

SESSION #21 (27 Apr 10); Deut 7:1-5, 17-26; Moral relativism; justification & procedures for holy war

I. INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

1:1-5	Introduction to God's spokesman, the 1 st Prophet Moses
1:6 - 4:40	1 st Exposition of the Torah = <u>motivation</u> to obey from (1) <u>past gracious actions</u> of Yahweh and (2) sovereign <u>destiny</u> of the nation (<u>future gracious actions</u> of Yahweh)
4:41-49	Editorial comment on context of 2 nd Exposition of the Torah
5:1 - 26:19	2 nd Exposition of the Torah = proper response to Yahweh in heart and soul
5:1 - 11:32	Loving Yahweh with all the heart
5:1-33	The Mt. Sinai event & ramifications
6:1-25	"Living in the Word"
7:1-26	Joining in Yahweh's war—requirements & resources

Review the argument so far:

1:6 - 4:40 1st Exposition → motivation for 2nd generation "restart" of the original plan to establish a mini-Kingdom-of-God within space-time history

5:1 - 6:25 2nd Exposition

God's design of society is the ONLY way to attain REAL "social justice"

The foundation of a culture is all-determining for everything else (from metaphysics to politics) so these factors are involved in the "heart attitudes"

This is why schemes of redemption by legalism and sword always fail (they work from the top down instead of from the bottom up).

"Living in the Word" = means an internal purging of the mind and heart by [assimilating divine revelation] from childhood in the home

6:10-19 five distractions to "living in the Word"

All involve

Metaphysics: ("What is existence all about?" "What is the meaning & purpose of my life?")

- Creator → design reveals His intended purpose (e.g., sexual distinctions reveal their purpose in the [generation] of life and its [nurture], yet the so-called "gay" homosexuality utterly denies that purpose and winds up with AIDS & social turmoil—anything but "gay")
- Creator → creation or eternal, [purposeless], unintelligent chaos

Epistemology: ("Why is what you are telling me true?")

- Speaking & acting Creator → not some Deistic watchmaker that disappeared from history = historical revelation must be [remembered], not re-engineered out of existence
- Speaking & acting Creator → language is rooted in the intra-Trinity [conversation] and in the [linguistic] cause of created existence → words ought to fit reality, not some Sophist politically correct rhetoric and semantic manipulation

Ethics: (“Who are you to tell me how I ought to live my life?”)

- Judge → absolute standard that doesn’t depend upon individual or societal [opinion]
- Judge → He behaves in history consistent with His Righteous & Just nature, so to deny this as 1st generation did at Massah/Meribah is repudiation of the faith.

TEST CASE: Moral relativism (= Subjective standard)

“Ethical judgments merely express an individual’s emotions or attitudes toward an action.”

Arguments:

- (1) Circumstances differ from person to person and from generation to generation.
- (2) “Who are we to impose our moral sentiments upon others?”
- (3) [Attempted defense against irrationality] contradictory moral standards can both, therefore, be true in that both accurately show the individuals’ attitudes.

Problems:

- (1) Ethical judgments ultimately then say nothing about actions themselves, only of the individual tastes or feelings toward such actions → moral outrage becomes merely a personal problem
 - (2) Subjectivist ethical theory refutes itself since subjectivist can’t live without making objective ethical judgments (“should”, “ought”), particularly the judgment that others ought not to impose their ethic upon them.
 - (3) Politically it would result in anarchy, so in the end it causes totalitarianism whereby the strong impose their ethic on the weak in order to maintain social order = arbitrary (positivist) law
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II. THE STRUCTURE OF CHAPTER 7

Similar structure to Chapter 6:

Chapter 6	Chapter 7
6:1-9, 20-25 The commands & the procedures of learning them well	7:1-5, 17-26 Holy war & the procedures of executing it
6:10-19 The heart relationship with Yahweh	7:6-16 The contractual relationship with Yahweh

III. PROCEDURES FOR UNAVOIDABLE HOLY WAR (7:1-5)

Holy War (*divinely-ordered genocide*): see discussion in Lesson 9 (posted on the web site, www.BibleFramework.com under “Other Lessons”).

