it already is in heaven ...

Men have a tendency to think that our wars have all to do with us but i think there's more than meets the eye with this verse of The Battle Hymn ...

"He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword "

We all know the OT history of how God uses nation against nation, in Ezek. 38 He speaks of putting hooks in the jaws of Magog to lead them as He wants, and in the Revelation it says He gathers the nations to the place of Har-meggedon ... What is our puny "self-will" in comparison to His "divine-will"? ---

The commandment says to the people of God, "Thou shalt not murder", not "kill" ... But alas both are a part of this life, and God knows if anyone was attempting to murder/kill me (and mine) and i could do anything to prevent it including killing them first they'd be dead (if anyone has a problem with this pray for me, for i've said before i have trouble with turning the other cheek) ...

And for anyone to condemn the salvation of a saint who happens to be a soldier, or police, is just straight up ridiculous to me, for the same folk in time of trouble will be quick to seek out either ...

Also as much as many saints don't want to face it God has a long history after the fall of man of either killing folks by His own hand, orchestrating it by the hands of others (even of, by and to His own), or allowing the devil himself as in the case of Job's children, and killing won't cease until after He wipes out all those who will fall for Satan's crap anew after his final release after the 1,000 year reign ... So to me making sure we're right with Jesus, because we don't even know what God has in store for us in how we leave here, is best! ...

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" - Matt. 10:28

Dying in Jesus is but a short agony ...
Dying outside of Him ... Yikes!

GOD KILLS ... - posted by Rahman, on: 2006/12/1 9:15

Bro's Krispy and Ironman ...

i've been told that my thinking is often way to ponderous and just no fun ... :-?

Hey so be it, but this is the way i think on spiritual matters especially ... Donovan McNabb's favorite answer for what he wants out of the game of football is "to just go out there and have fun" ... Ughhhhh ... The dude makes way too much paper for such a flippant answer, and apparently understands nothing about the essence of a game that's supposed to be played by "gridiron gladiators" ... :-P

Anyhow i was thinking about what you guys said in particular about WWII and the Holocaust under the title: Reasoning Together - and man could i identify with it for when we start trying to look at such horrible events from His perspective (ponderous thinking) i believe that's when He begins to reason with us ...

i remember an Elie Weisel interview where he just bemoaned how could he believe in a God that would allow such slaughter of Holocaust Jews ... To tell you the truth his reasoning angered me, and i thought "How could he even fix his mouth to say such a thing, don't he know his own history? ... and "Does he really think that Germany was the first gentile nation God used in killing Jews?" ... All mankind in one way or the other catches hell after the fall, but after God put His name on Israel, Israel caught (as my Mom would say) "pure-t-hell" when they stepped outside God ... Same with us Christians ..

God kills whom He chooses individually or massively, our Bible is full of God killing ... He kills those heathens who are out of His favor ... He kills those who are His chosen if they fall out of His favor (by His own hand or at the hand of others) , the entire history of the Jews proves that ... He's even capable of killing NT saints as in the case of Ananias & Sapphira ... And is capable of allowing even His faithful chosen to be killed by others if it fits into His plan and will bring Him glory .

Now a lot of folk will ask, "How can a loving God do/allow such things?" ... When i'm at loggerheads with a question about God i always conclude that the fault is with me because God is never at fault, so i can only say that apparently our definition of "God's love" is not His definition ...

Could God have done things any differently than He's done thru out human history, so that we wouldn't have killing, murder, wars, and debates about whether saints should or should not fight in them? ... Apparently not ... That's why i thank God that no matter what we think, don't think, agree or dis-agree on, His plan just keeps on marching on" ...

i think about when satan went against God, which was before the fall of man (tho i believe Adam's creation was why satan went against God) ... Before the fall the contest was between God and satan, to me like a one on one cosmic game of 21 ... But after the fall Adam changed that game to a cosmic game of chess with God and satan maneuvering us as chess pieces thruout our history, and so we kill and are killed ... It's just funny to me how we "pieces" somehow think that we're playing our own game/strategy, and that all our human triumphs and failures all have to do with us ...

