

I Thessalonians

Class #122 – SUN AM1 - 1/8/2006

The Divine Instructions for Warfare

Deuteronomy 20:1-17

- (1) "When you go out to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots *and* people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, is with you.
- (2) "When you are approaching the battle, the priest shall come near and speak to the people.
- (3) "He shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel, you are approaching the battle against your enemies today. Do not be fainthearted. Do not be afraid, or panic, or tremble before them,
- (4) for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'

Note in vs. 5-8 those who are exempt from war –

- The man with a new house, not yet dedicated
- The man who has started a business
- The man engaged to be married
- The cowardly man

All represent a risk to fellow soldiers.

The distractions of each cause them to be liabilities in battle.

- (5) "The officers also shall speak to the people, saying, '**Who is the man that has built a new house and has not dedicated it?** Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would dedicate it.
- (6) '**Who is the man that has planted a vineyard and has not begun to use its fruit?** Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would begin to use its fruit.
- (7) '**And who is the man that is engaged to a woman and has not married her?** Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would marry her.'
- (8) "Then the officers shall speak further to the people and say, '**Who is the man that is afraid and fainthearted?** Let him depart and return to his house, so that he might not make his brothers' hearts melt like his heart.'

Note in vs. 9 the importance of military leadership.

- (9) "When the officers have finished speaking to the people, they shall appoint commanders of armies at the head of the people.

Note the terms of engagement –

- Vs. 10 offer peace
- Vs. 11 peace means unconditional surrender and slavery
- Vs. 12-17 if peace terms are not accepted then war is commanded

- (10) "When you approach a city to fight against it, you shall offer it terms of peace.
- (11) "If it agrees to make peace with you and opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall become your forced labor and shall serve you.
- (12) "However, if it does not make peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it.

Note in vs. 13 who gives the victory!

- (13) "When **the LORD your God gives** it into your hand, you shall strike all the men in it with the edge of the sword.

Handling of the enemy

- Certain cities called for sparing of women, children and animals (vs. 14)
- Other named enemies required complete destruction including “anything that breathes” (vs. 16-17)

- (14) "Only the women and the children and the animals and all that is in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as booty for yourself; and you shall use the spoil of your enemies which the LORD your God has given you.
- (15) "Thus you shall do to all the cities that are very far from you, which are not of the cities of these nations nearby.
- (16) "Only in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, you shall not leave alive anything that breathes.
- (17) "But you shall utterly destroy them, the Hittite and the Amorite, the Canaanite and the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, as the LORD your God has commanded you,

Joshua 6:1-15 – General instructions for the battle of Jericho

- (1) Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in.
- (2) The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king *and* the valiant warriors.
- (3) "You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days.
- (4) "Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.
- (5) "It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead."
- (6) So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the Ark of the Covenant, and let seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD."
- (7) Then he said to the people, "Go forward, and march around the city, and let the armed men go on before the ark of the LORD."
- (8) And it was so, that when Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward and blew the trumpets; and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.
- (9) The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while they continued to blow the trumpets.
- (10) But Joshua commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout nor let your voice be heard nor let a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I tell you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout!"
- (11) So he had the ark of the LORD taken around the city, circling *it* once; then they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.
- (12) Now Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.
- (13) The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew the trumpets; and the armed men went before them and the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while they continued to blow the trumpets.
- (14) Thus the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp; they did so for six days.
- (15) Then on the seventh day they rose early at the dawning of the day and marched around the city in the same manner seven times; only on that day they marched around the city seven times.

Note in vs. 16 who gives the victory

(16) At the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout! **For the LORD has given you the city.**

Note the application of the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen12:1-3) by Rahab the harlot – she blessed Israel by offering protection and she in turn is blessed.

(17) "The city shall be under the ban, it and all that is in it belongs to the LORD; only Rahab the harlot and all who are with her in the house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.

Remember charge for 2006 - Live your life in light of your eternal destiny. Store up treasures by walking in those good works that God prepared for you in eternity past that are to be seized in time. Malleability must precede opportunities - is your mindset "What will you have me do Lord"?

Class slides



All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.