

# **“Self Defense”**

## **1 Sam. 17:38-40**

### Introduction

- I. Sometimes there is an inward struggle that Christians have when it comes to defending themselves physically.
- II. Sadly, there is much ignorance on what God has revealed in regard to this matter.
- III. Let us look to the Scriptures to determine if self defense is Scriptural.

### Discussion

- I. We should all understand the value of life.
  - A. God gave life, and we are made in His image (Gen. 2:7; 1:26-27).
  - B. Life is not something that should be considered flippant and irrelevant (James 3:8-9).
- II. There are different ways that a life can be taken.
  - A. Murder (Gen. 4:8; Exo. 20:13).
  - B. Accidents (Deut. 19:4).
  - C. Suicide (1 Sam. 31:4).
  - D. War (1 Sam. 17:50).
  - E. Capital punishment (Gen. 9:6; Rom. 13:4).
  - F. Self defense (Exo. 22:2-3).
- III. The Bible supports one's ability to defend himself.
  - A. Exodus 22:2-3
  - B. Nehemiah 4:13-14
  - C. Esther 8:11; 9:5
  - D. Luke 22:36
- IV. Answering arguments against self defense.
  - A. “Turn the other cheek” [deals with personal offenses, not revenge] (Matt. 5:38-39).
  - B. “Love our enemies” [love self and family also] (Matt. 5:44; 22:39; Eph. 5:25).
  - C. “Live by the sword, die by the sword” [simple truth in regard to seeking violence] (Matt. 26:52).
  - D. “Live in peace with men” [clarified by another verse] (Heb. 12:14; Rom. 12:18).

### Conclusion

- I. The Scriptures clearly teach that a man has a right to self defense.
- II. None of us should seek another's harm, but that does not mean that we ought to let him harm us.