My Dad told me all the time there's no such thing as man's definition of freedom, that we either are under God's yoke or the devil's ... And as you said bro Krispy;

"As far as the Hitler thing goes, I believe firmly that as incredibly horrible as all that was, God was at work. He was on the throne."

i believe the same thing with this war in Iraq, tho in my spirit i feel this one to be far more instrumental in bringing about what God has in store for us next ... From your post bro Krisp i'm wondering now if WWII's outcome was to move Israel back into a place God wanted them, will (as i suspect) the outcome of what's going on now move His Church (particularly here in America) back to where He wants us?

Time will tell!

Re: GOD KILLS ... - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/12/1 10:30

Quote:

----- if a Christian isn't willing to kill to defend Christianity, why would they kill for anything less?

Interesting logic. I'm just wondering, if we set out to kill all who stand in opposition to Christ, not matter what the cost, should we not begin on the home front - starting in our churches. Judgment begins in the house of God, after all. And, let's admit, the house of God has done much damage to the cause of Christ. Shouldn't we get rid of them first?

Jesus said, He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters." Matthew 12:30 In other words, you can't be on both sides - you can't bring people into the kingdom, and also scatter them (what happens when they don't find the Shepherd). How many of our troops and military leaders are offering their lives to kill for the Lord's sake and to bring souls into God's kingdom? If they have any other motive, then how can they be on the Lord's side?

“If we could kill off all those who stand in opposition to Christ, how many would be left on this planet? And would we then finally be left with a godly Christian community?

Why should I even want to defend Christianity? Look at all the evil it has perpetrated throughout history: Constantine’s Christianity, inquisition, the witch burning, the neo-cons (yes, I just learned a new word) Look at all that bad reputation that Christianity has developed, and still is.

Just some unconventional thoughts...Â...Â...Â...Â...

Re:, on: 2006/12/1 10:36

Interesting to me that Jesus will return with the armies of Heaven... and He will single handedly crush the armies of the world.

Oh, wait... that doesnt fit our version of the peace & love hippie Jesus.

When Jesus returns, He will be a warrior. And He will rule and reign.

Krispy

Re: - posted by adamdawkins, on: 2006/12/1 10:41

Krispy:

amen.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/12/1 10:52

Quote:
-----Interesting to me that Jesus will return with the armies of Heaven... and He will single handedly crush the armies of the world.

And what will He use to do that?

"Kill em all and let God sort em out" ... - posted by Rahman, on: 2006/12/1 11:25

Sis D ... How's one of my favorite people on SI? ... :-D

Sis D you wrote;
"Just some unconventional thoughts"

See this is my main point, your/our/my thoughts aren't unconventional at all ... They're thoughts that are part of ?'s that we puny humans/saints ponder over ad-nauseum and ad-infinitum on such topics as this ... WHILE HIS WILL/PLAN/TRUTH JUST KEEPS MARCHING ON, no matter what conclusions we come to, or whom we judge can't possibly be of Christ, or Christian, by some of the choices made ... While in the meantime some Christians bear arms, others conscientiously object

If God kills, allows killing, and uses human's killing humans to His ultimate end, then it seems to me that not only might some saints be killed, but might kill others people in such duties as soldiering, as is apparently the case ...

Who truly is saved, or not, i leave that up to God, as we all got our own walks to deal with, with all the ambiguities in tow ...

War is as cruel as the expression "Kill em all and let God sort em out" ... i think this is exactly what happens in wars ...

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/12/1 12:18

bro Preach P

with a sword!Rev 19

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/12/1 13:47

Quote:

with a sword!Rev 19

But it comes out of his mouth. I don't think he is going to physically fight.

Re: The sword is poised! - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/12/1 15:28

You guys are right: there is a place for the sword! In fact, Jesus allowed the disciples to have two (though they wanted to keep more).

