

Choose Life



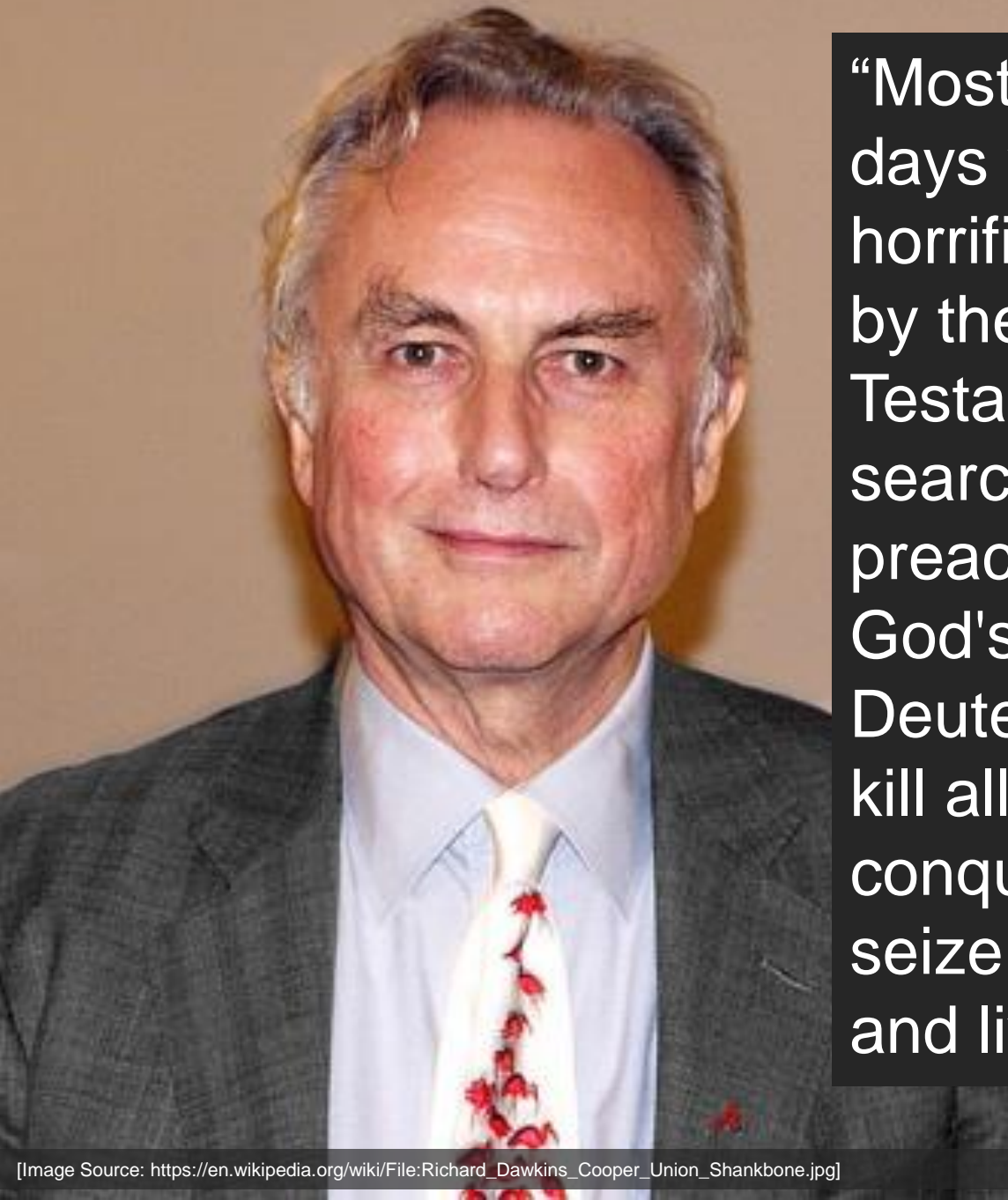
STUDIES IN
DEUTERONOMY

WPCB Evening Service Series
