

Valley of the Shadow of Death

Part I: Bearing the Sword

I. Biblical Basis to Take Human Life for Specific Instances

A. Capital Punishment

1. What was the initial punishment for murder as seen in Genesis 4:12?

2. What was God's response to the complete wickedness of men who would not repent and turn to Him?

3. According to Genesis 9:5-6, what did God establish for society as the punishment for the act of taking another man's life?

B. Authorities' Responsibility to Execute Wrath

1. According to Romans 13:1-7, the authority does not bear the _____ in vain because he is the _____ of God and a _____ to execute wrath upon him that does evil.

2. According to 1 Peter 2:14 what is the role of supreme authorities or governors with delegated responsibilities in society?

C. Analysis of 6th Commandment

1. In Exodus 20:13, the 6th Commandment has been read in recent time as "Thou Shall Not Kill." While some individuals take this as all killing, the Hebrew word used is rasah (yaw-sakh) which means to murder, kill, or to be a manslayer.

2. In Romans 13:9 the 6th Commandment has also been read as "Thou Shall Not Kill." However the Greek word for kill used is phoneou (fon-yoo-o) which means to commit murder, kill, or slew.

3. Context of these passages is the specific act of premeditated, cold-blooded, 1st degree murder or homicide.

D. Sanctioned Killing

1. Exodus 22:2-3... Self-defense in one's own home at night... (But if the thief is discovered during the day and is killed, it will be treated as murder.)
2. Nehemiah 4:13-14, defending families, homes, and fellow neighbors.
3. Deuteronomy 19:11-13 sanctions killing in the execution of those convicted of capital crimes to include 1st degree murder.
4. Deuteronomy 20:1-20 sanctions killing in acts of war (proclaimed as God's judgment on others).
5. Leviticus 26:14-46 sanctions killing in acts of war as God's judgment on His own people's disobedience.

E. Cases of Manslaughter

1. Deuteronomy 19:4-10 acknowledges innocence in accidental taking of life outside of one's control.
2. Numbers 35:11-15 Cities of refuge were established for protection from the executioner (avenger of blood) of those guilty of non-premeditated murder.

F. Examples of Capital Punishment

1. Exodus 21:12-14, no refuge or sanctuary from justice (even the alter of God) for first degree murder.
2. Numbers 35:9-28, cities of refuge allowed a place and time for the determination of killing/murder to be established and judged.
3. Numbers 35:29-34, Deuteronomy 17:2-7, Deuteronomy 19:15, and Hebrews 10:28; Determination of guilt by more than one witness was established.
4. Deuteronomy 19:16-21; Protection against false witnesses who would take the punishment of the one they were perjuring.
5. Deuteronomy 17:7; Witnesses against the accused also had to be included among the executioners.

II. Balancing Taking of Human Life with Admonition to “Turn the Other Cheek”

A. Bridge Between the Old and New Testaments

1. Fulfillment of the Old Testament Law vs. Destruction of the Law
 - a. What do Jesus and Paul affirm in Matthew 5:17-18 and Romans 3:31 about the law? _____
2. Matthew 5:39 and Luke 6:9 show that turning the other cheek applies to our responsibility as _____ not conducting government work to not retaliate against evildoers. Rather we should show grace to them and others in order to draw our enemies to Christ.
3. Examples in the New Testament of soldiers acting on their corporate responsibilities as men under authority:
 - a. Matthew 8:5-13 demonstrates Jesus affirming a Centurion saying, “He has ever not found anyone in ALL of Israel with such great faith.”
 - b. Acts 10 discusses a story about Cornelius who was a Centurion with the Italian Regiment being favored by God and becoming one of the first Gentile converts to Christ.
 - c. Acts 16:34-35 declares a jailer and his family being saved and still continuing on as a Roman “correction officer.”
 - d. Acts 21:32 tells the story of Roman soldiers rescuing the apostle Paul from a mob attack.
 - e. Acts 23:23-33 tells the story of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen providing protection for Paul to be safely taken from his enemies to be delivered safely to Roman Governor Felix.
 - f. Acts 27 gives a story of Paul’s positive relations with a group of soldiers and centurion who safely get him to his appointment in Rome as dictated by the Roman authorities.
4. Examples in New Testament of individuals reacting to personal injustice.
 - a. John 18:1-3 Jesus allows himself to be taken in by authorities unjustly after being betrayed by Judas in order to fulfill the plan of salvation.

- b. John 18:19-23 Jesus is slapped but doesn't strike back.
 - c. Acts 14:19, 23:2-5 "Paul was repeatedly stoned, beaten, and slapped while undergoing interrogation. Note the verbal responses of both Jesus and Paul when they were slapped by representatives of the High Priest (authority) and Paul's apology.
 - d. 1 Peter 2:21-23, "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example...who committed Himself to _____ who judges righteously."
5. What guidance does Romans 12:19-21 give regarding personal vengeance?

 6. What do Ezekiel 18:32 and Proverbs 24:17-18 say should be our attitude as individuals and those operating as part of the government should have?

 7. What do Exodus 23:8 and Luke 3:14 instruct on bribery?

 8. What does Matthew 5:42 say about treating those who have robbed you? _____

III. Justice in God's Plan for Salvation

A. Death of God's Lamb

1. What do Genesis 2:17 Romans 6:23 say is the penalty for the penalty of sin? _____
2. What does Isaiah 53:10 say is the remedy for sin?

3. The _____ of God demands that the penalty for treason (disobedience for God) is _____ both _____ and physically.
4. The _____ of God provides a payment for our disobedience through his own innocent blood was found in Matthew 26:28 and Genesis 22:8.

5. 2 Corinthian 5:21 sums up this principle by stating “For He has made Him (who knew no sin), to be sin for us, so that we might be made the _____ of God in Him.
6. Romans 6:23 states that the penalty for sin is _____ but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.