

# The Obligation To Bear Arms Not Just A Right, But A Responsibility

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Biblical scripture is clear that the Children of Israel left their enslavement in Egypt armed and ready for battle as it is written, **“And the children of Israel were armed when they went up out of Egypt”** (Exodus 13:18). Although scripture records that G-d used a miracle to wipe out Pharaoh's pursuing army at the Red Sea, nevertheless, days later the people were attacked by their ruthless enemy Amalek.

When Amalek attacked, no lightning bolts struck them down from Heaven, no supernatural event occurred winning the battle for Israel even before the fight. No, scripture is clear, the Children of Israel, just recently released from slavery, possibly without any military training, were still expected to and required by the circumstances to go into battle and fight for their liberty and their lives.

G-d indeed blessed their endeavors. Still, if the Children of Israel did not go out and fight Amalek, they would have succumbed to their attackers and would have been killed. Indeed, if they had no tools for self defense, they would not have been able to fight. We must learn from these events some chilling and sobering facts. G-d wants us to be armed and indeed, G-d ordains circumstances where we are expected, if not required to fight. Freedom, it seems, only survives for those willing and able to fight for it.

Throughout Biblical times, the Children of Israel were certainly no strangers to either weaponry or to the use of them. Both Moses and Joshua, directed by G-d and blessed by Him to wage war, still did not rely upon supernatural interventions to win their battles. Each led the armies of Israel to wage war in real terms, with real weapons, and most certainly with real casualties. Throughout the days of the Judges and Kings, warfare was the way of the Israelite people. There is even scriptural suggestions of a possible martial arts system existing in those days, focusing on hand-to-hand combat and the use of specialized weapons (as was the case with David against Goliath).

Aside from the ancient Kingdoms of Israel and Judah each having armies and soldiers, we see that even after the destruction of the First Temple during the time period referred to in the Biblical Book of Esther, the Jews of ancient Persia were able to rally against their enemies and vanquished tens of thousands of them using standard forms of warfare and combat.

Later Jewish history speaks of the Maccabee wars against the Grecian/Syrians and the later Revolutionary War fought (and lost) against Rome. Even after the destruction of the Second Temple, the martial spirit had not left Israel. Just two generations after the Roman Wars, a new independence movement arose under a freedom fighter named Bar Kokhba. He too failed to redeem Israel from Roman oppression, but nevertheless, the spirit of independence and the will to fight for it certainly did not die alongside his failed mission.

Even in more recent times, the authoritative Code of Jewish Law, the Shulkhan Arukh (Orah Haim 329:6) enumerates the laws of self defense for perilous times. These laws are predicated on the fact that the rank and file citizenry are individually armed and well able to defend themselves. The modern State of Israel, not built upon any connection to modern forms of religion, has a strong, citizen's army patterned after the Biblical example of strength as opposed to the strange, bizarre and foreign mentality seen amongst some religious types, that combat and arms are foreign to the Bible lifestyle. We see from overwhelming scriptural examples that nothing could be further from the truth.

I learn from religious sources and moral example that it is the absolute right of every individual to be able to protect him/herself against every real threat that they may possibly be exposed to. I believe it is the moral obligation of every citizen of every country, anywhere, to bear arms, or to have at his/her disposal any and all types of self defense tools that may be needed at a moment's notice.

Although most modern societies have police forces operating at all national and local levels, nevertheless, as any police officer will definitively state, they cannot be everywhere, all the time, to prevent crime from happening. The actual role of the police is not so much to prevent crime, but rather to catch criminals who have already committed a crime. The only one who has the absolute responsibility to prevent crime and to safeguard and protect oneself is one's self.

If a criminal were to break into your home with intent to cause you and your family bodily harm, what would you do? If you have the opportunity, you would call the police, (here in the US, that is 911). Now, although the police have been notified, there is still an armed, dangerous assailant in your home. What next? Well, you will have to wait for the police to arrive, to confront, arrest and take away the perpetrator. This will take several minutes at least. So, in this crucial time, when you and your family are alone in the house with an armed, possibly drug-crazed, violent intruder, what do you do until the police arrive?

You could try to hide, but things happen so quickly, do you really think there would be time for a game of hide-and-seek, where every member of your family could hide safely? Probably not! Another alternative is that you can directly confront the intruder, invite him into the kitchen and offer him some cookies. After all, maybe he is just hungry. Then again, he may accept your offer for the cookies, sit and chat for a moment and only then rape and kill you.

In our real world, where there is real crime, with really terrible perpetrators doing some really terrible and disgusting things, the only chance an average citizen has is to be able to confront such perpetrators, not with words, but with deeds. And how does one stop another whose intent is to harm? The answer is clear, with equal and opposite harm! Violent perpetrators are not interested in getting into fights. They simply want to commit their crimes and get away as fast as they can. If the average citizen would only take responsibility for themselves and confront criminals in the action of their crimes, we would have a lot less crime and whole lot less number of criminals.

However, your average citizen has been both disarmed physically and emasculated psychologically. The average citizen has been brainwashed to believe that tools of self defense, of all kinds, are to be considered bad and evil. Therefore, the average citizen takes

it as a matter of pride that he does not own a gun, knife, pepper spray or stun-gun. The foolish unarmed man has convinced himself of his moral superiority, that he does need any of these, what in his eyes, are primitive forms of violent expression.

I wonder how the unarmed fool feels after he has been tied up and is forced to sit and watch his family being abused and his home ravaged. I wonder, does the unarmed fool, who was attacked while sleeping so unprepared in his own bed, he did not have time to call 911, does he have any regrets? Does he say to himself, if only I had a gun in the bed-side table, none of this would be happening. I wonder, do victims of violent crime have regret and guilt, knowing that they could for the most part have avoided becoming a victim and could have prevented the evil and abuse they suffered, if only they had prepared differently? While it is certainly the fault of the criminal for the crime committed, nevertheless, should not the victim look him/herself in the mirror and realize, that he/she could have taken prior action to have prevented this and as a matter of choice chose not to?

