

## Thou Shalt not Kill. Except

In the la



st article we looked

at the difference between murdering and killing and what does this mean to a christian. We will now dig a little deeper into the question " is it ever acceptable to take a life" or to use deadly force in the case of self defense.

. According to **God's view taking a life in an attempt to save the life of an innocent person is not the same as murder:**

**In Gen Abraham used deadly force (i.e. violence ) in order to protect and rescue his nephew Lot.**

*When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.*

The Psalmist viewss self defense as more than just acceptable, he views it as the responsibility of the godly. "**82:4** Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked.

killing becomes murder when it is unlawful, and premeditated. You are allowed to use whatever force necessary to protect your own life from a dangerous threat, or to save the life of an innocent from the same. What makes use of deadly force lawful or not , depends on *motive, intent and justification.*

The Author of this excerpt looks at the book of Nehemiah as another case example where the people of God armed themselves with the intent of using deadly force to protect themselves

"In Nehemiah 4, The Israelites have been sent back from captivity to rebuild Jerusalem. This was not a wartime scenario. It was closer to a racial integration scenario where racists wanted to kill them. They are surrounded by people who hate them and want to kill them. these were citizens, not soldiers. Nehemiah 4:13 says that people stationed "people by families" around the city. Note that these families were *armed*, with **"their swords, their spears, and their bows."** This is a situation where they are willing to apply lethal force to defend themselves. Note that they are carrying these weapons for personal dense and civil defense. They are defending their lives and their homes. Nehemiah 4:14 specifically says, **"...fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."** <http://www.biblicalselfdefense.com/>

Someone once said 'great power comes with great responsibility'. As children of God we must always be sacrificial and selfless. In doing so we may find our selves having to stand up and be the voice for the voiceless. We may have to stand up for the weak and oppressed, If we see others being bullied step in and intervene. However in doing so we may find ourselves have to use force to stop, protect and defend the defenseless. But then again isn't that what the Lord almighty does for us. He stands out in front, protects and fights for us. He conquered sin and death, and rescued us when we were weak and powerless. Mighty is his arm that saves. And we are his body.

-if they would have understood what these words meant-

Dewayne Clardy