Just two swords, mind you, no more! Apparently last year the nations of the world, led by the US, china, Russia, and Israel spend more than \$3 trillion on weapons. And yet, if Gideon only needed three hundred common soldiers why do we need more? Do we lack faith? Isn't the sword in our Lord's mouth strong enough?

Fellows, what's so inadequate about the weapons that God has provided (Eph. 6)? Is that only for the flower children and frail wimps like me? Or for those in persecuted countries who have not a hope in the world of conquering their enemy?

Quote:
----- If God kills, allows killing, and uses human's killing humans to His ultimate end, then it seems to me that not only might some saints be killed, but might kill others people in such duties as soldiering, as is apparently the case ...

Rahman, my brother, I agree with you, God does indeed mete out judgment via the sword of man and even saints perish. He is sovereign. However, woe to those through whom judgment is meted out. Jesus said, ultimately "...all who draw the sword will die by the sword." Matt. 26:52 I think that this refers to those who depend on their sword..... \$3 trillion!.... Obviously some people trust in the sword.

Do you believe that judgment could fall our way as a result of our trust in the sword? Did that not happen to Assyria and Babylon (God's instruments of judgment), and later to beloved Israel (70AD) Who are we westerners to think we're better than any of them?

Of course, I'm just a puny human being with a very limited view of the world. But then aren't we all. I think we would do well to remember that our God can knock us out of existence in a breath. Even the most powerful weapon is smaller than a matchstick to him. He can blow it over with a wisp of his breath.

I'd be most concerned about our real enemy: God. "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Heb. 10:31 We have been unfaithful. Let us repent before it's too late! For the sword of divine judgment is poised over us, ready to strike."

(see Jeremiah 13:15-27)

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/12/3 13:06

bro PreachP

Quote:

-----But it comes out of his mouth.

ok, what's your point? :-?

Quote:

-----I don't think he is going to physically fight

how do you figure that?not asking in a spirit of contention but am curious as to how you got to that conclusion. it seems to me that this sword which proceeds from His mouth will smite the remnant of that army of the enemy and kill them so that the birds of the air will come and eat them. seems physical to me. anyhow the bottom line is whether or not Christ will swing His head from side to side with the sword cutting people open, or whether the sword is the word of our Lord and He will speak to the enemy's men and they will burst open is of no consequence, there will be physical blood everywhere. he may fight or not, that's up to Him. i figure since He physically died, He will physically fight, nonetheless we shall see on that day!!!

Re: GOD KILLS ... - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/12/3 13:30

bro Rahman

Quote:

-----i've been told that my thinking is often way to ponderous and just no fun ...

GASP why would anyone ever come to such a conclusion?!?! ;-)

i can identify with this although i must say, people don't say it to me for whatever reason, i can just feel it. i suppose it causes people to boldly go where there would otherwise not have gone before.

Quote:

-----Anyhow i was thinking about what you guys said in particular about WWII and the Holocaust under the title: Reasoning Together - and man could i identify with it for when we start trying to look at such horrible events from His perspective (ponderous thinking) i believe that's when He begins to reason with us ...

bro Rahman, indeed when we seek after our Lord, He does reason with us. All of those things which bro Krispy's statements cause me to ponder over and later our Lord taught me about were unknown to me until that time. indeed our Lord is not slack on pouring out wisdom on those who have none:

1 James chapt 1

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

bles our Lord for that, and also for asking, knocking and seeking also!

Quote:
-----i remember an Elie Weisel interview where he just bemoaned how could he believe in a God that would allow such slaughter of Holocaust Jews ... To tell you the truth his reasoning angered me, and i thought "How could he even fix his mouth to say such a thing, don't he know his own history? ... and "Does he really think that Germany was the first gentile nation God used in killing Jews?" ... All mankind in one way or the other catches hell after the fall, but after God put His name on Israel, Israel caught (as my Mom would say) "pure-t-hell" when they stepped outside God ... Same with us Christians ...

such reasoning has angered me in the past too. however in these last couple of years i have become acutely aware of our Lord's grace and mercy on me...there but for the grace of God go i...bro Rahman i know you can identify with me in that we know were it not for our Lord choosing us, we'd be lost too. now we also ought to know that just as surely as our Lord spared not His chosen nation even under a lesser covenant, whose punishments were meted out without reservation, he will certainly not spare us who are brought in via the Ultimate Covenant by Christ's blood. Grace doesn't give us licence to act the fool, God will not hesitate to bring the heat. See Hebrews 2 and Hebrews 10 and 1 Peter chapt 1.

