

War:
**What Is It Good
For?**
**Absolutely
Something!**

**SUMMER
BREAKOUT
SERIES**

JULY 14 - 28

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Teacher: John Neal
ABF: Family Builders



Background

- War begins inside the heart.
- View war with the spiritual realities associated with sin.
- The Bible uses war as a metaphor of certain truths.

Over 400+ Verses About War

- In Heaven (*Rev. 12:7*)
- A time set aside for (*Eccl. 3:8*)
- Is calculated (*Prov. 20:18; Luke 14:31-32*)
- God fights (*Judges 4:15; 1 Chr. 5:22*)
- Commanded (*Deut. 7:1-26 & Deut. 20:1-20*)
- Angelic armies (*Psalms 80:4,7,14,19*)
- Occupation (*Luke 3:14*)

Over 60+ Distinct Battles

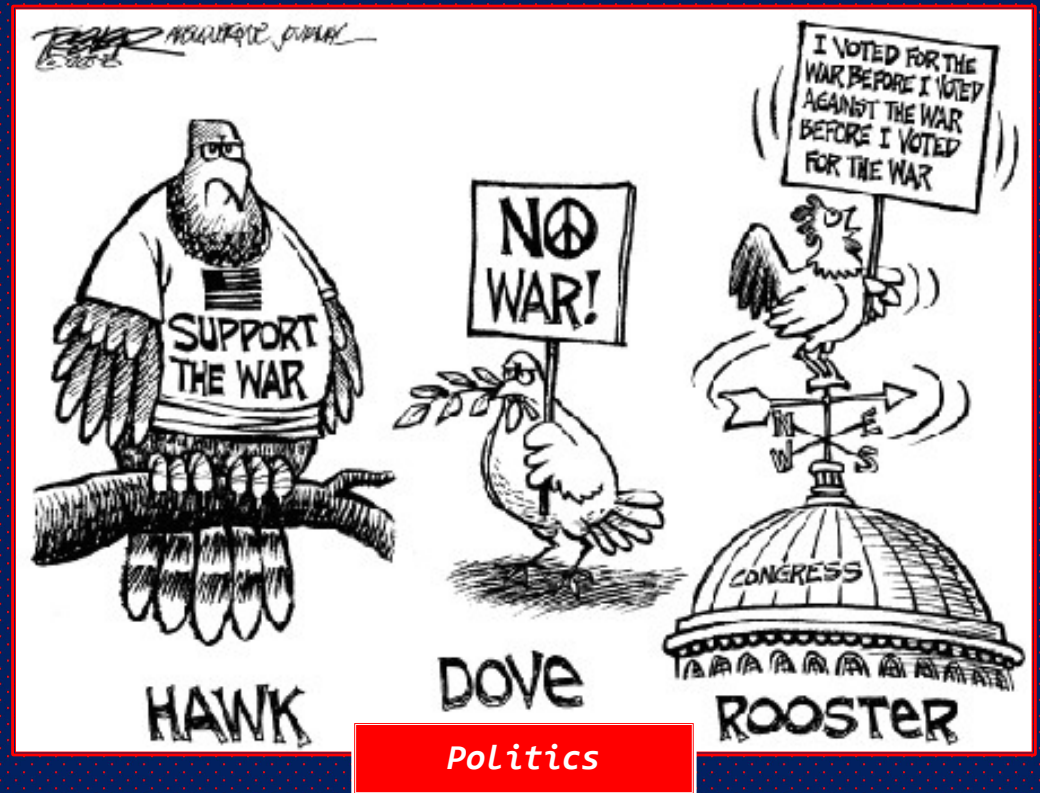
- Conquest of Canaan
- Tribes Attack Benjamin
- Valley of Elah (*Goliath*)
- Absalom's Rebellion
- Assyrian Invasion
- Babylonian Captivity
- Armageddon
- Gog/Magog



Battle of Jericho

Christian Views About War

- Doves
 - Never Fight
 - Pacifists
- Hawks/Eagles
 - Fight First
 - Holy War
- Owls
 - Just War



