

Should A Christian Fight?

Wars and rumours of wars are increasing and affecting you and your family more and more.

The questions are should we as Christians bear arms?

Should we come under the military authority in a non-combatant capacity?

This article addresses these and similar questions directly from the Creator God's Word, the Christian Bible.

Christian men have been sentenced to prison terms because of their sincere convictions about war.

There may be young men in your family who will **not** be exempt.

Such sentences can usually be avoided, if the correct knowledge is available and the young men act decisively on that knowledge.

You need to know the answer to these questions now so that you and your family may act correctly in a true Christian manner.

What is the cause of war –

Human history is a chronicle of war, it seems that every nation is either preparing for war, in war, or recovering from a war.

Humanity has **not** yet learned that wars have never solved quarrels or problems between nations or families.

Wars only bring misery, pain, death and destruction.

Wars are caused by hate, evil, wrath and envy.

These are all "*works of uncontrolled human nature.*"

Galatians 5:17-21 [New King James] *"For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."*

These are exactly opposite to the character of a true Christian who is led by the Holy Spirit, **[Galatians 5:22-25]**.

In spite of all the wars that humanity has fought down through the generations, **none** have brought peace.

If war did bring peace, then there would never be another war!

Every war between human nations or families is utterly wasteful and useless.

What is the real cause of war? –

Politicians and students of international relations have put forward a multitude of ideas, but most are totally wrong.

Only the Creator of humanity, the Creator God, knows the real answer to this question.

James 4:1-2 [New King James] *“Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.”*

Here is the reason why all of humanity continually suffers the terrible scourge of war.

Humans are never satisfied with what they have, they crave for more.

Humans lust after what they see that others have, **not** content with what they have produced with the talents and abilities that God has given them.

This is in direct violation of the Creator God’s command, [**Exodus 20:17**], not to lust after what others have.

Extend this to the wicked rulers of nations and the wars they lead the people they ruler over to fight.

1 Peter 2:11-12 [New King James] *“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honourable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”*

Lust is an exact opposite to Christian love, which every Christian must express by example and actions, [**Matthew 5:13-16**].

True Christians are not part of this world –

True Christians are ambassadors of the Jesus Christ, [2 Corinthians 5:20] and pilgrims in this world.

Hebrews 11:13-16 [New King James] *“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”*

Every true Christian is looking for a new homeland that will come to this earth at the time of Jesus Christ’s Second Coming, at this moment with Jesus Christ it’s king in heaven, hence a “heavenly country.”

True Christians are **not** part of this world’s system.

John 17:6-19 [New King James] *“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are*

Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.”

Jesus Christ in His prayer just before He became our Saviour by sacrificing His life on the cross, gives us a clear picture of a true Christian’s position in this world.

“Sanctify” is translated from the Greek word “*hagiazō*” meaning to consecrate or set apart for a special reason or task.

What sets a true Christian apart from this world’s society is God’s Word, the Christian Bible, which they look upon as the source of all that is true, [John 17:17].

If we as true Christians participate in the wars of this world we are participating in the politics of this worldly system, and as such we are directly rebelling against God’s government.

James 4:4 [Amplified Bible] *“You are like unfaithful wives, having illicit love affairs with the world, and breaking your marriage vow to God! [Revelation 19:6-9] “Do you not know that being the world’s friend is being God’s enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God.”*

1 John 2:15-17 [New King James] *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”*

We are forbidden to become a part of the world, to engage in its conflicts, its goals which are contrary to those of our Creator God.

The true Christian Church is different –

Most of the religions of this world not only approve and condone war, but some have caused wars by their lusts for power over all people.

The so-called “*holy wars*” of human religions have been and still are among the most bloody, and yet they have **not** and are **not** bringing peace.

They are only bringing pain, physical and spiritual enslavement.

To further their own desires and ideas, some “*Christian*” churches go to the Old Testament to excuse their beliefs or activities in war.

Where it suits their own purpose, such churches, wrest and twist the Old Testament scriptures to justify their war-like actions.

One modern clergyman even stated, “*I believe the only people that should go out and do the fighting are Christians.*”

Such a belief is **not** based on God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

God has **not** taught His true Church to participate in the wars and politics of humans.