Quote:
-----My Dad told me all the time there's no such thing as man's definition of freedom, that we either are under God's yoke or the devil's ..
.

indeed, our Lord revealed that to me as i was writing back to bro Krispy. "freedom" bought by the blood of men requires the blood of men to maintain it so it is going from 1 bondage to another. however Freedom bought by Christ's blood needs no such input and is instead sustained by Christ Himself, no wonder He said His yoke was easy and His burden was light.

Re: The sword - posted by pastorfrin, on: 2006/12/3 14:38

Very well said sister Diane,
Rev. 13:7-10

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/12/3 14:45

Sis Diane
you said

Quote:
-----Just two swords, mind you, no more! Apparently last year the nations of the world, led by the US, china, Russia, and Israel spend more than \$3 trillion on weapons. And yet, if Gideon only needed three hundred common soldiers why do we need more? Do we lack faith? Isn't the sword in our Lord's mouth strong enough?

our spending on defense speaks to me of the bondage in which we're in. ie the things bought of the blood of men need to be maintained by the blood of men, so we have no freedom outside of Christ. however God sets up governments to maintain order (romans 13) and so this spending could i guess be an expression of a lack of faith but nonetheless our Lord's plan marches on. Really though i think this is a symptom of a much greater issue, the dire need for the Saviour. we rely on ourselves because we have no other saviour we know of. the world needs Jesus.

Quote:
-----Do you believe that judgment could fall our way as a result of our trust in the sword? Did that not happen to Assyria and Babylon (God's instruments of judgment), and later to beloved Israel (70AD) Who are we westerners to think we're better than any of them?

i believe so sis. in fact as i firmly believe our Lord showed me in some prophetic words (see prophetic credentials 3 in the lounge) one of the things which shall befall our nation is collapse of the military also. The collapse of the economy, government, rule of law and the military will put us in a place where we have to trust and seek our Lord for all. ultimately it will bring forth and make plain the folly of trusting in anyone/thing else but Him.

Quote:
-----I'd be most concerned about our real enemy: God. "It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Heb. 10:31 We have been unfaithful. Let us repent before it's too late! For the sword of divine judgment is poised over us, ready to strike."

oh AMEN sis. our Lord's hand is raised and He will strike, Judgment begins at the house of God. where some see rapture without trial by fire, i see many disappointed folk...in the revelation before any of the tribulation begins, the 7 Churches receive letters telling them what they ought to do, 5 of them had reprimands and things they had to correct. the vast majority of us have blood in our skirts and unless it is cleansed, nobody's getting raptured anywhere. i see judgment hitting us the Church first, then repentance, then revival and harvest and THEN rapture.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/12/7 19:44

Quote:

IRONMAN wrote:
bro PreachP

Quote:
-----But it comes out of his mouth.

ok, what's your point? :-?

Quote:
-----I don't think he is going to physically fight

how do you figure that?not asking in a spirit of contention but am curious as to how you got to that conclusion. it seems to me that this sword which proceeds from His mouth will smite the remnant of that army of the enemy and kill them so that the birds of the air will come and eat them. seems physical to me. anyhow the bottom line is whether or not Christ will swing His head from side to side with the sword cutting people open, or whether the sword is the word of our Lord and He will speak to the enemy's men and they will burst open is of no consequence, there will be physical blood everywhere. he may fight or not, that's up to Him. i figure since He physically died, He will physically fight, nonetheless we shall see on that day!!!