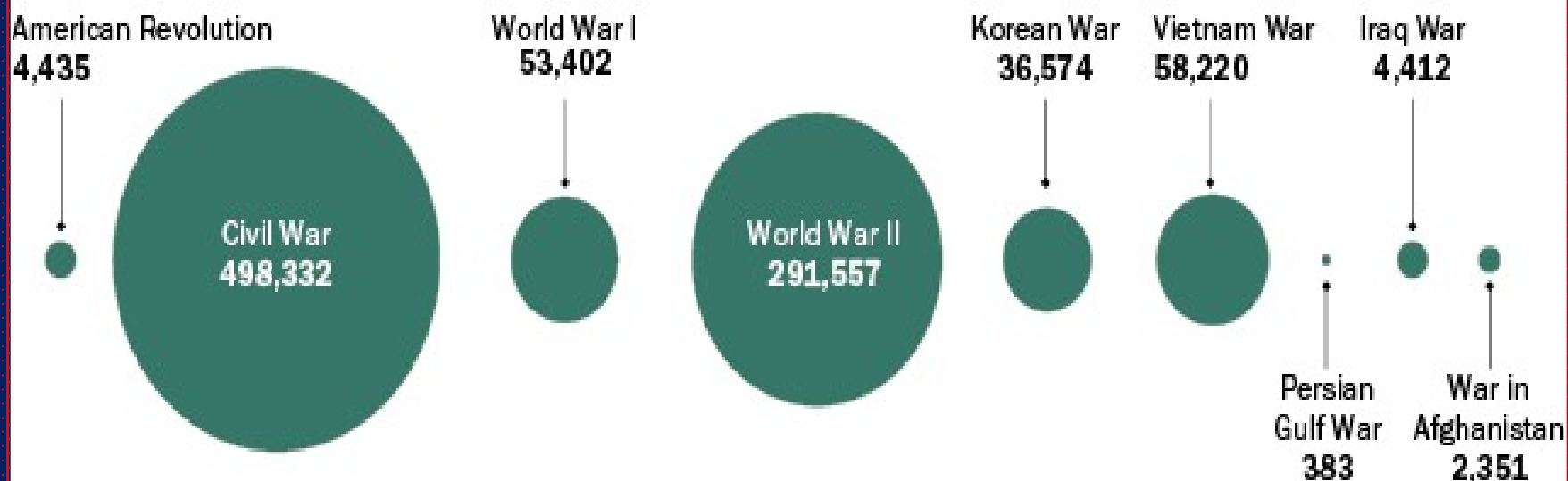
Just War Theory

- How and why nations fight.
- Ethical theory vs. historical tradition.
- Share mutual rules in combat.
- Adversaries have different beliefs.
- Is “*Just*” when fought by the right authority, causes, and intentions.



