

Why does God send people off to war? Should Christians go to war?

Does Jesus' teaching that we should *turn the other cheek* and love our enemies mean that it is always wrong to go to war? It is true that war itself is harmful and tragic; but pacifism would result in even more harm to the world because it would give wicked people virtually free reign. In fact, if we were to conclude that governments should always turn the other cheek and never resist evil, then where would our country be?

Luke 3:14 – *“Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”*

There is no mention here to leave the army and stop killing.”

John 18:36 – *“Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”*

Romans 13:3-5 – *“For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, **for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason.** They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.”*

Governments, of course, do not have the right to use force for any purpose whatsoever. But the purpose of force is not just to prevent further evil from happening, but to punish evil acts by bringing perpetrators to justice. Since the Scriptures teach that it is right for a nation to engage in a just war, it follows that it is therefore right for a Christian to fight in such a war.

It’s important to note tho, that a Christian fights in war not as an ambassador of the church or on behalf of the church, but as an ambassador of their country. We know the church isn’t to use violence, so the Christian fights not as an agent of the church, but as an agent of their government. Both are ultimately under the authority of God, but each has a distinct role.

Therefore what about turning the other cheek? The problem is not that Jesus is telling us to let evil steam-roll over us. Jesus is telling us here that the only way we should ever seek to overcome evil is by letting it go and responding with kindness.

The Israelites going off to war shows that God was always on their side. The atrocity of war was to show that God was in complete power – not the armies. eg. Gideon, Joshua marching around Jericho, David & Goliath & God also allowing Israel to lose because of their disobedience. War in the bible shows us the reader that God can’t lose. He is in total control of kings, armies, the forces of evil and every force in this world.

Why can’t we hold a healing service for blind people to see?

I often ask myself, what would I do as a pastor when I face these things in a church context – dealing with sick children and their parents. What if all I could come up with to explain why this is happening to them was to think up ideas about my own suffering and disability? What if all I had was human opinions to go on? I thank God that this is not our condition. The Bible is permeated with suffering and sorrow throughout its pages. This is one of the things that make the bible so believable to us. It is filled with things that God has said and done to shed light on these sufferings and sorrows.

We also have to realise that we can do anything if we have faith that moves mountains. Faith as small as a mustard seed. But my faith isn't strong enough otherwise if I had huge faith and was able to heal blind people, then I would make sure there would be no more blind people in this world.

Matthew 9:1-2 – *“Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”*

The biggest problem all of us have in this world is sin, not disability. We need to fix the problem of sin first before we can do anything else. And Jesus has done that hasn't he through the cross?

What should I make of Noah, the movie?

I personally haven't seen the movie but in **Gen6-9** we get a picture of Noah who obeys God and builds a boat. Where does it say he had an army of people against him? The movie is obviously adapted for Hollywood but others would say nonetheless it promotes the bible in a secular world.

I want to know where in the movie does God take the lead role? Where is God in Noah at all? In the bible, God is everywhere in Noah. But on the screen, it's not all about God is it, it's about Noah.

Same with another movie coming out soon called “Heaven is for Real.” It's about a boy who dies, goes up to heaven and comes back down and reveals all these things that Jesus revealed to him. But again, when you watch these Hollywood movies, you have to ask where is God in all this?

You see, when God does something in your life, you give him the glory, you praise him, your life becomes Christ. Our lives are not a money making Hollywood movie but a life based in Jesus. If Steven Spielberg came along and made a movie based on your life, how accurate do you think it would be to the real thing?

How did the Easter bunny originate. What is the significance then and now?

Read the current Challenge newspaper.

Why did the Angels fight over the body of Moses?

This question arises out of the verse in this passage...

Jude 1:8-10 – *“In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings. **But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”** Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.”*

Michael's response in this conflict, a very interesting conflict about the body of Moses, was to say, “The Lord rebuke you.” Now what is this arguing about the body of Moses? Very briefly, if you read the thirty-fourth chapter of Deuteronomy Moses dies and nobody knows where his grave is. And nothing in Deuteronomy is said about this dispute, this is the only place this is

ever said in the whole Bible. Why? Because in my opinion, I don't think the archangel Michael wanted anyone digging up the body and making an idol out of Moses (Similar to what the Catholic Church does with Peter). Satan wanted that body. We don't know what he wanted to do with it. I can guess. Maybe he wanted to parade it around to somehow desecrate it. Or maybe he wanted to turn it into something to be worshiped. But the archangel Michael was given the responsibility to bury that body and the way he dealt with Satan was the only way you can deal with him, he said, "The Lord rebuke you." That is the way you deal with evil. Apostates blaspheme holy angels by their sinful lives, which show disdain for the holy Law of God which is so precious and so sacred to even the angels.

Some denominations hold the view that Jesus was God. I cannot ever recall Jesus referring to himself as this – always as the “Son of God.” Are they separate entities or one?

Jesus basically tells us he is God.

Col. 2:9 – *“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”*

Phil. 2:6 – *“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage”*

Heb. 1:3 – *“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”*

John 1:1-3 – *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”*

John 1:14 – *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

We are told numerous times that Jesus is God, but the question asks when did Jesus specifically say that he was the Son of God himself.

Well, In **John 14:9-11**, Jesus does say something about being God.

“Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.”

When the bible says that Jesus is the Son of God, we understand him to mean that Jesus is fully God. He is not a mere man or a high-ranking angel in human form. He is truly man and truly God. When we call him Son of God, we mean that he is of the same nature as God.

So when we say that Jesus is the Son of God, we refer that God has begotten his Son (refer to **John 3:16** ‘*only begotten Son*’) in his very same divine nature, nothing less, from all eternity. Begetting is a metaphor, a picture, that tries to hold two truths together: (1) God the Father is not God the Son and God the Son is not God the Father; they are distinct persons, distinct centers of consciousness yet beings that relate totally to each other. But (2) the Father and the Son are one God not two Gods, one essence, one divine nature. From all eternity, without any beginning, the Father has always had a perfect image of himself and a divine reflection or radiance equal to himself, namely, the Son. So when we say, "Jesus is the Son of God," we are referring to Jesus being God.

Why does the bible refer to our Messiah by the Greek version of his name, Jesus, rather than the name he would've answered to, the Aramaic, Yeshua (Joshua)?

In Hebrew, '*Joshua*' means Savior or Deliverer. Joshua and Jesus are exactly the same word in Greek. In Jesus' time people spoke Greek & the New Testament written in Greek. As a saviour or deliverer, it meant Jesus is that person preparing to deliver his people, the new Israel, from the bondage of sin into the promised land of forgiveness and righteousness and peace and joy and eternal life (*Heaven*). To do this God had to send a new Joshua—This new Joshua stands as the head and representative of the whole people. On their behalf, he will now be led by God into the wilderness & among God's people. He will be tested as Israel was tested. And he will hunger as Israel hungered. And as he triumphs, he and all his people will be led safely into the promised land just as the Old Testament Joshua did.