

**Veritas Class
April 13, 2014
Righteousness Demonstrated in the Conduct of War
Deuteronomy 20:1-20**

The Structure of Chapter 20

- A. Taking Care of the Troops (20:1-9)
- B. Dealing with the Targeted Towns (20:10-18)
 - a. Instructions for Distant Campaigns (20:10-15)
 - b. Instructions for Near Campaigns (20:16-18)
- C. Instructions on Siege Warfare (20:19-20)

EXPOSITION

A. Encouraging the Troops for Battle (vv. 1-9)

- 1. Preamble (vv. 1-2a)
- 2. The Priestly Challenge: A Classic Military Oration (vv. 2b-4)

Feature	Translation
Call to Attention	"Hear, O Israel!
Declaration of the Crisis	Today you are going into battle against your enemies.
Appeal for Courage	Do not be fainthearted; Do not be afraid; Do not be terrified; Do not panic before them.
The Grounds for Encouragement	For YHWH your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory."

3. The Officials' Addresses (vv. 5-8)

20:5	20:6	20:7	20:8
Who is the man who has built a new house and has not moved into it? Let him go back home, or he may die in battle and someone else will move in to it. 17 words/62 letters	Who is the man who has planted a vineyard, and not begun to enjoy it? Let him go back home, or he may die in battle, and someone else will enjoy it. 16 words/60 letters	Who is the man who has been engaged to a woman and not married her? Let him go back home, or he may die in battle, and someone else will marry her. 16 words/59 letters	Who is the man who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go back home, Or he will cause the heart of his fellows to melt like his own. 14 words/48 letters

4. The Final Counsel (v. 9)

B. Dealing with the Targeted Towns (20:10-18)

- a. Instructions for Distant Campaigns (20:10-15)
- b. Instructions for Near Campaigns (20:16-18)

¹⁰ When you approach a town to attack it, you must first offer its people terms for peace. ¹¹ If they accept your terms and open the gates to you, then all the people inside will serve you in forced labor. ¹² But if they refuse to make peace and prepare to fight, you must attack the town. ¹³ When YHWH your God hands the town over to you, use your swords to kill every man in the town. ¹⁴ But you may keep for yourselves all the women, children, live-stock, and other plunder. You may enjoy the plunder from your enemies that YHWH your God has given you.

¹⁶ In those towns that YHWH your God is giving you as a special possession, destroy every living thing. ¹⁷ You must completely destroy the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, just as YHWH your God has commanded you. ¹⁸ This will prevent the people of the land from teaching you to imitate their detestable customs in the worship of their gods, which would cause you to sin deeply against YHWH your God.

This
is how
you shall treat
the distant towns
and that are not of the towns
of the nations here (v. 15).