

Joshua

chapter

As for me and my house,
we will serve the LORD

Joshua 24:15

- 1 Strong & Courageous – Joshua's Call
- 2 Grace, Spies & Rahab – *Virginia Maness*
- 3-5 Crossing Jordan & Angel to Joshua
- 6 Winning Strategy – Jericho Conquered
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- 14 Unwavering Determination – Dividing Land
- 24 Vital Decisions – Joshua's Final Words



June 21, 2026

WAR!

Joshua Crossing the Jordan with Ark of Covenant
c. 1800, by Benjamin West



July 4, 2026

Joshua 5:15 Commander of the Lord's
army said: "Take off your sandals, for the
place where you are standing is holy."

→ *Joshua did so.*



Joshua 5:13-15 – Angel of LORD to Joshua

Thus closes Joshua chapter 5

15 The **COMMANDER** of the **LORD's** army replied,

“Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is **HOLY.**” And Joshua did so.

Exact Hebrew Word used translated here **COMMANDER** appears 85x

- ✓ Gen 21:22 “Phicol, the **COMMANDER** of his army”
- ✓ Gen 39:1 “**CAPTAIN** of the bodyguard” ~ Gen 40:16 “**CHIEF** baker”
- ✓ Judges 9:30 “**RULER** of the city” ~ 1 Kings 11:15 “Joab the **COMMANDER** of army”

PLUS root used 132x trans as “**LEADER,**” “**PRINCE,**” & “**CAPTAIN** of 1,000s”

YES—you guessed right, EXACT word translated “LORD” is YHWH

Thus closes Joshua chapter 5

15 The **COMMANDER** of the LORD's **ARMY** replied,
"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are
standing is **HOLY**." And Joshua did so.

Exact Hebrew Word used translated here **COMMANDER** :
Of 85x, exact word is ALSO trans "**LEADER**" & "**PRINCE**"
scholars have translated Joshua 5:15 as "**Prince of Jehu**"

Exact Hebrew used "**ARMY**" appears 38x among root's 4
38x translated as "**ARMY**" or "**HOST**"

Of the root's 486 uses, one word variant is used 283x mostly as "**HOST**"
and many times contracted with **YHWH** as "**LORD of HOSTS**"

POINT of all this is to show that this is an **ANGEL** who is
Commander of YHWH's Host or ARMY [of angels] distinct from Israel
That is, **God & His Angel-in-charge of God's ARMY of Angels**

1 Kings 6:17 – Elisha asked God to **OPEN** servant's eyes to see chariots of **FIRE**



Joshua 5:13-15 –LORD's Angel-Commander to Joshua

Thus closes Joshua chapter 5

15 **Angel COMMANDER of the LORD's army [of Angels] replied,**
“Take off your sandals, for the place where you are
standing is HOLY.” And Joshua did so.

There is a very beautiful song that can apply here –

We are standing on holy ground

And I know that there are angels all around

Let us praise Jesus now

What a good ol' classic song. Perhaps, I *should* go in that direction.

Joshua 3-5 – LORD Speaks to Joshua

3:1-17 Israel to Follow the Ark of the Covenant

3:5 “Consecrate yourselves,
for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things for you”

Priests w Ark stopped in middle of Jordan on DRY GROUND

4:1-9 12 Tribe Men Take 12 Stones from Riverbed Where Priests Stood

4:10-24 Crossed Jordan w 40k Armed – Camped at Gilgal w 12 Stones

Joshua . . . Jehovah is his help

Chap 4 – 12 Men of 12 Tribes set up 12 Stones – Memorial to Crossing

4:14 That day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel;

they stood in awe of him all
the days of his life, just as
they had stood in awe of Moses.

Chap 5 – Men from Egypt died &
NEW Gen Z had NOT followed Lord
clean up time before Jericho



**Edwin Starr's 1969
song "War" top the
charts in 1970**



**WAR! Huh! Yeah!
What it is it good for?
Absolutely nothin'!!**

**70 miles WEST,
as bird flies, to
Great Sea, or
Mediterranean**

View from Mt. Nebo

Vietnam WAR – 1950s to 1975
USA enters in 1960s
58,220 Americans KILLED
about 11,000 died of other causes
FOR WHAT? – then soldiers hated

MANY songs like “WAR” came
Though “Absolutely NOTHING”
was not truly meant for all WARS?
When it is TIME to go to WAR?
Vietnam FELT USELESS to many

View from Mt. Nebo



WAR!