July to October 2018

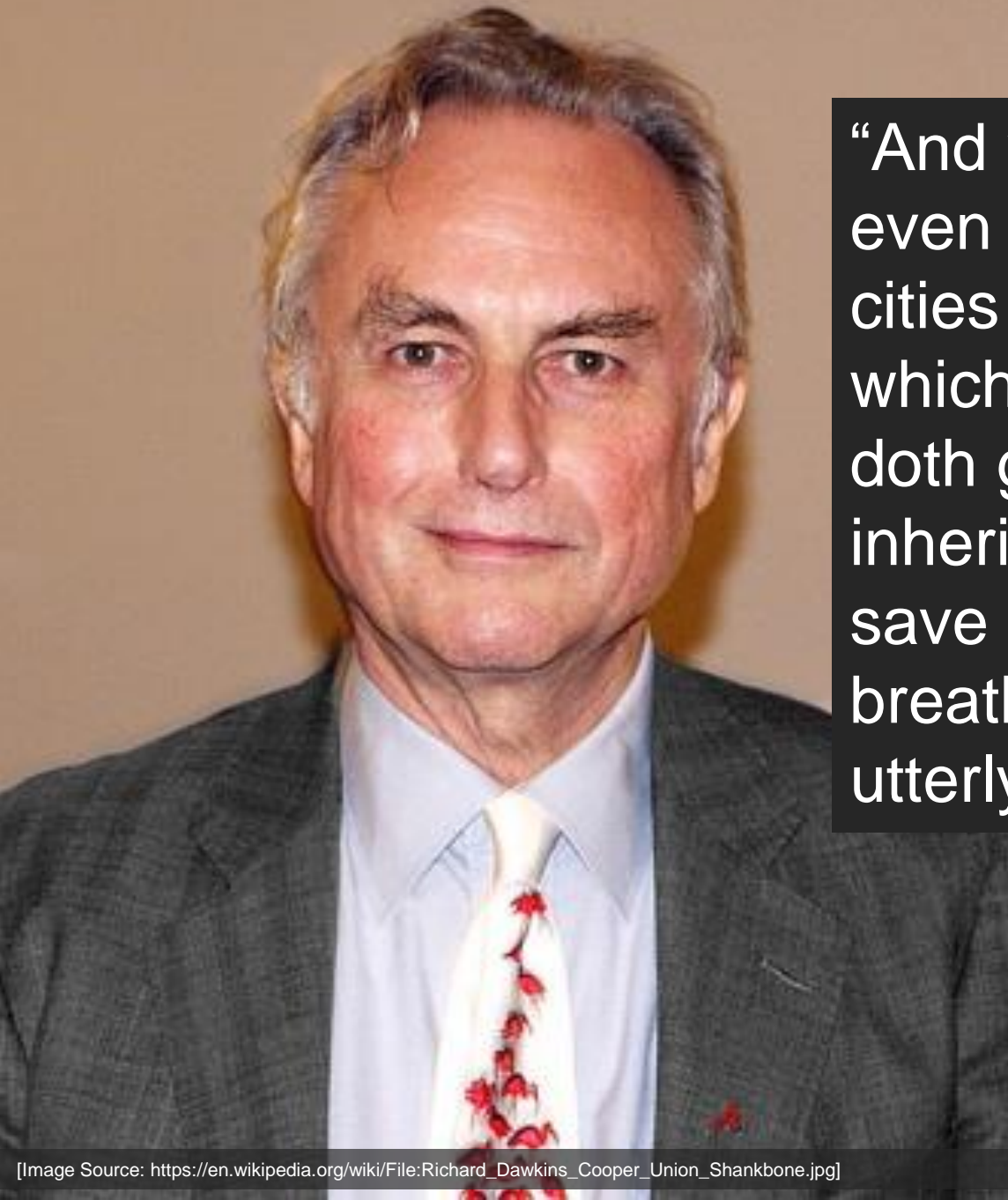
“When you go out to war”

Reading:

