

**Deuteronomy 20 - 23:8**  
**Warfare & Murder**  
**God's Legal System Part 2**  
**Lesson 6**

War was to become a very real part of Israel's national identity; therefore God chose to regulate it by law. When conducted properly, warfare in ancient Israel was far more humane than war conducted by their neighbors. Graphic evidence about the horror of ancient warfare is found on reliefs of battles which monarchs commissioned to decorate the walls of their temples or palaces. The most important relief for understanding biblical warfare is that which Sennacherib, king of Assyria, had carved into the main hall of his palace. It depicted the siege of the Judean city of Lachish in 701 bc. In warfare, enemy soldiers were dismembered or impaled, cities were burned and the countryside looted and devastated by advancing troops.

**Going to War - Chapter 20**

1. When Israel was about to go to war, who gave the "pep" talk? (vs. 1-4)
  
2. Several times their emotional state was mentioned, what was it not to be and why? (vs. 1-4)
  
3. How does God do that? (Zechariah 4:6)
  
4. There were four "exemptions" by which one was given a dismissal from the army. What were these legal exemptions and the comments on them. (vs. 5-9)
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5. What was to be their first strategy? (vs. 10, 11)
  
  
6. What was the second phase if the first did not work? (vs. 12-15)

7. There was an exception to God's warfare plan. Who was exempt and what was Israel to do? (vs. 16, 17)
  - Why? (vs. 18) Please comment
8. We have seen how God is a God of order & organization. God knew in the heat of battle, the warriors may not be thinking long term, what was His warning and why? (vs. 19, 20)

### **Murder of innocent people & marrying captive women - Chapter 21**

9. God values life above all else, and in the case of an unsolved murder, restitution still had to be made. Over and over we see how God required "due diligence" be made on the part of the judges or priests to determine the matter and declare innocence or administer the punishment. What does God say is required if a man is found murdered but no one saw it? (vs. 1-9)
10. The question of slaves always comes up with God's covenant having so much about treatment of slaves. What was God's provision and protection for women taken as captives? (vs. 10 - 14)
11. God also dealt with children. What was God's protection for this firstborn son? (vs. 15-17)
  - What about a rebellious son? (18-21)
  - Why do you think God addressed these two issues?

**Various Laws - Chapter 22**

12. From chapter 21:22 through chapter 22:12, choose a law that stands out to you and comment.

13. The remaining verses of chapter 22 deal with the protection of women. God's plan was for one man and one woman to become one flesh for life. He also expected them to be "virgins". What was to be done if a woman was falsely accused of not being a virgin? (vs. 13-19)

- What if she was found to not be a virgin? (vs. 20-21)

As we also learned in the summer bible study, when one became engaged, they were considered legally married. The "husband" was to return to his father's home and prepare a place for his bride before he could come and take her as his own. During that waiting period, the bride and groom were to prepare for their wedding day. In light of this information as well as God's law, please comment on the following verse: Matt. 1: 18 *"Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly."*

14. What about adultery? (vs. 22)

15. And rape? (vs. 23 - 29)

**Exclusion from the Assembly - Chapter 23: 1-8**

16. For God, it was a short step from sexual purity to the types of purity which qualified an ancient Israelite to enter the assembly of the Lord. The phrase “assembly of the Lord” does not refer to membership in the community of Israel but to participation in the formal gathering of God’s people for festivals and public worship. In Leviticus 21 several physical handicaps were listed which would disqualify a man from participating in public worship. What “deformity” does He address in verse 1?
17. Why was that important? (Genesis 17: 9-14)
18. Who else was forbidden to participate in worship?
- Vs. 2:
  
  
  - Vs. 3 - 6
19. Why were the Edomites allowed to enter? (vs. 7-8)
20. From Genesis 25:24 - 26 how were the Edomites brothers of the Israelites? (Edom comes from the word Esau)