God's true Church is different, composed of the "*called out ones*," **not** part of this world, but part of the Kingdom of God, who will rule this world after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as "*King of kings and Lord of lords*," [**Revelation 19:11-16**].

This is the world tomorrow that every true Christian is looking for and longing for.

We must **not** use human reason to decide on these vital questions of human conflict and allegiance.

As we have already mentioned, all true Christians are ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 [New King James] "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*"

True Christians are the Creator God's representatives here on earth.

As ambassadors of a heavenly kingdom, we **cannot** enter into the politics or the wars of earthly kingdoms.

Ambassadors dwelling in foreign countries are **not** permitted to enter the armies or politics of that country.

Philippians 3:20-21 [New King James] "*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*"

Our spiritual citizenship is in heaven as servants of Jesus Christ.

We await for a heavenly kingdom to come to earth at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 [New King James] "*You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*"

As Christians we are soldiers for a heavenly kingdom whose king is Jesus Christ, if we take part in the politics and wars of another kingdom we would be violating our allegiance to our own kingdom and committing treason, which earns the death sentence.

You may ask, "*ought not we help to defend our country when attacked, when it is the lust of an aggressor nation which caused it?*"

The answer is that a true Christian **cannot**, for they would lose their citizenship in God's Kingdom if they enter the armed forces of any nation of this world.

We need to decide here and now where we want our citizenship!

Do we wish to inherit an incorruptible kingdom which will not fade away, [**1 Peter 1:4**]?

Or do we inherit one of the kingdoms of this world, all of which are under the spiritual and physical rule of Satan, [**2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:9**] whose rule will end at the return of Jesus Christ, [**Revelation 20:1-3, 10**].

Obey the Creator God –

God is supreme Ruler, above all government in heaven or on earth.

It is only by God's permission that any rule of humans and human government is permitted.

Since He is above all, we must obey Him whenever there is conflict between the laws set up by humans and the laws that are expounded in His Word, the Christian Bible.

Acts 5:29 [New King James] *“But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’”*

We must obey God first and foremost.

A Christian is instructed to be subject to human rulers and authorities and to be ready at all times to do God's works, [**Titus 3:1-2**].

Yet we can **only** obey human authorities in things that are **not** in direct conflict with the laws of God.

We must be willing to submit to the judgement and punishment when we cannot obey human God-defying laws and we must take it patiently.

As representatives and citizens of God's Kingdom and as ambassadors to a foreign country, we should abide by the regulations and rules of the country where we are guests.

Yet we **cannot** take part in that country's government or its wars with other nations.

All civil rulers, even though they are sometimes unjust, are permitted by the Creator God.

Romans 13:1-7 [New King James] *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honour to whom honour.”*

We are to show respect to those whom God has allowed to be in human authority, and be obedient in paying taxes.

Since we are as true Christians ambassadors for the Kingdom of God, we relinquish the right to vote or take part in the politics or the government of this world.

Let me remind you again, though we live in the world, we are **not** to be part of this world, [**John 17:14-16**].

John 18:36 [New King James] *“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’”*

Jesus Christ's Kingdom is **not** of this world.

The governments of this world are under the sway of Satan, [**2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19**] and are in opposition to the Creator God.

Jesus Christ acknowledged that Satan as yet ruled this world, [**Matthew 4:8-9**] by **not** telling Satan that the world's kingdoms were **not** his to offer.

Daniel 4:17 [New King James] *“This decision is by the decree of the watchers, and the sentence by the word of the holy ones, in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men.”*

It is God who ultimately sets government officials in office.

John 19:11 [New King James] *“Jesus answered, ‘You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.’”*

Jesus Christ even told Pilate this fact which must have stunned him so much that he sought to free Jesus Christ, combined with what Jesus Christ had also told him, [**John 18:36-38**].

Romans 13:1 [New King James] *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”*

The Creator God is the final authority to determine who should govern.

It is **not** our duty to try and remove leaders, either by war or by voting in a democracy.

