

# War And Disarmament

## References:

James 4:1.

## Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

## Objectives:

**General:**

**Specific:**

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- 3.
- 4.

## Instructions:

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## Bible Verse:

"And he shall judge among the nations and shall rebuke many people ; and 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 any more". (Isaiah 2 :4)

## Lesson:

# WAR AND DISARMAMENT

## WAR IS AN OLD HUMAN SICKNESS

Among the results of the corruption that inflicted human nature because of the first sin are wars, divisions, disputes and killing. The first war that man knew was that of Cain murdering his brother Abel. The circle widened until we find Abraham fighting Chedorlaomer, and going to rescue Lot, his nephew, who was taken captive. All along human history the blood shed in wars has stained the pages of books and marred man's deeds. There is almost no period of history that is free from wars and disputes.

## THE REASONS OF WAR

The first basic reason for wars is the corruption of human nature, and the desire for dominion, greediness and pride. (Read James 4:1-3) Fighting is not only an individual attitude, it is also a national and social predicament. Just as individuals dispute over inheritance and trading, likewise countries dispute over boundaries, commercial centres, strategic sites, influential zones and sources of riches. Man's exploitation of his fellow brother and exploitation of great countries to the smaller ones have taken many forms, such as the following:

1. **Military Oppression**, in which one country occupies another country or strategic position with the purpose of bringing it under its military authority.
2. **Political Oppression**, in which a great country takes advantage of the political conditions of a small one and dominates over it through alliances, pacts or citizens aligned with the oppressors.
3. **Cultural oppression**, in which a great country monopolizes the means of communication of another country in order to spread its own civilization, culture and language, ignoring the national civilization, culture and language of the smaller country.
4. **Economical Oppression**, in which a great country monopolizes the sources of riches, and controls over the revenues and economy of the small countries and absorbs their abundance and leaves their people in misery and poverty.

## EVILS OF WARS

1. Wars result in the destruction and ruining of cities, the killing of young people, and the breaking down of civilization in many countries. The atomic war threatens the future of mankind all-over the world.

2. During the wars, the members of the fighting countries are shaken with anxiety and tension. In fact, the nerves of the people in the whole world are also injured by wars.
3. The wars result in the spread of moral corruption because of disputes, decrease of men, the large number of vagabond, breaking down of homes and families.

## **WHY DOES GOD PERMIT THE WARS?**

\* God does not want man to fight his fellow brother because He has created men in unity, so that they may all be one like the Holy Trinity that exists in the fellowship of love.

\* But sin has torn the unity between man and God, and between man and his fellow-man. The Apostle James examines the causes for wars: "What causes wars, and what causes fighting among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you wage war. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask, and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions". (James 4:1-3).

\* When the Lord Jesus came down to earth, He came to make peace and reconciliation. He asked the believers to love one another, -and to forgive everyone his brothers' transgression and not to get angry with one's brother and not to tell him "fool" that he might not be worthy of judgement. But the Lord Jesus knows that the spiritual believers alone obey His teachings while the world is unable to accept what He says. And because of this, the wars and disputes will continue since man lives under the law of sin. And the mystery of iniquity is working in the world now, and in this respect the Lord said: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass". (Matt. 24: 6).

## **THE CHURCH, MAKER OF PEACE**

- First, it is not possible for the Church to make a fight in the name of a holy war. The idea of the crusades is alien to the Church's spirit and conscience, because the Church calls for peace, and her head is the Prince of Peace. How could she make divisions while she is the vessel of faith and the domain of peace and rejoicing?

- It is not for the Church to mingle with political parties and politics, but must face the aggression and the oppression because of which wars and revolutions occur. The Church should always be the harbour of peace for every person, and the voice of truth and the anchor of hope for all humanity. The Church struggles to prevent wars by prayers, intercessions and supplications. She tries to influence the governments by calling for peace.

- The Church does not prevent her children from laying down their lives for the sake of their country because she is existing on the earth and in history. One of her responsibilities is to develop the spirit of patriotism in her children that they might defend their countries from the danger of every attack.

- War is the sin of countries and authorities, and not the sin of the fighting soldiers, and the one who has caused it is the only to bear its consequences and whatever results from it, as the Lord says: "It must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh". Therefore every Christian's heart should feel secure when drafted in the army; he is not responsible for the killing and destruction that takes place in the war. The believer is a citizen who has to obey the authorities and the rulers according to the Apostle's command.

- The Church does not consider those who die in the war martyrs of faith, but martyrs for their country ; history glorifies them but heaven rewards them according to their own faith and deeds.

### **THE CHURCH'S DUTY DURING WAR**

- To care for the orphans and widows, for the refugees and for the homeless who have become helpless because of the war and to provide for their spiritual and material needs.

- To care for the wounded and visit them in the hospitals and prays for them.

- To encourage the sad hearts and to preach patience, thankfulness and forbearance.

- To pray God that peace may reign over the world and the nations, and to remove wars and their afflictions.

### **DISARMAMENT**

Great efforts are being exerted in making plans for disarmament, in order that humanity may avoid the affections and distresses of wars, and here is the prophetic voice calling: "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 any more". (Is. 2 : 4) and (Mic. 4: 3-4). This will lead us into the kingdom of God, and finally into the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of peace and the site from which sadness and sighing have fled, and where God wipes away all tears from our eyes ; and there shall be no more death neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain ; for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said "Behold, I make all things new". (Rev. 21:4-5).

## **QUESTIONS**

1. What are the reasons for wars ?
2. What are the evils caused by wars ?
3. Why does God permit wars to take place ?
4. What is the Church's responsibility towards war ?
5. What is your duty concerning compulsory military service ?
6. What should the Church do during war times?
7. What is your opinion as regards disarmament ?

## **ACTIVITIES**

1. Analyse some newspaper accounts of war relating them to the scriptures.
2. Patronize some families who have lost some one in the war.
3. Arrange special prayers for peace in your country.

### **Conclusion:**

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- 2.
- 3.

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