

Text: **Deuteronomy 20:1-20**

CONCERNING WARFARE

1. Trusting the Lord (Deuteronomy 20:1-4)

2. The role of priests (Deuteronomy 20:2)

3. Exhortation to battle fear

a) Do not let your heart faint

b) Do not be afraid

c) Do not tremble

Nor be terrified of the enemies (Deuteronomy 20:3)

4. Exhortation to remember the Lord

a) His presence

b) His power to fight enemies

c) His promise to save His people (Deuteronomy 20:4)

EXEMPTION FROM SERVING IN THE ARMY

1. Built a new house but has not dedicated it yet (Deuteronomy 20:5)

2. Planted a vineyard but has not eaten its fruits (Deuteronomy 20:6)

3. Betrothed but not yet married (Deuteronomy 20:7)

4. The fearful and fainthearted (Deuteronomy 20:8)

ORGANISING THE ARMY

1. Leaders to be appointed (captains) (Deuteronomy 20:9)

2. Basic structures (Leaders/ soldiers)

OFFERING PEACE

1. First step (Deuteronomy 20:10)
 - a) If peace is accepted
 - b) Tribute may be asked for

2. Second step if peace deal is not accepted
 - a) Laying siege (Deuteronomy 20:11)
 - b) War is on (Deuteronomy 20:12-13)
 - c) War with soldiers (male) (Deuteronomy 20:13)
 - d) To the victor belongs the spoils of war
 - i) Women
 - ii) Children
 - iii) Livestock
 - iv) All that is in the city
 - v) May eat the enemies' plunder
 - e) Reference to far away cities

3. Special conditions
 - a) For the nations within Canaan
 - b) Total warfare (Deuteronomy 20:16-17)
 - i) Utter destruction
 - ii) Nations mentioned (Deuteronomy 20:17)
 - c) These nations would influence Israel to worship idols (Deuteronomy 20:18)

4. Long sieges

- a) Trees are not to be wantonly destroyed (Deuteronomy 20:19)
- b) Fruit trees in particular (Deuteronomy 20:19)
- c) Non-fruit trees may be cut to build siege-works