Luke 12:13-15 [New King James] *“Then one from the crowd said to Him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’ But He said to him, ‘Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?’ And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’”*

Jesus Christ refused to get involved in civil judgements.

Christians as ambassadors do **not** get involved in the politics of the judicial or government systems of other nations.

When Jesus Christ returns to the earth at His Second Coming, all true Christians will participate in human government.

Daniel 7:27 [New King James] *“Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”*

A new government where all who are part of it will be directly appointed by Jesus Christ, [**Luke 19:12-19**].

1 Corinthians 6:1-4 [New King James] *“Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?”*

We are to learn correct and true judgement within the Christian fellowship, using God's Word, the Christian Bible, as the standard by which we judge, [**Revelation 20:11-13**].

But for now, we are to be separate, [**2 Corinthians 6:14-18**].

True Christian warfare –

1 Timothy 6:11-12 [New King James] *“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*

The only fight that a Christian is involved in is the “good” fight of faith, which is the pursuit of godlike character, [verse 11].

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 [New King James] *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”*

This warfare takes place in the mind and spirit in every human being, where every wrong thought must be brought into captivity and subjection.

We have to rule our thoughts, **not** allow them to rule us.

Ephesians 6:10-18 [New King James] *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints,”*

This armour that God provides is **not** physical, consisting of military weapons made by humans, but spiritual weapons that are available to every true Christian.

Note the word “*stand*,” what is listed are all defensive weapons except the “*sword*” which is the Word of God, this is both defensive and used to subdue the enemy Satan, using the promises that God makes in His Word, the Christian Bible.

Again we see our fight is not against other human beings, [verse 12] but against spiritual powers and all who are influenced by these evil beings.

Holding all this defensive armour in place is the Truth, God’s Word [**John 17:7**] Jesus Christ [**John 14:6**] and the Christian Bible.

This will set us free from the deceptions of Satan, who is a liar [**John 8:44**] and blinds humans from the good news that Jesus Christ brought from God the Father [**2 Corinthians 4:4**].

This waist band of truth holds all the armour in place, especially the “*breastplate of righteousness*,” the righteousness that is God’s response to our accepting in faith the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, [**Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24**].

Preparation for evangelism is essential if we are **not** to be walking bare footed, [**Isaiah 52:7**].

Our willingness to go wherever Jesus Christ wants us to go with His Message from the God the Father is an essential part of our being a soldier of Jesus Christ.

The Roman armour on which Paul was using in this powerful illustration was **only** protective from in front of the soldier and above as far as the shield was concerned.

If a soldier was **not** facing the enemy, he was without any defence.

The shield of faith could protect the soldier from attack on front and both sides as well as above.

The helmet of salvation protected our mind from Satan's deceptions as we had faith in God's promises.

The sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God is two-edged, [Hebrews 4:12].

Note it is used to discern the thoughts and intentions of ourselves and other people, including Satan and his demons, along with his human ministers, [2 Corinthians 11:14-15].

All of this armour and the preparation of putting it on every day is of no use unless the soldier is in contact with "headquarters" constantly for all he does to be co-ordinated by the Creator God through prayer [verse 18].

Note something else that is important to the life of a soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 [New King James] *"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the **affairs of this life**, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."*

The life of a soldier is often very hard to endure, so is that of a true persecuted Christian.

But notice also that a soldier of Jesus Christ does **not** get involved in "affairs of this life," referring to the politics and human government.

A soldier is foremost loyal to the authority that enlisted him, that is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 6:24 [New King James] *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."*

Applying this to what we are studying we cannot as a soldier of Jesus Christ participate in the "spiritual" warfare, as a citizen of a heavenly Kingdom and at the same time participate in a physical war with one of the nations on earth.

A soldier of this world is taught to hate –

This is the exact opposite to all Christian principles which are founded on love.

Mark 12:31 [New King James] *"And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

It is impossible to love your neighbour, whether national or international, and at the same time hate or kill them.

All human military leaders know that hatred is necessary to make an effective soldier.

How can a human kill, cause violence, and fight under such extreme conditions as in warfare unless they hate those they are fighting against?

Especially during a time of war, there is a great deal of propaganda given to people on both sides of the conflict to produce hatred of the people they are fighting.

