

Deuteronomy II
The Making of a Good Warfare
Deuteronomy 20:1-20

I. INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

A. Theme of the Chapter

- i. Instruction
- ii. Admonition

B. Usage of Words

- i. *“thou”*
 1. Used seventeen (17 x) times in ten (10) verses (Deuteronomy 20:1; Deuteronomy 20:10; Deuteronomy 20:12; Deuteronomy 20:13; Deuteronomy 20:14; Deuteronomy 20:15; Deuteronomy 20:16; Deuteronomy 20:17; Deuteronomy 20:19; Deuteronomy 20:20)
 2. Used to refer to the Children of Israel in the chapter.
 - ii. *“thy”*
 1. Used five (5 x) times in five (5) verses (Deuteronomy 20:1; Deuteronomy 20:13; Deuteronomy 20:14; Deuteronomy 20:16; Deuteronomy 20:17)
 2. Used in the possessive sense, referring to the Children of Israel.
 - iii. *“you”*
 1. Used two (2 x) times in two (2) verses (Deuteronomy 20:4; Deuteronomy 20:18)
 2. Used to refer to the Children of Israel in the chapter.
 - iv. *“against”*
 1. Used nine (9x) times in eight (8) verses (Deuteronomy 20:1; Deuteronomy 20:3; Deuteronomy 20:4; Deuteronomy 20:10; Deuteronomy 20:12; Deuteronomy 20:18; Deuteronomy 20:19; Deuteronomy 20:20)
 2. Used to show opposition to a people, individual, object or some place.
- C. Usage of Phrases
- i. *“Thou shalt”*
 1. Used eight (8 x) times in seven (7) verses (Deuteronomy 20:12; Deuteronomy 20:13; Deuteronomy 20:14; Deuteronomy 20:16; Deuteronomy 20:17; Deuteronomy 20:19; Deuteronomy 20:20)
 2. Used to instruct the Children of Israel.
 - ii. *“Thou shalt not”*
 1. Used two (2 x) time in one (1) verse (Deuteronomy 20:19)

2. Used to admonish the Children of Israel to take great care of their actions.

II. PREPARATION FOR WARFARE (Deuteronomy 20:1-9)

A. Preparation for the Nation (Deuteronomy 20:1-4)

- i. To **not be afraid** of the enemies they will face – *“What they see and feel”* (v. 1) (Joshua 11:4-6, 9; Isaiah 31:1)
 1. Their horses
 2. Chariots
 3. And size
- ii. The LORD is with them – The One that had brought them out of Egypt (v. 1)
 1. God was with them
 2. Which brought them out of Egypt
 3. The people needed the proper perspective (Psalm 46:7; Romans 8:31, 37)
 - a. God was for them
 - b. The enemy would not be able to stand before them
- iii. The priest was to approach the people and speak to them (v. 2-3)
 1. To reassure them – *“What they don’t see”* – (Psalm 27:1-3)
 - a. That the LORD was with them in the battle
 - b. That the LORD would fight for them
 2. The words of the priest – *“Hear the words of God”*— (Isaiah 35:3-4; Matthew 8:26; Ephesians 6:11-18; 1 Timothy 6:12)
 - a. *“Let not your hearts faint”*
 - b. *“Fear not”*
 - c. *“Do not tremble”*
 - d. *“Neither be ye terrified”*
- iv. The LORD would fight for them (Deuteronomy 20:4)

B. Preparation for the Individual (Deuteronomy 19:5-9)

- i. To finish unfinished business (Deuteronomy 19:5-7)
 1. The building of a house
 2. The planting of a vineyard
 3. The taking of a wife
 - a. It was the custom of the Jews to contract a marriage, espouse, or betroth. They would leave the respective parties in the houses of their parents; and when the bridegroom had made proper preparations, then the bride was brought home to his house. The provisions in this verse refer to such a case.
 - b. It was also deemed a peculiar hardship for a person to be obligated to go to battle, who had left a house unfinished, newly purchased land half tilled, or a wife with whom he had just contracted a marriage. (Deuteronomy 24:5; Matthew 1:18)

