

## **Can A Christian Be A Soldier ?**

Morris Bradley

Here we have an age old argument, that, "One shall not bear arms against another," for every other person is presumed to be our brother or sister in the "eyes of God". Within the Bible we get such texts as "violence only begets violence" and "blessed is he who forgives and turns the other cheek". This is very confusing when we read other parts of the Bible which tell of great battles and wars which were fought against other nations by the Jews, who were supposed to be God's "chosen people". Does this mean that the Jews are the only ones allowed to fight and kill others? In past ages great armies, such as the Crusaders and others, have gone forth in the name of Christ with their flags and shields carrying the "Cross of Christ" and have brought much misery and despair on many other nations.

When the Roman Legions marched around the world warring, sacking and pillaging, this was labelled as senseless slaughter and murder and that the Legions were really the "Legions of the Devil incarnate". However, when the Spanish Christian Explorers went off to ransack, pillage and decimate South America and other countries, this was called a mission of enlightenment in order to "free the Pagans" from their bestial form of Devil worshipping. What a laugh and a great sham this was. In respect to the "bearing of arms", what can we glean from the scriptures? We are told that Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the Lord's commandments, and one of these said, "Thou shall not kill". But next we read that these Jews with these special commandments took off on a rampage, and at Jericho they put everyone, men, women and children to the sword, so says the Bible, except for one part where it says they saved a few thousand virgins. This all seems a bit strange when you think about it. Was it only the Jews who had special dispensation to make wars on others and to kill them? Certainly not.

First of all the commandment which says "Thou shall not kill", if correctly translated in its native tongue reads, "Thou shall do no murder", which alters the whole context of things from a point of view of Law. In the Book of Chronicles in the Bible it states, "There is a time to plant, a time to reap, a time to fight, and a time to kill". So, when

are these times and how do we justify such heinous violence towards another human being? In the New Testament it says that, "He who does not look after his own is worse than an infidel,"<sup>1</sup> so how far does this statement go, and just what does it cover? Do we, as Christians, sit back and watch some warlike, aggressive nation primed with the "venom of Satan" walk into our back yards and mercilessly slaughter our friends and loved ones. We think not, at least, not without making some sort of gesture on their behalf. Next we get the scripture which says, "No greater love hath a Man than he who will lay down his life for another," and this could have been a representational picture of Jesus laying down His life for all of us in sacrifice, or it could represent someone else going out to meet the "oncoming foe" and being able to prevent an onslaught onto the innocents, but in doing so, lose their life.

Some reason that they will make their homes as safe as possible and try to protect their family in this manner so that if vandals or warring soldiers descend upon their home, they will make a determined effort to fight them off as individuals, but will not join an army. This is a noble thought but hardly a practical one, for what chance has an untrained individual in his own home making a stand against trained personnel equipped with automatic Weapons, tanks, atom bombs, flame throwers, etc.. No chance whatsoever. If we are threatened from another clime by a "Godless nation" which has become a "Tool of Satan" and threatens our way of life, do we give in or do we go out to meet this scourge on its own ground, and "plant our flag of faith" and defend it against the Anti-Christ representative with every last drop of our blood?

We are told to have respect for the lives of others for they are our brothers, but this only applies to those who "walk with God Jehovah" in truth, love and righteousness. As the "shepherd of our flock", do we allow "ravening wolves to come and destroy our lambs". "Feed my sheep," said Jesus to Peter, and that means protect them as well. We are sure that no sane person wants to shed the blood of another human being, but, as Jesus said, "Those who are with us are not against us." In other words, those who are not with us are against us, so we do not have to pay such respect to those who do not walk in righteousness and live according to the "Law and Testament of God".

It is not what we do, but how, when and why we do it that is important. If we are trying to establish a Kingdom of God on Earth, then we must “fight the good fight with all our might”, end this is against Satan and his forces which are continually trying to usurp and destroy this utopian dream of Mankind. We believe that all form of negotiations should be conducted, even with those who are not of the faith, in order to maintain peace and harmony, and that any form of aggressiveness should be the last resort, but one must make a demarkation line and say that this line is as far as we will go. So, if you attack us then we will defend our own and their property, and, if you, the enemy, die as a result of this, then your death is your own responsibility, for we have a job to do and this will be done in sorrow and without hate, and we pray that God will forgive us for our actions.

Where does this madness end? We say that we don't want to have anything to do with war and oppression, yet here in New Zealand we sell meat to nations who are slaughtering one another so they do not have the time to produce their own. We sell products to Russia, who professes to be atheistic by nature and is trying to dominate and rule the world, and so it goes on, these double standards which we employ all for the sake of money. “Be ye not equally yoked with those who are not of the Faith,” states the Bible, yet we make all sorts of agreements and become bound to non-Christian countries. We even supply the means for other nations to make weapons to kill one another and yet feel no guilt. War is a horrible thing, animalistic by nature, and the power to prevent this is in the hands of the people who make up the bulk of all armies. If they all refused point blank to fight, then there could be no conflict. This is certainly something to think about. However, we must defend our faith and give our children the right to learn about their God Jehovah in complete peace and freedom, so we fight against no “Men of GOD”, only against the “servants of Satan”.

Many pacifist groups will tell us that the early Christians never contended against the Romans and were meekly led to the arenas where they were torn to pieces by the wild animals, and because these pioneers of the Christian Faith did not lift a hand to save themselves, their sacrifice laid the foundation for the freedom we have today, for eventually the Romans fell and were forgotten, but the “martyred Christian fathers” lived on in the memories of others who were inspired by their sacrifice to

come to an understanding of God in this day and age. Wonderful sentiments indeed, but hardly practical when now a few nuclear bombs let off by a handful of madmen can blot out all life forms and destroy all written knowledge, so that any descendents from the survivors would know little of any past sacrifices, let alone be inspired by them.

The early Christians were so few in comparison to the height of the Roman Army that any effort to take up arms against this horde of Satanically inspired legions would have been absolutely futile. So, under the circumstances they knew that death was inevitable and so chose the manner in which they were going to die, hoping that it would make the greatest impact upon the World and it did. We are told that David of the Old Testament fame was chosen of God, yet he killed Goliath after knocking him down with a stone and then beheading the great giant. Many other chosen Jewish Kings fought battles on behalf of Jehovah against the Satanic adversaries. If God is the same today as He was yesterday and will be the same tomorrow and forever, it appears that it can be just to make war on Satan and his earthly forces if there is no other alternative, and one knows how it is almost impossible to reason with a raving, hateful and unbending adversary. That is when we need the "armour of Christ" to do battle against the "dark ones", who are hell-bent on wishing to destroy all those who worship Jehovah and want to live in the light of His teachings.

This decision is a personal one and each person must search their conscience as to what they should do and how they should do it. Let there be no law that says that all Men must fight in the "Army of God" for some are born to fight, some to teach, some to heal, some to preach, some to care for and feed others, and so each will do his respective task in this great battle of life as God has ordained it so. May each person be given the wisdom to know in which area we can serve their fellowmen to the fullest advantage. One must also remember the widows and orphans, the sick and infirm in our community as someone has to protect their rights to live in freedom and happiness also. It is very evident to us that God fights alongside those who are righteous and with Him as an ally, we can only succeed.