

## **Weapons of War, Weapons of Peace**

In recent days the United States has engaged the Iranian Islamic regime in conflict, a repressive government long associated with the spread of violence, terror, and instability throughout the world. War is never something righteous people celebrate. It brings loss, suffering, and uncertainty.

Yet history repeatedly shows that when evil is allowed to spread unchecked, innocent lives suffer even more. Sometimes decisive action becomes necessary to restrain those who threaten peace and safety. Scripture recognizes this difficult reality while also pointing to a greater hope. A future when conflict will finally give way to lasting peace. The Bible presents a powerful picture of a time when the weapons used in war are transformed into tools that cultivate life.

### **From Weapons to Tools of Peace**

One of the most beautiful prophetic images in Scripture appears in the writings of Isaiah. *“He shall judge between the nations and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”* Isaiah 2:4.

In ancient times, swords and spears represented conflict and destruction. But Isaiah describes a future when those very weapons are reshaped into plowshares and pruning hooks, tools used for farming and nurturing life. Instead of instruments designed to harm, they become instruments that sustain and bless. The prophet Micah repeated this same promise in Micah 4:3. Both prophets look forward to the day when God’s justice brings an end to violence and replaces it with stability and peace.

### **Justice Protects the Innocent**

At the same time, the Bible acknowledges that until that day arrives, evil must sometimes be restrained. God’s concern for the innocent is clearly expressed throughout Scripture. The psalmist calls for justice on behalf of those who cannot defend themselves. *“Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: free them from the hand of the wicked.”* Psalm 82:3-4. God’s desire is not for chaos to reign but for the vulnerable to be protected from those who would harm them.

The New Testament affirms this principle when it speaks of the role of governing authorities. *“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil...For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.”* Romans 13:3-4. Here the apostle Paul explains that civil authorities are permitted by God to restrain wrongdoing and protect society.

Even King David recognized that in dangerous times God prepared him to defend his people. *“Blessed be the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle.”* Psalm 144:1. David understood that confronting violent enemies was sometimes necessary to preserve peace and protect the nation.

### **The Prince of Peace Will End All Wars**

While Scripture acknowledges the need to restrain evil in the present world, it never leaves us without hope. The ultimate promise of the Bible is that lasting peace will come through the reign

of Christ. Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah. *“Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end...”* Isaiah 9:7. Jesus is called the “Prince of Peace,” and His Kingdom will one day bring a peace unlike anything this world has ever known.

The book of Revelation reveals a vivid picture of Christ’s final victory over evil. *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.”* Revelation 19:11. Christ will ultimately defeat the forces of evil so that righteousness and justice can prevail forever.

### **Looking Toward God’s Peace**

The Bible reveals a consistent pattern. God confronts evil and restrains it so that the innocent may be protected. Justice restores order when violence threatens to destroy it... And beyond the conflict of this present world stand God’s promise of future when war will finally cease.

One day the prophecy will be fulfilled completely. Nations will no longer engage in war. Until that day, Christians should pray for wisdom, justice, and protection for the innocent, remembering that true and lasting peace will ultimately come from the righteous reign of Jesus Christ.

~Ron Josselet (Assisted by ChatGPT)