This is where we see significant moral decline. Criminals and crime have always been with us and they always will be. We will not make either criminal or crime disappear as long as there is evil lurking in the hearts of humanity. Needless, to say, such evil will be among us until the time when Mashiah arrives. This may not be any time soon, therefore, until such time, how can anyone deny the common sense need to safeguard and defend oneself from clear and present danger.

To deny the danger is a fundamental denial of reality. To deny one's own responsibility to protect oneself is a fundamental denial of reality. This is why it is not only a moral right, but an obligation for every citizen to be armed, in whatever fashion necessary to confront evil crime wherever and however it may come. When the average citizen does not take individual responsibility for oneself, but instead relies upon another to do the job the individual should be doing oneself, in my opinion, this is one of the worst expressions of laziness and social disrespect.

No society can maintain itself when its individual members refuse to contribute each their fair share to the betterment of the society that they themselves have created. Protecting ourselves is an individual right and responsibility. Each and every citizen has the obligation to take care of and look after themselves. Whatever and however this needs to be done is what needs to be done. We have laws that safeguard life, liberty and property. These laws are sacred and each of us is obligated to embrace them, to live by them and when called upon at a moment's notice, defend them.

So, the proper response if and when one is confronted by a criminal, intent upon causing harm, is to wisely and in the best way defend oneself and if possible, stop the perpetrator using whatever necessary force that the circumstance requires. One cannot do this hand-to-hand unless one is well trained in the martial arts. Even then, bullets still fly faster than do fists or feet. Yet, if one was armed with an appropriate firearm, or other tool of self-defense, then immediately upon awareness of the immanent danger, one can draw one's firearm or tool and be ready to respond at a moment's notice. Such ability to respond, coupled with the speedy response itself, saves lives, liberty and property. For many, it can make the difference between life and death.

Morality and common sense obligate us to be ready and prepared to face and confront violence. The Bible is clear on this point, so is later Jewish tradition, and indeed so too does the Christian Bible teach this same lesson. In order to be so prepared, we need tools of self defense, specifically the type of tools necessary to face the specific threat that one may realistically encounter.

Carrying a knife to a gun fight certainly is not enough. With the proliferation of criminal and drug gangs being armed with military style weaponry, the time has come when every responsible, moral, righteous, normal, common sense thinking citizen must practice their rights to self defense and, like the children of Israel leaving Egypt, go up armed to face and confront the danger that inherently comes in a world filled with freedom and equally filled with those who want to rob you of your freedom, your property and maybe even your life.

It is the moral and responsible thing for every citizen to be armed at all times, with any type of self defense tool necessary for the potential dangers that one may face on any given day, at any given moment. Only this preparedness and readiness secures freedom and safety. Without this, every unarmed citizen is just a victim in waiting. Sooner or later, the clueless and unarmed are targeted, and without enough common sense to know how to best defend themselves they become victims. Victims in turn require many services to address their sufferings in many categories. In many cases, this can become a significant burden on service providers and the tax-payers who are called upon to pay for such services. This is socially irresponsible and morally wrong.

Common sense should teach us that tools for self defense should be as common and accessible as common sense itself. Unfortunately, common sense is no longer common and alongside of its absence we see an equal absence of the awareness for self preservation. How well modern societies have been brainwashed into surrendering their most basic and fundamental rights, the right to defend oneself against others seeking their harm. The sentiments that I have expressed in this essay are most certainly not only my own. I cannot make any claim of originality here. Let me share with you some other opinions spoken by others.

American President James Madison said, *"Americans have the right and advantage of being armed, unlike the citizens of other countries whose governments are afraid to trust the people with arms."*

American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton said, *"The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they be properly armed."*

Constitutional scholar and Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story in 1840 said, *"One of the ordinary modes, by which tyrants accomplish their purposes without resistance, is, by disarming the people, and making it an offense to keep arms."*

U.S. District Judge Sam Cummings, in U.S. vs Emerson 1999 said *"Historical examination of the right to bear arms, from English antecedents to the drafting of the Second Amendment, bears proof that the right to bear arms has consistently been, and should still be, construed as an individual right."*

Actor James Earl Jones (the voice of Darth Vader) said, *“The world is filled with violence. Because criminals carry guns, we decent law-abiding citizens should also have guns. Otherwise they will win and the decent people will lose.”*

Even the famous Indian statesman and passivist Mohandas Gandhi stated *“Among the many misdeeds of British rule in India, history will look upon the Act depriving a whole nation of arms as the blackest.”*

On the other hand we have the likes of Adolf Hitler who said, *“The most foolish mistake we could possibly make would be to permit the conquered peoples to have arms. History teaches that all conquerors who have allowed their subject races to carry arms have prepared their own downfall by doing so.”*

Long ago, the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle said, *“Both oligarch and tyrant mistrust the people, and therefore deprive them of arms.”*

History and common sense have proven all things statements above to be correct and true. And still the brainwashed reject common sense and truth. When will the sleepers awaken, before or after they are shot?

**AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT SAFETY AND THE LAW**

*It should be obvious and clear that anyone who possesses or carries any kind of weapon for self-defense must be properly trained in their proper AND SAFE usage. Both common sense and religious law requires this.*

*Also, keep in mind that there are varying laws in different jurisdictions that control what weapons of self-defense, one may or may not possess, either on one's person, in one's vehicle, or in one's home, or business. Every responsible citizen should check to see what their local laws are, and comply with them. Self defense should never have to put one at odds with the law.*