What is the justification? Answer: [end] of divine grace & release of divine justice

- Divine justice existed from all eternity (divine grace did not).
- Divine justice exercised in judgment of Satan (Garden, Revelation).
- Lake of Fire—eternal damnation (not annihilation) prepared originally for the devil and his angelic rebels (**Matt 25:41**).
- Horribly, man joins Satan’s destiny when he rejects divine grace in Christ.
- Holy War in the conquest period was against a population that had become totally demonized as the historic outworking of Noah’s curse on Canaan (**Gen. 9:20-25; 15:16**).

7:1 when Yahweh brings you. . .and casts out.. .

Very dangerous stage in the war of Conquest: a series of battlefield victories under Joshua, but the war isn't finished. . .a tendency to yield to fatigue, relax guard, and assume peace will somehow be established.

7:2 you must really destroy them [Heb infinitive absolute preceding the verb → emphasizes the certainty of the verb]

Kingdom of God in sense of a real, historically-existing kingdom inevitably must [conflict] with the fallen Noahic civilization.

“Exhibit A” Canaanites: They had gone down the path of degeneracy so far that God classified their condition as “full iniquity” (**Gen. 15:16**).

** Canaanites : final unbelievers of the Tribulation :: Antiochus Epiphanes : AntiChrist.**

really destroy [Heb: CHAREM]

“Dedicate” (to Yahweh) = zone of total destruction of life; no booty allowed
CHAREM is source of the word “harem” which is the name of a protected living area for the women of polygamous males; also used for animal breeding. Moslems also call the part of the house for women the harem.

make no contract. . .

complete ban on all social interaction (Joshua found out how serious such a contract was in case of Gibeonites in Josh 9-10)

7:3-4 make no marriages. . .for they will turn away. . .serve other gods. . .

In the Kingdom of God, serving other gods = TREASON.

7:5 thus you will do to them

pull down their altars = places of sacrifice (children perhaps?) probably of piled stones
shatter their pillars = stone pillar that supposedly marked a place where a god or goddess appeared (sort of like Roman Catholic shrines to the Virgin Mary—see movie Cromwell)
cut down their Asherahs = wooden poles (phallic symbols?) dedicated to the fertility goddess and consort of the main male deity

burn up their idols = apparently wood with metallic coverings ?

Summary: Waging a total war against an entrenched anti-God metaphysic and epistemological foundation of this pagan, demonic society. Foretaste of Jesus' cleansing the earth of nature-worshipping cosmologies and man-based speculative knowledge.

Application to Church Age: 2 Cor. 10:3-5 “*We do not war according to the flesh for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*”

IV. FAITH & DISCIPLINE IN HOLY WAR (7:17-26)

Continued explanation of specific procedures—the “how to” of holy war.

7:17 if you say in your heart. . .how can I dispossess them?

Think of the final failure of the 1st generation at Kadesh.

God “retests” us to stimulate our advance toward maturity.

7:18-19 not be afraid. . .but shall remember

Faith-rest drill: what is your interpretation of “facts”??

This time, Moses teaches, you will mentally do a “strategic envelopment” around the spirit of fear.

2 Tim. 1:7 “*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*”

2nd generation was to grab the memory of the exodus event and “squeeze the sponge” to get a powerful rationale for stability in the face of war.

7:20 send the hornet

Depending upon ANE chronology, it might be a metaphor of Egyptian army campaigns along the Mediterranean lowlands but this doesn’t fit (Ex. 15:15; Num. 22:3; Josh. 2:9-11, 24; 5:1; 9:24) which indicates the historical revelation of Israel’s God in the exodus event was so clear that it lasted for many years.

7:21 Yahweh your God is among you—great and fear-inspiring EL

This “title” has been earned by the exodus event and continues beyond it into the future (attribute of Immutability).

7:22 little by little. . .lest the beasts of field become too numerous for you

This description fits the post-Joshua era once the “beachhead” had been established.

Doctrine of dominion vs. modern ecology → what the Sierra Club thinks is paradise, the Bible calls a threat to civilization: a wilderness where nature is out of control. The modern ecology movement serves nature deities as the OT worshippers of Baal.

7:24 until you have destroyed them. . .

Faith-rest drill is to utilize the history of the exodus as revelatory of the Lord’s capability to provide + doctrine in infallibility = secure future.

In these last few verses, Moses demands disciplined execution of these procedures.

