

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 towards the enimie. 19. VVhat trees may not be cut downe, and what forte may be, for the vfe of warres.

If 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. ² And when the battel is now at hand, the priefte fhall ftand before the armie, and fhall fpeake to the people thus: ³ Heare Ifrael, you this day ioyne battel againft your enemies, let not your hart feare, be not affrayed, retire not, neither dread them: ⁴ becaufe our Lord your God is in the middes of you, and wil fight for you againft your aduerfaries, to deliuer you from danger. ⁵ The Captaines alfo through euerie bande in the hearing of the hofte fhall proclaime: ^a)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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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

^a 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ If at any time thou come to winne a citie, thou
shalt first offer peace. ¹¹ 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. ¹² But if they wil
not make peace, and shall beginne battell against thee,
thou shalt assault it. ¹³ And when our Lord thy God
shall deliuer it into thy hand, thou shalt strike all, that
is therein of the male sexe, in the edge of the sword,
¹⁴ excepting women 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.
¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ But of those cities, that shall be geuen
thee, thou shalt suffer none at all to liue: ¹⁷ but shalt
kill them in the edge of the sword, to witte, the Het-
heite, and Amorrhite, and Chananeite, the Pherezeite,
and Heueite, and Iebuseite, as our Lord thy God hath
commanded thee: ¹⁸ lest perhaps they teach you to doe
all the abominations, which themselves did worke to
their goddes: and you sinne against our Lord your God.
¹⁹ When thou hast besieged a citie a long time, and hast
compassed it with munition to winne it, thou shalt not
cutte downe the trees, that may be eaten of, neither
shalt thou spoile the countrie round about with axes:
because it is a tree, and not a man, neither can it in-
crease the number of warriors against thee. ²⁰ 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.