Military Deaths in America's Major Wars

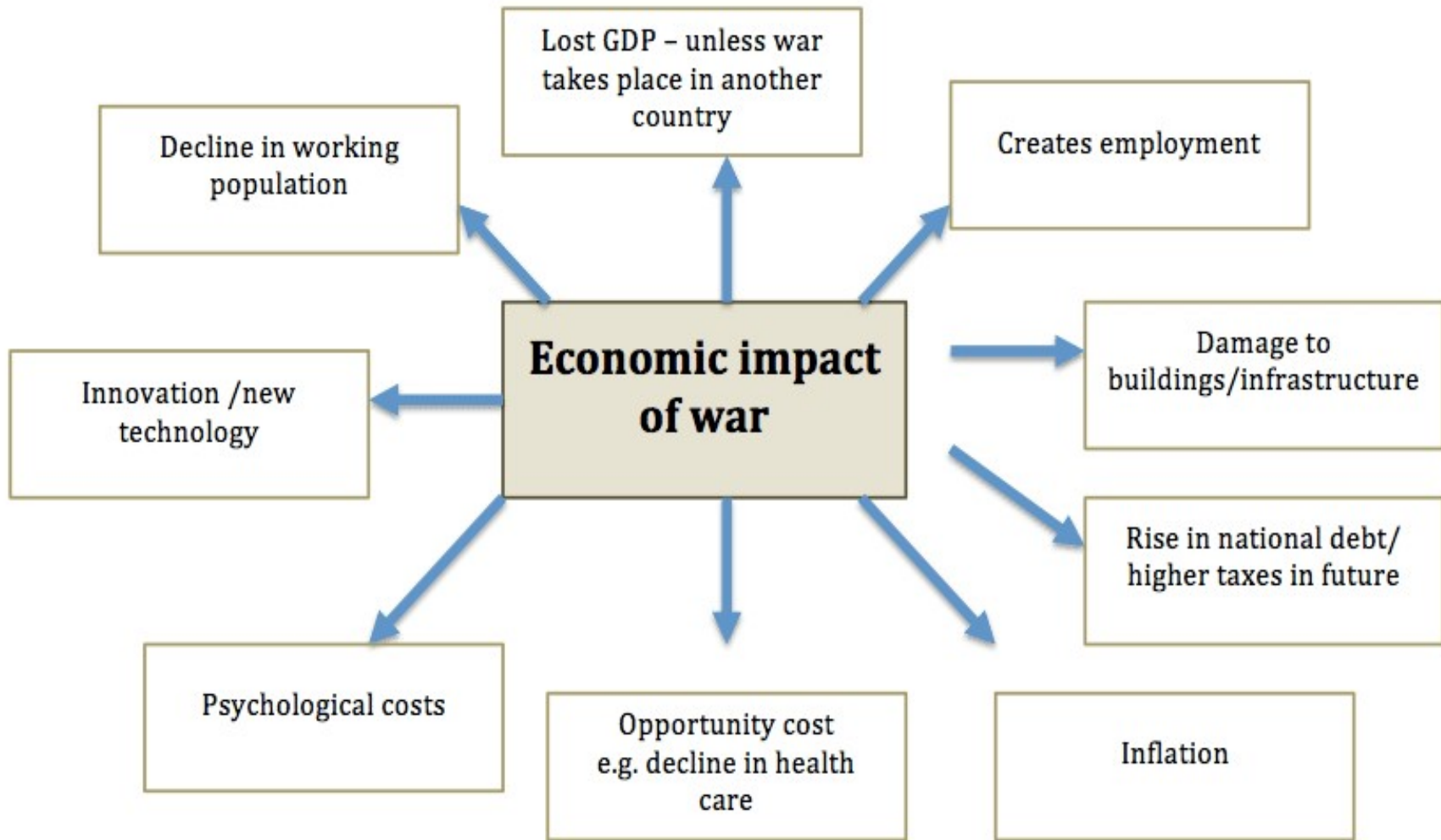
Number of American soldiers who died while fighting in major conflicts...



Note: Figures do not include deaths outside theaters of conflict. Civil War deaths are based on incomplete returns due to estimates of Confederate deaths. Figures as of May 2015.

Source: Congressional Research Service, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; U.S. Department of Defense.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Today's Lesson

Because war creates such devastation and loss, how can it produce any positive outcomes?

- Can a nation's military achieve God's desire?
- Is there a way to keep evil in check?
- When is it alright to confront an adversary?
- Should our military be praised for their exploits?
- Why is a pathway to peace found in conflict?

The Outline Said Another Way

Believers must know how God uses war to achieve His righteous and just purposes.

As God operates sovereignly, war is good for:

- Exercising Vengeance
- Protecting People and Property
- Recognizing Bravery
- Securing Peace
- Generating Unity

War Is Good For:

Exercising
Vengeance
(Romans 13)

