

## **Justifiable War in the Context of Israel's Collective Responsibility (Judges 19-21)**

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### **Abstract**

The consequences of the war give the Israelites the opportunity not to judge or take action based only on the premises. In this context, the material and spiritual devastations and, generally, the evil that accompanies the war make it justifiable. Therefore, the war cannot be defined as "good" or "lesser good". Even in this dramatic passage, the Holy Scriptures help us realize and at the same time understand that violence could never be considered as "good" or "lesser good".

From the perspectives of the Scriptures, as well as from the main currents of patristics, justifiable war is at best a necessary evil. It may for specific reason and in a specific context be a "lesser evil". Consequently, it can hardly be deemed "a lesser good". So, we may say as Jesus and as traumatized soldiers who have experienced for themselves what any form of military aggression on is all about: "God alone is good" and "War is hell".