

1. What is your Old Testament Scripture passage?

1 Samuel 21-31

2. What is your topic?

The people of God serving in military services that are not bound to a government. For example, paramilitary organizations, military contractors, mercenaries, and crusader-type organizations like Free Burma Rangers and the Sons of Liberty.

3. What method(s) have you selected?

Historical Criticism and Canonical Criticism

4. Briefly describe the method(s).

When using a historical criticism of the text, one must look at both the history that the text is presenting through its narrative and the history that surrounds the text. In canonical criticism the exegete is proofing a text of scripture with the scripture as a whole in its final form, trusting the Spirit to speak from the word into their hearts.

5. Why did you select this approach?

When studying narrative, it is important to remember that the description of what is happening is not a prescription of what the believer should do. For this reason, historical criticism is important in ensuring the exegete knows what God was doing in that part of history and how He was specifically using that person. In using the canonical approach, I hope to illuminate what the new covenant has to say about military service and how the Christian currently is involved in it.

6. List at least 3-5 questions you have about the text using your selected method(s).

1: Was David right to take paramilitary work for money? 2: Can the Christian today take up arms for money? 3: Can the Christians today work in organizations that resists the

governing authorities in the nations that they are in? 4: Is it right for the Church (or Christians running a nonprofit) to have a paramilitary organization that actively fights governments to save Christians (Like in Afghanistan now, Sons of Liberty, and the Free Burma Rangers).