Oh! Sorry, I forgot all about this thread. My point was that it comes from His mouth. In other words He is going to speak the Word. Some people use that as a justification to "Christianly" (excuse me making up words :-D) fight.

I've also heard some say that "David killed many people but the only one God called murder was Uriah." My question would be, "What was the difference between David killing Goliath for example, and Uriah?" There surely was a difference.

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/12/7 19:58

Quote:

-----What was the difference between David killing, Goliath...and Uriah

I thought God killed Goliath.
Diane

Re: this should be of interest, on: 2006/12/8 14:12

FAITH IN ACTION

Christian Soldier Returns to Front Lines Unarmed
By Will Braun, Editor, Geez magazine www.geezmagazine.org

On the phone, in between his duties at Schofield Army Barracks in Hawaii, Sergeant Logan Laituri tells me he wants to "live radically for Christ." Normally I stumble over that sort of fervor — couched, as it is, in terms I would usually consider vague and cliché — but if following Jesus means telling your captain that 9/11 didn't absolve you of the need to love your enemies, I'll keep listening.

Laituri came to Jesus, as they say, at a dramatic time in his life. He was back from 14 months in Iraq as a front-liner in the U.S. Army, and scheduled to return. It was spring, 2005.

His new girlfriend's family welcomed him with a Christian love so genuine he couldn't resist. He ended up in a New Testament history class at a local college, and was also faced with the incisive questions from his philosophical brother and roommate. Soon he found himself immersed in scripture, filled with the spirit and brimming with passion.

The 25-year-old Laituri grew up the son of an agnostic Vietnam Vet in Orange County, California. In 2000, he joined the Army, hoping for education and travel. After a first term, he re-enlisted for an assignment in Hawaii, looking forward to some good surf. Throughout his six years in the military, Laituri had identified as Christian. "I had all the stickers and stuff," he says of his earlier faith, but that was about the extent of it.

His conversion brought change. He started heeding his college instructor's directive to let the Bible shape his opinions, rather than his opinions shaping it. Again, I'd dismiss this as tired religio-garble, if he weren't talking about his "place in geo-politics" at the same time.

"I realized I had to figure out what it meant to me to be a soldier," he says. "How do I act in my particular job and still follow the great commandment to love your neighbor as yourself? Ya know, how can I do that when I'm asked to basically lay waste to kinda large scale areas?"

- - -

"We do know preaches peace," says Major Norman W. Jones, an Army Chaplain whom Laituri consulted at one point, "but it did not mean was against a nation going to war." Major Jones — whose tone is open and entirely gracious — tell s me the "sticky point is where says 'do not kill,'" and that's where Just War theory comes in. Though Jones sees faith a nd military service as compatible, he says he would have sympathy for a soldier whose faith convictions led to the concl usion that the U.S. war in Iraq is not just. "I'm here to support the soldier," he says, convincingly. Jones, who studied at Dallas Theological Seminary, points to the Biblical command to obey the government as the bottom line, though he adds that obedience to God trumps duty to one's nation.

Laituri — who punctuates conversation both with Bible verses and mini-rants about the sins of nationalistic ego — also l ooks to the good book as the source of "absolute truth," though it leads him in a different direction. When it says love yo ur enemies, he says he "can't kill someone in love."

As his infantry company started gearing up for a return to Iraq, Laituri was busy asking people about faith, war, and the decisions he faced. In response, he got a lot of Just War theory, and rationalization for the the necessity of violence. Peo ple told him it was morally wrong to do nothing about the nation's enemies. One commander, who is also a Baptist preac her, assured Laituri that since he was a Christian, Jesus had died for all his sins, and therefore he was already forgiven f

or whatever he would do on the battlefield.

The people who had welcomed him to the faith did not welcome his questioning of military morality. His then-girlfriend's father told Laituri he was part of God's hand in bringing judgement to Muslim extremists. The views he heard didn't fit with the convictions he felt, and his company was set to leave for a training session in California before heading back to Iraq.

