CROSSROADS
Baptist Church

What the Bible teaches concerning Weapons and Self-Defense

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In this day with so many different teachings and beliefs coming from so many various sources it is of utmost importance to go to the only reliable source for the correct answer. The Word of God (The King James Bible).

In order to answer what the Bible teaches concerning weapons and self defense we must answer the question is killing ever ok? After all one of the Ten Commandments says thou shalt not kill…

Ecclesiastes 3:3 Here we find that the wisest man to ever live, given his wisdom from God Himself said there **is** a time to kill. It can be easily established in the Scriptures that times of war and times of pursuing justice are instances where God's Word allows for the killing of others but is killing in defense of your own life acceptable?

James 4:17 *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."* *1st Timothy 5:8* *"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."*
Is it good to allow your family to die because you won't take a life? Is it good to make your family paupers because you won't defend yourself?

What did Christ say concerning weapons? *Matthew 26:52*, let's not forget context. *Matthew 26:48-56*, *Luke 22:36* allowing yourself or others to be murdered so as to not "send someone to Hell" is not Bible. Defending life is not "living by the sword" as some claim. Christ Himself instructed His followers to arm themselves and there is no purpose to a sword but the taking or defending of lives.

All throughout the Old Testament people and nations would rise against Israel and God allowed Israelites to defend themselves.

Example: In the book of Esther a decree is sent out that on a certain day any man may kill Jews with no repercussions, later the decree is altered to allow the Jews to defend themselves, in *Esther 9:16* we read *"But the other Jews that were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey,"*

Relevant notes:

• It is not a lack of faith to carry or use a weapon to defend ourselves, God's Word says in *Ephesians 5:15* "*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,*"

• Differing Weapons and life threatening situations are all through God's Word and those who defend life are never rebuked for that action. Shamgar had an ox goad, Sampson had a jawbone, *1st Chronicles 11:23*

• Weapons are tools, God sent ten plagues upon Egypt, He has quite the arsenal and He protects His people at times by taking the lives of others who would do his people harm.

• It is obedience to Christ to carry a weapon, *Luke 22:36* "*Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.*" *1st Timothy 5:8* "*But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.*"

• God's Word blames the killer, not the weapon. *Genesis 4:8-10*

• Taking a life is a last resort, Christ and the disciples and later even Paul would all at times flee and escape those who wished to do them harm before any dangerous situation unfolded. The goal of a Christian must always be the salvation of the sinner, that being said a Christian man has a Scriptural duty to protect his family and if he provides not that protection he is a coward and Biblically worse than an infidel.

Bonus note: When people seek to control you they begin by disarming you. *1st Samuel 13:19*