1 Peter 3:8-9 [New King James] *“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.”*

Any person participating in warfare is **not** following these commandments of the Creator God that Peter was inspired by his Lord and Master Jesus Christ to teach all Christians.

Matthew 5:43-44 [New King James] *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,”*

Jesus Christ’s own words are even more demanding on His disciples.

We must realise that living as a true Christian will attract violence from godless human beings, but a Christian must never be the cause of violence or hatred.

If a Christian is attacked violently, what can they do?

They cannot strike back, nor harm the other person, but they can sometimes use restraining force to keep the other person from causing injury or harm. Or they can seek to escape the violence, Jesus Christ on one occasion was able to escape His attackers who wanted to kill Him, [**John 10:39**].

Vengeance belongs only to the Creator God –

God’s Word, the Christian Bible, states that sin is the transgression of God’s law, [**1 John 3:4**].

One point of that law states, you shall **not** murder, [**Exodus 20:13**], this includes murder in war.

Instead of harming others, it is better for us to be defrauded or harmed, [**1 Corinthians 6:7**], Jesus Christ we should even show love towards our enemies, [**Matthew 6:44**], He then sacrificed His life for those who were as yet His enemies, [**Romans 5:10**].

Matthew 26:52 [New King James] *“But Jesus said to him, ‘Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.’”*

Jesus Christ condemned Peter for using the sword in defence of His Master Jesus Christ.

Why then did Jesus Christ tell His disciples to take swords with them, [**Luke 22:38**]?

Jesus Christ answers this question for us.

Luke 22:37 [New King James] *“For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: ‘And He was numbered with the transgressors.’ For the things concerning Me have an end.”*

Jesus Christ did this to fulfil the prophecy God inspired Isaiah to make, [**Isaiah 53:12**]. Jesus Christ was crucified with two “*transgressors*,” [**Matthew 27:38; Luke 23:33; John 19:17-18**].

Luke 9:56 [New King James] *“‘For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.’ And they went to another village.”*

Jesus Christ came to save human life, not destroy it.

Christians are forbidden to take vengeance on others.

Luke 18:7-8 [New King James] *“And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”*

This prohibits humans participating in vengeful wars.

Romans 12:19-21 [New King James] *“Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

God inspired Paul to expand on what Jesus Christ told His disciples.

It is not for humans to take on what is only for the Creator God to do, for only God knows the thoughts and motives of any human being, [Psalms 139:1-16], so only the Creator God can make righteous judgements.

Another question asked is *“didn’t Jesus Christ use a whip to drive the money changers out of the temple?”*

Matthew 21:12-13 [New King James] *“Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, ‘It is written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer,” but you have made it a “den of thieves.”’”*

Jesus Christ *“drove out”* by overturning the tables of the money changers and the seats of those selling doves, then commanded them to leave and not to profane the Temple of God. It was by the authority with which Jesus Christ spoke that caused these men to leave.

John 2:15 [New King James] *“When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables.”*

It was to drive out the sheep and oxen that Jesus Christ used a whip, not the people.

Warfare in the Old Testament –

Many today cannot understand why in Old Testament times, men such as David did fight in wars.

The key to understanding this is found in the New Testament words of Jesus Christ.

John 18:36 [New King James] *“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’”*

Jesus Christ’s Kingdom was **not** of this world.

For many years the Creator God did establish a physical kingdom on the earth, that kingdom was the Kingdom of Israel.

That kingdom was originally ruled by God, by His laws and by His anointed rulers.

But this nation Israel was one of the kingdoms of this world. Its people had **no** spiritual citizenship in the heavenly Kingdom.

They were **not** ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

Therefore as a kingdom of this world, Israel was used by God to fight.

God was not offering Israel salvation, He only gave them physical, temporal promises.

The vast majority were carnal people without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, only a few chosen men and women were blessed with the indwelling Holy Spirit to be empowered to fulfil the job God had given them to do, mostly in leadership of the nation.

For example, since the Canaanites were so terribly wicked, God commanded His servants, His earthly kingdom Israel, to exterminate them, so that the people in His earthly kingdom would **not** follow their example of sacrificing their children to pagan gods of wood and stone.