Logan Laituri sat in the bus, he and his colleagues headed to Honolulu airport for their flight to California. It was April 20, 9:40 in the morning. Headphones on, local Christian band Olivia playing a song called "Heaven," and his thoughts on what in the world to do about his beliefs. Then, for a moment, heaven itself seemed to open.

"I felt like somebody was showing me something," he says of the "short video clip" from above that followed.

"I saw myself in the Middle East, I'm pretty sure it was Iraq," he says, describing the emotionally vivid experience. "What struck me were two things: number one, that I did not have a weapon." The second thing was a feeling of "confidence;" the confidence that he was "doing what was right."

It was his calling. He would go to Iraq, but without a weapon. At first he thought he might be able to do that as a non-combatative member of his company. So after prayer and consideration, he applied for Conscientious Objector (CO) status, as per the Army regulation allowing a soldier to request discharge for reasons of conscience, as long as military officials deem the applicant "sincere" at the end of the stipulated process. He was ready to go to prison if need be, which, in today's for-us-or-against-us climate is a real possibility for CO applicants. Major Jones says the majority of CO applications are denied.

At that point Laituri was not actually trying to leave the Army, because he saw the human anguish within military ranks, and didn't think it was Christ-like to just abandon people in need. He just wanted to have the right to refuse to bear arms.

But the military is not going to send someone to war without a weapon, and, as it turns out, it may not treat you very well if you make such a request. With re-deployment looming, Laituri's superiors dragged their feet on the CO process, missing stipulated procedural deadlines without explanation.

Laituri talks of theological discussions with commanders, hostile rumors, and bureaucratic tangles. One superior berated him, saying his actions benefitted the enemies of America — an insult Laituri took as affirmation, given Jesus' invitation to love the enemy.

Military command seemed determined to stall his CO application, but they didn't want him in the battlefield either. Eventually, with his term of service drawing to a close, he was re-assigned to a detachment that would not deploy overseas. He surrendered the CO process in favor of simply letting his term of service expire.

As of October 19, Laituri became a private citizen.

- - -

Major Jones says debate about the morality of war seldom comes up in his work, and CO applications are rare. However, according to the United Church Observer, 8,000 members of the U.S. military have deserted since the Iraq war began. During World War II, nearly 43,000 Americans refused to fight for reasons of conscience, and during the Vietnam War 170,000 COs were formally recognized. In addition, 25,000 to 30,000 so-called draft dodgers fled to Canada in the Vietnam era.

Currently there are about 175 U.S. military "deserters" living illegally in Canada, hoping to escape repercussions back home. If Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board starts sending them back to the U.S., Canadian churches will have to decide whether or not to grant them sanctuary - a custom whereby churches allow certain failed refugee claimants to live on church premises where law enforcement officials are hesitant to forcibly enter to arrest someone.

Logan Laituri doesn't have to worry about fleeing his homeland now that he is out of the Army, but he does have his eyes on distant lands. He feels called to be a missionary to the Middle East. So, last Sunday he left for Israel/Palestine on a delegation with Christian Peacemaker Teams, the violence-reduction organization now famous for the four of their members abducted in Baghdad a year ago.

Not sure what someone who sounds like a cross between Noam Chomsky and an evangelical youth pastor means by "missionary," I asked what message he wants to bring to the Middle East.

"Jesus loves you. I love you," he says, proclaiming his desire to "radiate love" even if he doesn't convert a single person.

So off he goes, back to the front lines, disarmed and disarming, an "attitude of active compassion" at the ready. With the courage of a warrior and the love of God, he's living radically for Christ.

Will Braun is editor of Geez magazine (www.geezmagazine.org). A version of this article appears in the current print edition of Geez. For more, see www.cpt.org and Laituri's blog: www.xanga.com/courageouscoward. Laituri can be reached at courageouscoward@gmail.com. Braun can be reached at editor@geezmagazine.org.