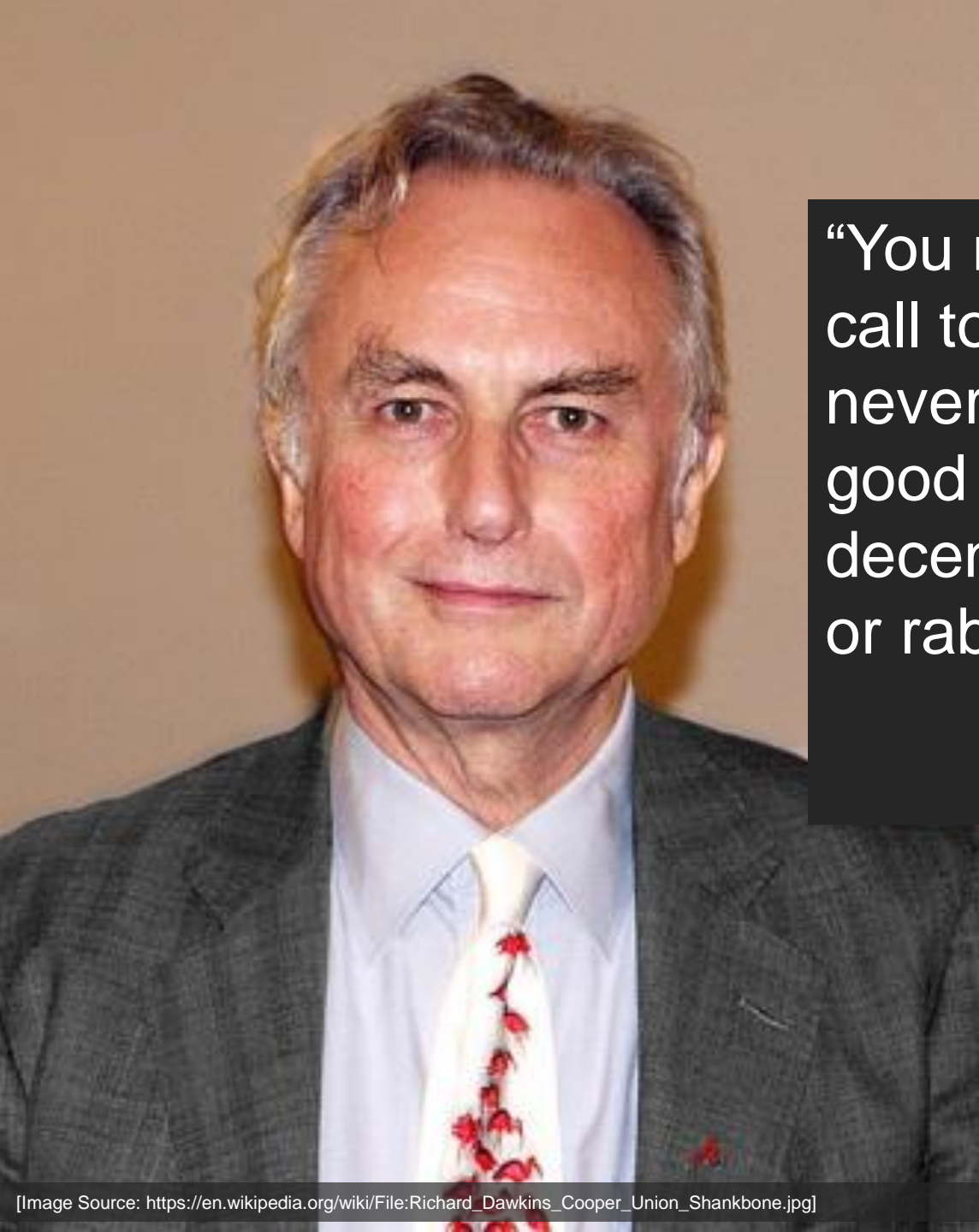
Deuteronomy 20:1-20



“Most churchmen these days wisely disown the horrific genocides ordered by the God of the Old Testament... You would search far to find a modern preacher willing to defend God's commandment, in Deuteronomy 20:13-15, to kill all the men in a conquered city and to seize the women, children and livestock as plunder.”



“And verses 16 and 17 are even worse: "But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth: But thou shalt utterly destroy them"”



“You might say that such a call to genocide could never have come from a good and loving God. Any decent bishop, priest, vicar or rabbi would agree.”

- *The Guardian*, 20 Oct 2011

1. Is the killing just and good?

2. How do I apply this today?

1. Is the killing just and good?

¹“When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. ²And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people ³and shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, ⁴for the LORD your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.’

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Assumes God has sanctioned

1. Is the killing just and good?

¹⁰“When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it. ¹¹And if it responds to you peaceably and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labour for you and shall serve you.

1st Option: No killing

1. Is the killing just and good?

¹²But if it makes no peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it. ¹³And when the LORD your God gives it into your hand, you shall put all its males to the sword, ¹⁴but the women and the little ones, the livestock, and everything else in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as plunder for yourselves. And you shall enjoy the spoil of your enemies, which the LORD your God has given you.

2nd Option: Military conquest

1. Is the killing just and good?

¹⁵Thus you shall do to all the cities that are very far from you, which are not cities of the nations here.

¹⁶But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance...

General vs Special

1. Is the killing just and good?

¹⁶But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, ¹⁷but you shall devote them to complete destruction, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, as the LORD your God has commanded, ¹⁸that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.

General vs Special

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Are they innocent?

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cf Deuteronomy 9:4-5

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cf Psalm 51:5, Ephesians 2:1-3

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Is God allowed to punish sin?

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cf Revelation 20:7-15

2. How do I apply this today?

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Where does it fit in the Bible?

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What has changed?

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What principles do we see?