*O Lord, God of vengeance, O God of vengeance,
shine forth. Psalm 94:1*

War Is Good For: *Exercising Vengeance*

Rom. 13:4 For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

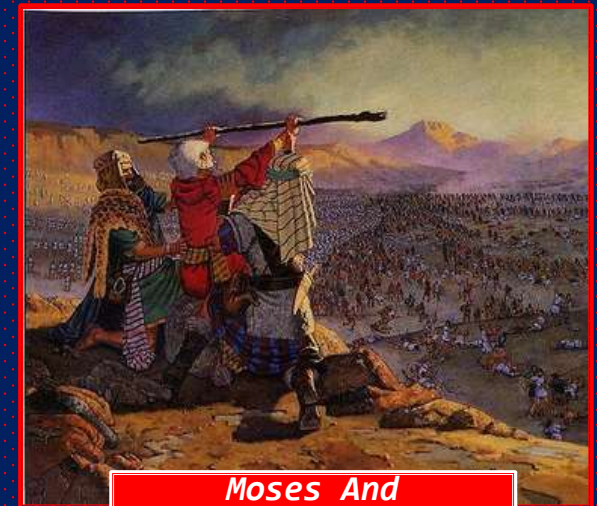


Nero

War Is Good For: *Exercising Vengeance*

Rulers are God's servants, who may use war to thwart gross instances of evil.

- An Avenger [*ekdikos*] is one who executes justice.
- Punishing the wrongdoer in retaliation for an offense (*Rom. 12:19*).



*Moses And
Amalekites*

War Is Good For:

Exercising
Vengeance
(Romans 13)

Protecting People
and Property
(Genesis 14)

*Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; protect me
from those who rise up against me. Psalm 59:1*

War Is Good For: *Protecting People and Property*

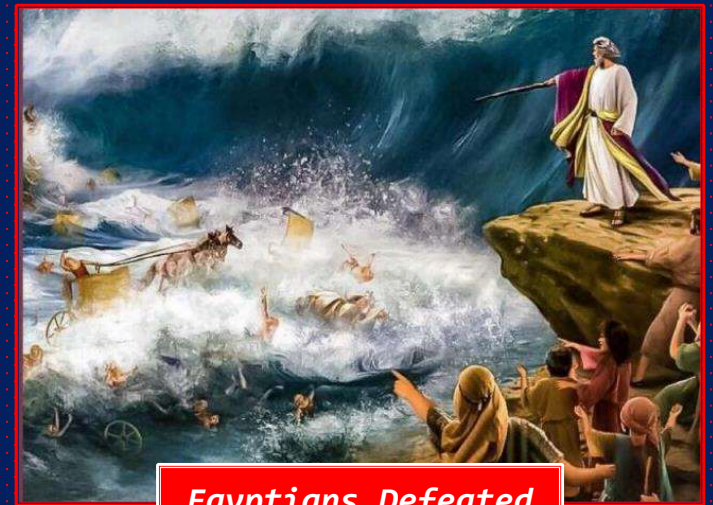
Gen. 14:14 When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. 15 And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus.



War Is Good For: *Protecting People and Property*

The Bible's first war shows Abram fighting back after an unprovoked attack.

- Nations must protect its citizens (*Gen. 9:6*).
- God can obtain victory over ungodly forces (*Psalms 33:16*).



Egyptians Defeated

War Is Good For:

Exercising
Vengeance
(Romans 13)

Protecting People
and Property
(Genesis 14)

Recognizing
Bravery
(1 Chronicles 11)

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished
the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Tim. 4:7*

War Is Good For: *Recognizing Bravery*

1 Chr. 11:10 Now these are the chiefs of David's mighty men, who gave him strong support in his kingdom, together with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.



David's Valiant Men by James Tissot

War Is Good For: *Recognizing Bravery*

Conflict can unveil the most courageous acts under dire situations (Prov. 28:1).

- Mighty men risked their lives for David to take the throne.
- Others: Gideon, Samson, Joshua Saul, Jephthah, Barak.
- War heroes are a celebrated aspect of American society.



War Is Good For:

Exercising
Vengeance
(Romans 13)

Protecting People
and Property
(Genesis 14)

Recognizing
Bravery
(1 Chronicles 11)

Securing Peace
(Joshua 9)

If possible, so far as it depends on you, Live peaceably with all. Rom. 12:18

War Is Good For: *Securing Peace*

Josh 9:14 So [Israel's] men took some of [the Gibeonite's] provisions, but did not ask counsel from the Lord.