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/12/9 21:45

bro Preach P

oh ok i see what you mean about fighting. there is a time for all things and we can see that for some men and women of God there indeed was a time to kill. certainly we know that it was God who killed Goliath because there is no way that any man could hurl a stone with such force and accuracy. we also see the same thing with samson, who kills 1000 philistines with a jawbone of an ass? with Uriah we know david was trying to cover up his crime so that was murder therein is the difference. i suppose the murder of uriah had something to do with david not being allowed to build the temple...at any rate our Lord is coming back and there will some butt-kicking this time...

Re: War! don't believe that a Christian can follow the two greatest commandments while engaged in wa - posted by Sta

I don't believe that a Christian can follow the two greatest commandments while engaged in war.

I think that an understanding of the two kingdoms doctrine is essential to understanding nonresistance. Jesus told Pilate "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my Kingdom not from hence"

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/12/28 17:11

bro Stan

Quote:

-----I don't believe that a Christian can follow the two greatest commandments while engaged in war.

well i'm not so sure. on the one hand we have to be subject to the rulers of our respective nations and the laws thereof in as much as they don't conflict with God's laws. however war is necessary and serves some purpose in the grand plan of God for all things so some of us have to play that role. in the end however all the warring i believe will be a demonstration to us that without Him, there can be no real peace at all, no system of government, democracy or otherwise which doesn't have Him at the centre can function for long before it collapses.

the bottom line is the world needs a Saviour...

This is real good to find Bible guidelines - posted by DoulosQuinn, on: 2006/12/29 0:37

I appreciate those that are burdened to bear the governments sword.

good thread

Re: This is real good to find Bible guidelines - posted by rookie (), on: 2006/12/29 1:02

The fruit of Satan produces war.

In Christ
Jeff

Re:, on: 2006/12/29 11:06

Got to agree with Krispy:

" Bad things happen when good people do nothing.
Semper Fi.
Krispy "

God can make all things work for good though the things may not be of His perfect will.

I think ww 1 and 11 would not have come about if the Nations had been more Godly and acted on Gen 12:3 regarding being blessed or cursed according to how they treated the Jews- the Apple of His eye. Even though they were and still are blind to the Messiah our saviour and the active covenant being still in effect.

I feel we are at the crossroads of 1939 in this day again and the so called ' peace now' crowd are Biblically deluded to think they can force Israel to give up her God given lands and put her people in danger without serious repercussions to themselves and their liberal humanist 'leaders' who ignore Gen 12:3 .

My thanks go out to all who sacrifice to protect the free world and especially those Christians who realise that only Christ can make us free and follow their duty to their nation against the many terror blocs such as the Palestinians and Islam proponents.

.02

jj

Re: - posted by jlosinski, on: 2006/12/30 3:26

I suppose as the original poster of this thread, I should put in another two cents or so.

As individuals, as Christians, we have a duty to the new covenant brought by Christ, and our faith/action which He explicitly laid out in the sermon on the mount. This is what the military would call a "code of conduct". As being an active participant in this current war in Iraq Feb 2003-Sept 2003 I cannot reconcile the words of Matthew 5 and the war in Iraq, they are mutually exclusive to me, I could be wrong, please let me know.

To be more precise, I should clarify that "war" is a very general term that tends to overlook the individual killings , the actions in a 4 hr firefight are more precise. To see and feel the loss of life is astounding, and I can say without apology that you learn the sanctity of life vs. whatever cause you are fighting for the first time it gets passed down the line that one of your fellow Marines has been killed.

My question is this; Can you love your neighbor as yourself, if that neighbor is a stranger that you're shooting,ect...? I am reminded of Luke 10:27-29

God bless us, Joe

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2006/12/30 14:57

bro Jlosinski

Quote:

-----I suppose as the original poster of this thread, I should put in another two cents or so.