7:25 abomination to Yahweh your God . . .

Closing warning: one of the key procedures is to remember CHAREM—do not take booty. EVERYTHING is YAHWEH’s. “The battle is the Lord’s” said David. It isn’t ours, and it wasn’t Israel’s.

7:26 lest you become charem like it

Leaven illustration of evil: evil metastasizes. How?

Wealth from idolatries' materials → “not so bad after all” → don't need to depend upon Yahweh

utterly detest it and utterly abhor it. . .

SHAQQETS (Inf + Main Verb). . .TAHEV (Inf + Main Verb) = very strong expression
it is an accursed thing [Heb: CHEREM)

V. CONCLUSION

In **7:1-5, 17-26** Moses does what he did in Chap 6—gives specific procedures and operating doctrine, the “how to's” of accomplishing loving the Lord in the heart.

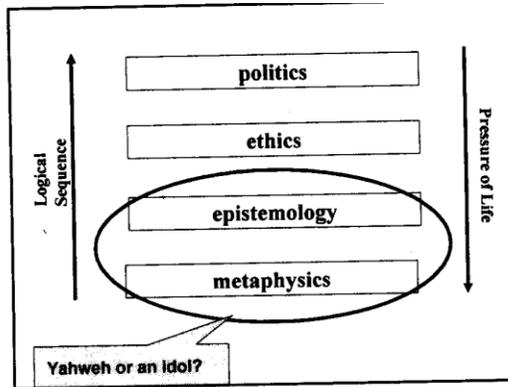
Chap 6 gave the training procedures to “live in the Word”—daily assimilation, use, and increasing facility in the Word mainly through family training.

Chap 7 gives the mental tools to join Yahweh in His holy war period of human history.

- Must be a determination not to prematurely quit fighting; need a total “clean-out.”
- Must obliterate the religious foundation of the Canaanite apostate culture.
- Destroy every manifestation of nature deities (re-establish C/c distinction).
- Destroy every product of human invention (re-establish the authority of historic revelation).
- When the test comes again, use the exodus event revelation + immutability of God to have an effective faith-rest drill & execution of war procedures.
- Must maintain an absolute, uncompromising mental attitude toward the idolatrous foundation of Canaanite culture, even to the point of not taking ANY plunder.

God's Design of Society

LIFE (protected)	LIFE (jeopardized)
MARRIAGE & FAMILY (strong & functioning)	MARRIAGE & FAMILY (weak & dysfunctional)
LABOR & PROPERTY (respected & productive)	LABOR & PROPERTY (demeaned & wasted)
INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (consistently states truth)	INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (deceitfully professes truth for agendas)
HEART ALLEGIANCE (to God)	HEART ALLEGIANCE (to self)



Non-Biblical Answers to: "Who are you to tell me how to live?"

1. Subjectivism (moral relativism): *"Ethical judgments merely express an individual's emotions or attitudes toward an action."*

Arguments for:
Circumstances & generation differ from person to person
Intolerant to impose one's values on others

Two persons' conflicting judgments can both be true because they both accurately reflect the individual attitudes

Non-Biblical Answers to: "Who are you to tell me how to live?"

1. Subjectivism (moral relativism): *"Ethical judgments merely express an individual's emotions or attitudes toward an action."*

Problems with:
Says nothing about actions themselves, only autobiographical expressions lacking basis for moral outrage over evil actions
Self-refuting since every person inevitably judges others' actions (especially toward himself or herself)
Resulting anarchy leads to totalitarian imposition of the judgments of the stronger against the weaker to avoid social chaos

Structure of Chapters 6 & 7

Chapter 6	Chapter 7
6:1-9,20-25 The commands & the procedures of learning them well	7:1-5,17-26 Holy war & the procedures of executing it
6:10-19 The (heart) relationship with Yahweh	7:6-16 The (contractual) relationship with Yahweh

Faith vs Unbelief

Mob	Caleb & Joshua
Fact #1 Num 13:27 land = as God promised	
Fact #2 13:28-29 a fight ahead	
"Grasshopper" Interpretation 13:31-14:4 Occupants stronger than we are → we're going to die and our families destroyed	"Bread" Interpretation 13:30; 14:8-9 Lord is stronger than they are → we can be victorious IF we obey