These Canaanites practiced other perverted acts, but God waited until all physical hope for them was lost before commanding that they should be slain.

All these people will have a future chance to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and being taught God's way of life in a future resurrection after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, [Revelation 20:11-13].

As the Creator and Sustainer of all life, God has the right to take away life, but this authority has not been given to human beings, [Deuteronomy 32:39].

Before the formation of the nation of Israel, God used supernatural force of nature to eradicate evil from this world.

Genesis 6:5-8 [New King James] *“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”*

God took away the life of all humans except the family of Noah in a flood, because of their God-defiling evil nature.

Later it became necessary for God to exterminate the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their extreme perverted sex, [**Genesis chapters 18 and 19**].

God did **not** work through a kingdom at this time, nor was there any kingdom on earth that was His kingdom, until Israel was formed to be an example kingdom of God's way of life, but Israel, without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, failed to be what God intended them to be.

After Israel rebelled and would no longer listen to God, His prophets, or His teachers, God rejected Israel.

Since this time, the Creator God does **not** have any physical kingdom of this world as His own kingdom.

God may at times use various nations to indirectly accomplish His will, but they are of this world and of this time, **not** of the World Tomorrow that is after Jesus Christ's Second Coming.

Today God is dealing with humanity through His Christian Church.

1 Peter 2:9 [New King James] *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;”*

God is using His Church to preach the good news that Jesus Christ brought from God the Father of the soon-coming Kingdom of God at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

God only has the authority to decide about war –

Only God as Creator and Sustainer of physical life has all authority to destroy life, for nations to be destroyed.

Revelation 4:11 [New King James] *“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”*

Since God has made all things including humans, all governments and authorities, He is Supreme Ruler of all His creation.

Ephesians 4:6 [New King James] *“one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

The life-force we all have is placed within us by the Creator God, [**Genesis 2:7** – New King James].

Matthew 11:25 [New King James] *“At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.’”*

Since God the Father is Ruler and Master of heaven and earth, He has the right and power to make laws, both spiritual and physical laws.

Since God alone has such supreme authority, only He can tell humanity what to do about warfare, only He can say whether humans should or should not make war.

At no time has God given human beings the authority to establish laws contrary to His.

Only God can judge when a person or nation should be punished.

When a nation’s leaders decide to make war against another nation, whether it be an aggressor or a nation being attacked, the leaders of that nation take on themselves what is God’s prerogative.

This is in direct disobedience to the Almighty God.

Any person who takes part in such a war is in defiance of God and His laws and stands guilty before Him.

God will fight –

Even though God is **not** now dealing directly with the nations of this world through His physical kingdom of Israel, the day is soon coming when God will step into world affairs again.

Zechariah 14:3-5 [New King James] *“Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You.”*

This is prophetic of the day of Jesus Christ’s return to this earth to take over the rule of all nations.

Revelation 19:11-16 [New King James] *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His*

eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

This is a vivid description of the return of Jesus Christ.

God is still waiting until human violence will become so great that all human life could be blotted out.

Matthew 24:3 [New King James] *“Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’”*

Jesus Christ’s disciples asked Him what will be the sign of His Second Coming.

Matthew 24:21-22 [New King James] *“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”*

This was one of the “signs” that Jesus Christ gave, humanity on the brink of self-destruction.

No human being after such a foreboding event can say to the Creator God, *“if we had been given a little more time we could have brought peace to this world!”*

God gave the apostle Paul great insight into the very nature of human beings as he quoted the Psalms and the prophet Isaiah.

Romans 3:10-18 [New King James] *“As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. **There is no fear of God before their eyes.**’”*

The last verse is the key to the very reason that humans do not know the way to peace.

What about people who are in the armed forces? –

The questions such people face are –

Is it wrong to be in the armed forces?

Should I get a discharge?

What does God expect of me if I am going to become a Christian?

Soldiers came to John the Baptist and asked him what to do.

Luke 3:14 [King James] *“And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, ‘and what shall we do?’ And he said unto them, ‘Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.’”*

A person who is in military service and then becomes a Christian is not to harm or do violence to anyone, nor take any active part in such things.