Joshua . . . to Gilgal





Ark Crossing Jordan, by Juan Montero de Rojas (1613-1683), Madrid, Museo del Prado

Joshua 3-5 – Angel of LORD Speaks to Joshua

3:1-17 Israel to Follow the Ark of the Covenant

3:5 “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things for you”

Priests w Ark stopped in middle of Jordan on DRY GROUND

4:1-9 12 Tribe Men Take 12 Stones from Riverbed Where Priests Stood

4:10-24 Crossed Jordan w 40k Armed – Camped at Gilgal w 12 Stones

5:1 Amorite Kings West of Jordan & Canaanite Kings on
the Coast – Their “HEARTS MELTED IN FEAR”

5:2-8 LORD Has All Circumcised & Time to Heal

5:9-12 Celebrate Passover & Day After Ate Fruits of the Land

5:13-15 Joshua Meets Angel “Commander of Army of the LORD”

5:15 Commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals,
for the place where you are standing is holy.”

Joshua did so.

Another song comes to mind here
Perhaps we cannot HEAR it often
enough, especially as we celebrate

250th Year of U.S.A.

As with Joshua, we must remember
the 12 Stones and how we got here

Fighting soldiers from the sky
Fearless men who jump and die
Men who mean just what they say
The brave men of the Green Beret



Joshua 5:13-15 – Angel of LORD to Joshua

13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand.

Joshua went up to him & asked,

“Are you for us or for our enemies?”

That is a powerful question.

Have YOU ever asked or wondered that? When? Where?

What's YOUR Position on

WAR!

What is WAR! – Then & Today?

I presented this paper at the New Bethel Baptist Association meeting in 2001
meeting at FBC Chester – in series by several on Baptist Faith & Message Articles

Biblical War & Peace –

A Study of SBC Baptist Faith & Message Article XVI



A. Article XVI. Peace and War

Baptist Faith & Message 1963 & 2000 – single paragraph:

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war. The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace [Last sentence added in 2000].

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38;
Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.



As for me and my house,
we will serve the LORD

Joshua 24:15

Joshua Crossing the Jordan with Ark of Covenant
c. 1800, by Benjamin West

Biblical War & Peace –

A Study of SBC Baptist Faith & Message Article XVI

I began with a statement:

SBC Article XVI on peace and war is a bit passive for most Baptists, especially all the hunters, LHC holders, soldiers, law officers, and pretty much all who would desire to defend their home from a marauder.



Biblical War & Peace –

A Study of SBC Baptist Faith & Message Article XVI



I began with a series of questions:

- Baptists—people of the Bible and the Bible’s God!
- What’s the purpose of the *Baptist Faith and Message*?
- What does the Baptist statement say? – Is it the Bible’s view?
- 3 views on Christian Peace & War are **Pacifism, Just War, & Crusaderism**
- What do they mean? – Is peace the most important element of Christian faith?
- Is pacifism biblical? – Is war always wrong?
- What is the most important element of the Christian faith? – Love God?
- Should we **enforce** that Highest Christian value & virtue of “**Love God**”?
- Jesus observed that there will be **WAR** this side of heaven.

**Just War Theory
is Defended**

www.PreciousHeart.net/War-Peace.pdf

We are to be peacemakers, not pacifists or crusaders.

Joshua 5:13-15 – Angel of LORD to Joshua

13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand.

Joshua went up to him & asked,

“Are you for us or for our enemies?”

GOD sends an ANGEL to help Joshua!

No one is ever confused here.

All of us know what is going to happen.

Silver wings upon their chest

These are men, America's best

One hundred men will test today

But only three win the Green Beret

Trained to live off nature's land

Trained in combat, hand-to-hand

Men who fight by night and day

Courage take from the Green Berets



Biblical War & Peace –

A Study of SBC Baptist Faith & Message Article XVI



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Biblical War & Peace –

A Study of SBC Baptist Faith & Message Article XVI



E. Peace and War Conclusion & Literature

Bible Indicates Several Kind of War

War caused by God

War caused by Satan

War caused by people sent from God

War caused by people sent from Satan

War caused by both good and bad people

War Against Christians Directly or Indirectly

Satan and his demons war against Christians

Some religious people war against Christians

Some religions war against Christians

Some people war against Christians

Some organizations war against Christians

Bible Indicates Several Kinds of Peace

Redemptive Peace only God can bring

Miraculous Peace only God can give

Community Peace partially at government's hands

Peacemaker Peace that each have a responsibility

Earthly Peace that awaits the reign of Christ

Ultimate Peace that awaits us in heaven

Biblical War & Peace –

A Study of SBC Baptist Faith & Message Article XVI



Arthur F. Holmes said in book, *War & Christian Ethics*,

“JUST CAUSE: the only morally legitimate reason for going to war is self defense. If this rule were universally followed there would be no aggressors and no wars....

