

## Chapter 20

*Lawful warres are to be vndertaken with corege and confidence. 5. Such as for fpecial caufes may be difcoreged, muft be difmiffed from the field. 10. VVhat to be obserued towardes the enimie. 19. VVhat trees may not be cut downe, and what forte may be, for the vfe of warres.*

**I**f thou goe forth to warre againft thyne enemies, and fee the horfe men and chariottes, and the multitude of the aduerfaries hofte greater then thou haft, thou shalt not feare them: becaufe the Lord thy God is with thee, which brought thee out of the Land of Ægypt. <sup>2</sup> And when the battel is now at hand, the priefte fhall ftand before the armie, and fhall fpeake to the people thus: <sup>3</sup> Heare Ifrael, you this day ioyne battel againft your enemies, let not your hart feare, be not affrayed, retire not, neither dread them: <sup>4</sup> becaufe our Lord your God is in the middes of you, and wil fight for you againft your aduerfaries, to deliuer you from danger. <sup>5</sup> The Captaines alfo through euerie bande in the hearing of the hofte fhall proclaime: <sup>a</sup>)what man is there, that hath built a new houfe, and hath not dedicated it? let him goe, and returne into his houfe, left perhaps he die in the battel, and an other dedicate it. <sup>6</sup> What man is there that hath planted a vineyard, and hath not as yet made it to be common, wherof al men may lawfully eate? let him goe, and returne into his houfe: left perhaps he die in the battel, and an other man execute his office. <sup>7</sup> What man is there, that hath defpoufed a wife, and not taken her? let him goe, and returne into his houfe, left perhaps he die in the warre, and an other take her. <sup>8</sup> Thefe thinges being faid they fhall adde the reft, and fhall fpeake to the people: What man is there feareful, and fainte harted? let him goe, and returne

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<sup>a</sup> Men poffeffed with fuch defires haue not like valure to good fouldiars. And by word or example often difcorege others. So in fpiritual warfare, we muft not be addicted to worldlie profites, or pleafures.

into his house, lest he make the hearts of his brethren to  
fear, as himselfe is frightened with feare. <sup>9</sup> And when the  
Captaines of the host shall hold their peace, and make an  
end of speaking, euery man shall prepare their bandes to  
fight. <sup>10</sup> If at any time thou come to winne a citie, thou  
shalt first offer peace. <sup>11</sup> If they receiue it, and open the  
gates to thee, all the people that is therein, shall be saved,  
and shall serue thee vnder tribute. <sup>12</sup> But if they wil not  
make peace, and shall beginne battell against thee, thou  
shalt assault it. <sup>13</sup> And when our Lord thy God shall deli-  
uer it into thy hand, thou shalt strike all, that is therein of  
the male sexe, in the edge of the sword, <sup>14</sup> excepting we-  
men and children, the cattel and other things, that are  
in the citie. All the praye thou shalt diuide to the armie,  
and thou shalt eate of the spoiles of thine enemies, which  
our Lord thy God shall geue thee. <sup>15</sup> So shalt thou doe  
to all cities, that be verie farre from thee, and be not of  
these cities, which thou shalt receiue in possession. <sup>16</sup> But  
of those cities, that shall be geuen thee, thou shalt suffer  
none at all to liue: <sup>17</sup> but shalt kill them in the edge of  
the sword, to witte, the Hethite, and Amorrite, and  
Chananeite, the Pherezite, and Hevite, and Iebusite,  
as our Lord thy God hath commanded thee: <sup>18</sup> lest per-  
haps they teach you to doe all the abominations, which  
they selues did worke to their goddes: and you sinne  
against our Lord your God. <sup>19</sup> When thou hast besieged  
a citie a long time, and hast compassed it with muni-  
tion to winne it, thou shalt not cutte downe the trees,  
that may be eaten of, neither shalt thou spoile the coun-  
trie round about with axes: because it is a tree, and  
not a man, neither can it increase the number of warry-  
ers against thee. <sup>20</sup> But if there be any trees not fruitful,  
but wilde, and apt for other vses, cutte them downe, and  
make engines, vntill thou take the citie, which fighteth  
against thee.