The Greek word translated “*violence*” is “*diasēlō*” which includes the use of intimidation.

Other examples of soldiers in God’s Word, the Christian Bible, are –

Cornelius [Acts 10:1-48] – did God expect these men to continue in their military careers?

1 Corinthians 7:21-24 [New King James] *“Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it. For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord’s freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ’s slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called.”*

A person in military service is in the same status as a slave, governed by different laws than civilians, has few rights and is entirely under the jurisdiction of military authorities.

Such people **cannot** remove themselves from under that authority, unless the military authorities release them.

Until their time of enlistment expires, and they are discharged, they are **not** free people.

A person in the military should seek to gain their freedom and no Christian should place themselves in the slavery of military service, [verse 23].

If you are now in military service there are means by which you might obtain your freedom, but you need competent advice. Do not act unwisely without that advice.

The people who can give you practical advice vary according to what country you have given your allegiance to when you became part of their military establishment.

This article has aimed to give you Biblical help with the questions you will be asked when you seek release on the grounds that you have become a Christian.

Is non-combatant service wrong? –

Some people reason that such a position is not wrong since it does not require active participation in killing other human beings.

2 John 10-11 [New King James] *“If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.”*

Such reasoning is **not** according to what we have seen is very clear in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

Any person who participates in a military organisation, or who produces weapons for the military, becomes a partaker of the evil deeds of men and machines that take life.

1 Timothy 5:22 [NIV] *“Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.”*

We should **not** be a part of other people’s sins, but keep ourselves pure.

Participation either in a combatant or non-combatant status is equally wrong in God’s eyes.

You make yourself a slave to the military, which a Christian is forbidden to do, [1 Corinthians 7:23].

If a Christian is forced into military conscription, they must **not** serve. **They must obey God rather than humans and accept whatever penalty or imprisonment may be imposed.**

Conscientious objectors or pacifists have to prove satisfactorily to officials that they are totally sincere in their belief.

In most nations there are special work programmes for conscientious objectors where they are assigned to special charitable activity that is for the benefit of the general public, improving public health or welfare.

Even though it is sometimes difficult to find suitable employment with such an organisation, it is possible for a Christian to serve conscientiously under such a programme, receiving only food and lodging.

Conclusion –

The whole question about warfare is explained clearly in two verses in God's Word, the Christian Bible.

John 18:36-37 [New King James] *“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’ Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are You a king then?’” Jesus answered, ‘You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’”*

Jesus Christ brought to all humanity the true reason for human existence, but as yet the kingdoms of this world are blinded to the truth, [**2 Corinthians 4:4**].

Ancient Israel was a kingdom of this world ruled by God's laws and they did fight.

Christians are ambassadors of the soon-coming Kingdom of God to this earth at Jesus Christ's Second Coming, [**2 Corinthians 5:20**].

Therefore Christians as servants of Jesus Christ do **not** fight for one of this world's nations against another.

When Jesus Christ does return, Christians, then immortal spirit beings, [**1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17**] will under the rulership of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, [**Isaiah 9:6**] bring peace to this earth.

Micah 4:1-4 [New King James] *“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.”*

The warring nations of the world will at last learn how to live at peace which they have never known, [Romans 3:17; Isaiah 59:8].

We as Christians are learning the ways of peace, through the application of God's laws as expounded in His Word, the Christian Bible, [**Psalms 119:165**].

We will then be able to instruct all human beings in the way of peace at Jesus Christ's Second Coming.

Revelation 20:4-5 [New King James] *“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.”*

The first phase of human re-education.

Revelation 20:11-13 [New King James] *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.”*

The second phase of human re-education when the books of the Christian Bible will be opened to them for the **first** time and they will be offered salvation through faith in humanity's Saviour Jesus Christ.

The world today is involved in physical, carnal warfare, not knowing the way to peace.

Christians are now fighting in a spiritual warfare, [Ephesians 6:10-13], a good fight of faith in God, [1 Timothy 6:12].

This is our part as the Creator God prepares a people to work with Him to eventually bring peace to all of humanity.

May that great day soon dawn.