DUH!!! :-P

Quote:
-----As individuals, as Christians, we have a duty to the new covenant brought by Christ, and our faith/action which He explicitly laid out in the sermon on the mount. This is what the military would call a "code of conduct". As being an active participant in this current war in Iraq Feb 2003-Sept 2003 I cannot reconcile the words of Matthew 5 and the war in Iraq, they are mutually exclusive to me, I could be wrong, please let me know.

you know bro this is something we ought to consider. now as a soldier you do indeed have a duty to fulfil but if it somehow causes discomfort in your spirit, seek God on what you ought to do. perhaps it may be the branch of the military could reassure you or something. the word in Romans 13 speaks to governments and their responsibilities and those in the armed services who are appointed to bear the sword. it seems to me that there is a necessity for war in God's plan and some of us have to play that role.

Quote:
-----To be more precise, I should clarify that "war" is a very general term that tends to overlook the individual killings, the actions in a 4 hr firefight are more precise. To see and feel the loss of life is astounding, and I can say without apology that you learn the sanctity of life vs. whatever cause you are fighting for the first time it gets passed down the line that one of your fellow Marines has been killed.

this is something very few of us can identify with, the loss of someone close to you in an engagement. all of a sudden it hits you in the face and you're forced to ask "is this worth it?"
to me by virtue of the situation being as it is (and this applies to all things) says that God has deemed it necessary to the ultimate purpose of creation as outlined in Ephesians 3. His perspective is infinitely greater since He formulated the whole plan and is seeing that it is executed.

Quote:
-----My question is this; Can you love your neighbor as yourself, if that neighbor is a stranger that you're shooting, ect...? I am reminded of Luke 10:27-29

this is an excellent question bro. as i went to read that passage, Christ goes on to talk about the good samaritan. if you remember, Judeans, and Samaritans are both Israelites, separated from the time when the kingdom was torn in 2 after Solomon went crazy with those women. they hated each other. the man who got beat up was judean yet his brethren didn't help him, instead a samaritan had compassion on him. it is easy to love a neighbour we like...not so easy to love one we are at war with it. perhaps the way to love someone you're shooting at is to spread the gospel among his brethren. what do you think?

Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2007/1/1 14:57

Quote:
-----I feel we are at the crossroads of 1939 in this day again and the so called 'peace now' crowd are Biblically deluded to think they can force Israel to give up her God given lands and put her people in danger without serious repercussions to themselves and their liberal humanist 'leaders' who ignore Gen 12:3 .

What if God is again judging Israel?

Are they a faithful nation or a secular nation?

In Christ
Jeff

Re: - posted by IRONMAN (), on: 2007/1/1 16:53

bro Jeff

Quote:

-----What if God is again judging Israel?

Are they a faithful nation or a secular nation?

bro Jeff this is an interesting question...and you quoted what bro JohnJames said about Gen 12.

1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

our Lord just revealed something to me about this which i would like to share. now this seems a spiritual no-brainer but let us consider this.

Blindly supporting Israel with the expectation for any kind of gain is not what God had in mind here at all. i feel many Evangelical Christians are misguided concerning that very issue. Abram was blessed of God because he obeyed God and those who were blessed through him were blessed because they were also obedient to God. We can't support Israel in whatever she does if it is in disobedience to God because then instead of being blessed, we too will reap the curse of that. If we support Israel in her disobedience how is that helping her? Israel needs to repent and come to Christ just as we do, just as the world does also.

what if this is judgment on Israel? if we don't let her know and call her to repent we too will perish...we know the truth about Messiah yet we support Israel in every way except giving her the gospel as we do others...to be a Jew is not enough, one must be saved by Christ or there will be hell to pay.

i fear the state of Israel as she stands now must first be undone, abased, destroyed before she can be raised to what she ought to be, the Apple of the Father's Eye. She is no different now than in the days of old with her harlotry, the only medicine is judgement. this reminds me of what Art Katz was talking about in the sermon series on Ezekiel, prophet of resurrection.

we seem to be blindly supporting an apostate nation like Egypt did when Babylon threatened. well we know what happened after that, Jerusalem was taken and Egypt was also destroyed...

God help us!AMEN