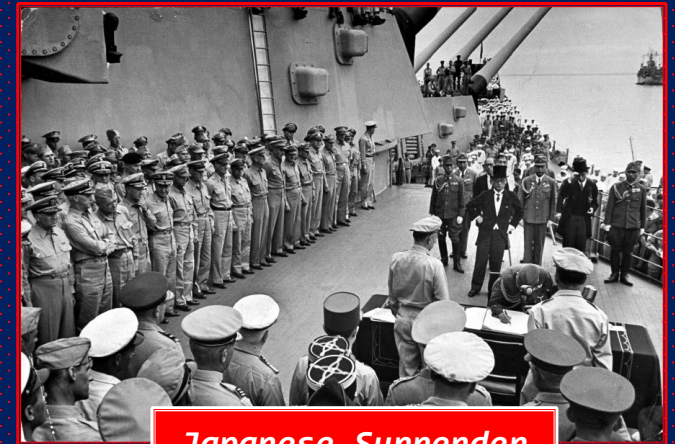
15 And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.



War Is Good For: *Securing Peace*

War should be a last resort after peace has been fully exhausted (Prov. 3:17, 12:20).

- The N.T. emphasizes peace, but does not restrict war.
- As a nation pursues peace, it must be able to defend itself.



Japanese Surrender

War Is Good For:

Exercising
Vengeance
(Romans 13)

Protecting People
and Property
(Genesis 14)

Recognizing
Bravery
(1 Chronicles 11)

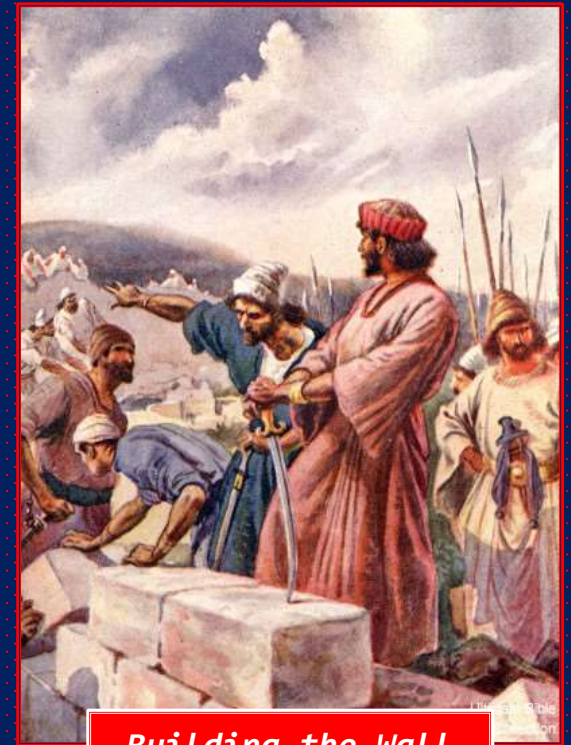
Securing Peace
(Joshua 9)

Generating Unity
(Nehemiah 4)

And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him: a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Eccl. 4:12

War Is Good For: *Generating Unity*

Neh. 4:14 And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”



Building the Wall

War Is Good For: *Generating Unity*

Together-ness can beat a threat. Nations unify for a common goal (Prov. 11:14).

- Struggling with the enemy may force us to take steps we never imagined necessary.
- Being united helps us persevere in conflict ...
- ... *Best if united in Christ!*



War Is Good When God Is:

Exercising
Vengeance
*On Sin And
Rebellion*

Protecting People
and Property
*From The Harms of
Evil*

Recognizing
Bravery
*When The Battle Is
Finished*

Securing Peace
*To Enable Freedom
Of Worship*

Generating Unity
*To Advance His
Purposes*

*The horse is made ready for the day of battle,
but the victory belongs to the Lord. Prov. 21:31*

War Is Good Because Jesus:

Will Exercise
Vengeance
Isaiah 63:4

Will Protect His
People
John 10:27-28

Is Recognized
For Bravery:
Hebrews 12:2

Has Secured
Peace
John 14:27

Has Generated
Unity
John 17:23

Conclusion

It's hard to imagine living without a spiritual understanding of God's war.

- Christian's see God fulfilling His purposes.
- All *[wars]* work together for good.
- Enlist your service in sharing the Gospel.
- Losing sight of the spiritual battle will hinder your effectiveness for Christ.

“Well done, good and faithful servant ...” Matthew 25:21



Returning From Deployment



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