4. The unfinished business of sin – application
 - a. Confess your sins unto God (example of Achan – Joshua 7:20, 24; Joshua 22:20) (1 Corinthians 10:6; 2 Peter 2:6)
 - b. Confess your faults (James 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:18; example – Acts 19:18)
- ii. That you might serve – (The Goal)
- iii. To consider the effects of one on all (Deuteronomy 19:8-9; Numbers 13:31-33; Numbers 32:9; Deuteronomy 1:28; Deuteronomy 23:9; 1 Corinthians 15:33)
 1. If fearful and fainthearted
 2. Go and return unto his house
 3. So that his heart would not destroy his brethren'

III. THE MAKING OF PEACE AND WAR (Deuteronomy 20:10-14)

- A. If it be Peace (Deuteronomy 20:10-11)
 - i. The offer of peace accepted
 - ii. All of the inhabitants to become tributaries
 - iii. To serve the children of Israel
- B. If it be War (Deuteronomy 20:12-14)
 - i. The offer of peace not accepted
 - ii. To besiege the city
 1. Smiting every male with the sword
 2. To take the women, little ones, cattle and spoil
 3. Given into their hands by the Lord

IV. THE REMOVAL OF UNGODLY INFLUENCE IN THE LAND (Deuteronomy 20:15-18)

- A. The Total Destruction of Them (Deuteronomy 20:16-17)
 - i. Of the cities in the land
 - ii. To save nothing alive (of the):
 1. Hittites
 2. Amorites
 3. Canaanites
 4. Perizzites
 5. Hivites
 6. Jebusites
- B. That Israel Might Not Learn Their Ways (Deuteronomy 20:18)
- C. That The Inhabitants Might Not Have Influence Over Them – application
 - i. They would affect the Israelites (Deuteronomy 20:18)
 1. The world and false teachers will affect the Christian (Galatians 4:17; 2 Peter 2:3, 18)
 2. Not to turn to the bondage again (Numbers 14:4; Galatians 4:9)

- ii. To sin against the Lord (Deuteronomy 20:18; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 2:1-6)
 - 1. By learning their abominations
 - 2. Committing their unrighteous acts

V. THE BESIEGING OF A CITY (Deuteronomy 20:19-20)

A. Strategy in Sustaining in the Siege

- i. To protect the fruit bearing trees
- ii. The need for food in the land
 - 1. *“For the tree of the field is man’s life”* (Genesis 1:29; Genesis 9:3; Psalm 104:14-15)
 - 2. Bread = word of God (Deuteronomy 8:3)
 - 3. Bread = Word of God (John 6:47-63)
- iii. Wisdom in obtaining the right food
 - 1. They were to keep the fruit bearing trees alive
 - 2. Protecting of the proper influences
 - a. Not to cut them down
 - b. To use the fruit trees for food
 - 3. The word of God is our necessary (spiritual) food (Deuteronomy 8:3)
 - a. Job understood this (Job 23:12)
 - b. The Word of God is the giver of our life (John 6:47-63)
 - c. Christ enables us to do his work (John 15:5)
 - i) Needing Him and needing one another (John 12:12-14, 26-27)
 - ii) The Lord will sustain and increase your seed (2 Corinthians 9:8-11)
 - iii) Being filled with the fruits of righteousness (Philippians 1:11)
 - iv) Being enabled to do the work (Philippians 4:13; cp. Philippians 4:10-12)
 - v) To grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18; Psalm 1)

B. Strategy in the Besieging (Deuteronomy 20:19-20)

- i. Bulwarks built against the city (Isaiah 37:33; Jeremiah 6:6; Jeremiah 33:4; Ezekiel 17:17)
 - 1. Bank
 - 2. Mount
 - 3. Forts
- ii. Till it is subdued