The Biblical View of War

Definition: a state of armed conflict between

different nations or states or different groups

within a nation or state.

Relevant Biblical Passages:

* Ecclesiastes 3:8
* Matthew 24 (esp. v. 6)
* Joshua and Judges
* Prophets and Kings (esp. Habakkuk, and Josiah)
* Deuteronomy 20:1-4
* Revelation 12 (esp. vs. 7-11); 21:4
* Rom 12:18
* 2 Tim 2:1-7

Killing vs. Murder?

* “Thou shalt not murder.”
* Kill
  + Hebrew: הרג - hrg
  + Greek: ἀποκτείνω - apokteino
  + both these words mean something like, “to end a life (human or otherwise), either intentionally or unintentionally.”
* Murder
  + Hebrew: רצח – rtzch
  + Greek: φονευω – phoneuo
  + Both these words mean specifically, “one human killing another human with intentional and malicious intent.”
* in Exodus 20 and Deut 5 *rtzch* is used.
* In every quotation of this commandment, in the NT *phoneuo* is used.

Systematic Theology of War:

Based on the Scriptures we’ve seen…

* War is a temporary reality
  + It became possible at the fall and will remain possible until the New Earth.

* God has instructed wars to occur.
* War exists (or will exist) in heaven.
* Christians are to avoid war if possible, but engage courageously when peace is impossible.