JUST INTENT: the only morally legitimate goal in war is the restoration of peace, with justice for both friend and foe.”

(p. 5, all caps mine)

Holmes, Arthur F., ed.. *War and Christian Ethics, 2nd Ed.: Classic & Contemporary Readings on the Morality of War.*
Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005 (1st 1975); 404p.

Joshua 5:13-15 – Angel of LORD to Joshua

13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand.

Joshua went up to him & asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

14 “Neither,” he replied, “but as **COMMANDER OF THE ARMY** of the LORD
I have now come!

Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, asking,
“What message does my Lord have for his servant?”

WHAT is the Message to US, and to US TODAY?

Take off your **SHOES**? – Not the **MESSAGE!**

The “Message” is not given, yet we *know*
God will DELIVER Jericho to Joshua

Silver wings upon their chest

These are men, America's best

One hundred men will test today

But only three win the Green Beret



Biblical War & Peace –

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Arthur F. Holmes said in book, *War & Christian Ethics*,

Reformer Martin Luther said, “A good doctor sometimes finds so serious and terrible a sickness that he must amputate or destroy a hand, foot, ear, eye, to save the body....

when I think of a soldier fulfilling his office by punishing the wicked, killing the wicked, creating so much misery, it seems an un-Christian work completely contrary to Christian love.”

No one Wants **WAR!**

Holmes, Arthur F., ed.. *War and Christian Ethics, 2nd Ed.: Classic & Contemporary Readings on the Morality of War.*
Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005 (1st 1975); 404p.

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Arthur F. Holmes said in book, *War & Christian Ethics*,

Luther *continued*, “But when I think of how it protects the good and keeps and preserves wife and child, house and farm, property, and honor and peace, then I see how precious and godly this work is; and I observe that it amputates a leg or a hand, so that the whole body may not perish.

For if the sword were not on guard to preserve peace, everything in the world would be ruined because of lack of peace.

www.PreciousHeart.net/War-Peace.pdf

Holmes, Arthur F., ed.. *War and Christian Ethics, 2nd Ed.: Classic & Contemporary Readings on the Morality of War*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005 (1st 1975); 404p.

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Arthur F. Holmes said in book, *War & Christian Ethics*,

Luther *continued*, “**Therefore, such a war is only a very brief lack of peace that prevents an everlasting and immeasurable lack of peace, a small misfortune that prevents a great misfortune.**”

(p.141 & 143)

www.PreciousHeart.net/War-Peace.pdf

Holmes, Arthur F., ed.. *War and Christian Ethics, 2nd Ed.: Classic & Contemporary Readings on the Morality of War.*
Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005 (1st 1975); 404p.

Back at home, a young wife waits
Her Green Beret has met his **FATE**
He has died for those oppressed
Leaving her his last request
Put silver wings on my son's chest
Make him one of America's best
He'll be a man they'll test one day
Have him win the Green Beret



Joshua 5:13-15 – Angel of LORD to Joshua

Thus closes Joshua chapter 5

15 The **COMMANDER** of the LORD's army replied,
"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are
standing is **HOLY.**" And Joshua did so.



Of all the views, in the light of Joshua that day,
What is your stance on

WAR!

We understand the *hatred* of WAR & WAR's Necessity

Biblical War & Peace –

A Study of SBC Baptist Faith & Message Article XVI



I close my article on Biblical War & Peace with this:

**“In just-war theory, many fulcrum concepts magnify complexity.
Would you have sanctioned the assassination of Hitler? ...**

In a nuclear age, how far do we assert foreign diplomacy?

**Most importantly, what conditions need to exist to use
violence and even lethal force?**

**At least, I think, we would all agree that force and lethal
force is justified to prevent a danger to human health, life,
and liberty—especially to those we Love.**



We are to be **PEACEMAKERS**
We're **ALL** Looking to the Promised Land
THIS side of heaven, we must battle
EVIL & Fight for GOOD

With God on our Side
Praying for Peace

View from Mt. Nebo