

*Follow up: On the part where GotQuestions said “The article stated: ‘...Israel was commanded to offer peace.’” I have said that that is not true.*

Offering peace was an operating principle in warfare.<sup>1</sup>

J.A. Thompson wrote:

...The city in question here is one that is very far away (15).<sup>2</sup> The first approach is to make an offer of peace. The term peace in such a context suggests a treaty (Josh. 9:15; Judg. 4:17; 1 Sam. 7:14; 1 Kgs 5:12; Isa. 27:5). In non-biblical texts we have the expression ‘to establish peace’ in contexts where the Bible would use the expression ‘make a covenant’. The present passage may, therefore, be translated ‘you shall invite it to make a treaty’.

...Where the city was prepared to enter into a treaty, the usual practice of putting its inhabitants to death is not followed (7:22ff.; cf. Josh. 9:11–23)...<sup>3</sup>

This was not the case in Canaan (De 20:17, 18).

...**a city** Verse 15 makes it clear that the rules of vv. 10–14 apply to cities outside the promised land. Verse 16 transitions to those cities within Canaan.

**you must offer it peace** Terms of peace were not an option in the conquest of the promised land; the verse indicates that these warfare laws pertain to military conflicts more generally.<sup>4</sup>

God is righteous in all that he does (Is 11:4). He would put Israelites in their land (Ex 23:29, 30) and put David’s son (Mt 1:1) on the throne (Re 20:1–10). This plan continues until the Most High is in his rightful place to rule and reign (Da 7:18).

Loving his plan and his people (Ge 12:3) is a good indication that one is saved (1 Jn 3:14).

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<sup>1</sup> The article stated: “...Israel was commanded to offer peace—and with it a warning—to a city prior to any attack (Deuteronomy 20:10). This procedure not only left room for peace, but it gave non-combatants an opportunity to flee prior to the battle.” What does the Bible say about terrorism? GotQuestions.org. 27 Sept 2018: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-terrorism.html>

<sup>2</sup> Deut 20:15 Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are very far off from thee, which are not of the cities of these nations. The Holy Bible: King James Version. (2009). (Electronic Edition of the 1900 Authorized Version., Dt 20:14–15). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>3</sup> Deut 20:10. Thompson, J. A. (1974). Deuteronomy: An Introduction and Commentary (Vol. 5, p. 244). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

<sup>4</sup> Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). Faithlife Study Bible (Dt 20:10). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.