

## EDITORIAL

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We are happy to bring you yet another issue of *JAAS*! In this issue we move from the basic existential question “What is Man?” to the more ethical questions of how Christians should understand land and relate to the question of war filling the news of today. And we end with a discussion of Christ as Lord and King. We have given this issue the thematic title “Land, War, and Government.”

We are aware that particularly the issue of war is sensitive. Believers on both sides of the frontline find support in Scripture and theology. By bringing the discussion of war to you as a reader we do not intend to take sides in the debate. The viewpoints reflect those of the authors and not the AIIAS Seminary. We still believe that it is important that we as believers discuss openly the principles and biblical rationale behind the various positions on the question of war. Dialogue can build bridges, as we hold each other accountable to the Word of God and serve the Prince of Peace.

The first article is written by Jerome Skinner and discusses the question “What is man?” as it relates to holiness and the holy one in Book I of the Psalter. The anthropological terminology of the Psalter is often related to how to live a moral life and what it means to live in a covenantal relationship with God. Skinner also explores how God’s love plays an important role in Pss 3–41.

In the article by Roy Gane, we move to the question of the holy land. Through a comparative study, Gane demonstrates similarities and differences in how Israelites and ancient Near Eastern peoples viewed the relationship between themselves, their deities, and their lands. He focuses upon how the Pentateuch and Leviticus in particular present the people relative to the promised land upon which they will live. Living on holy land with a holy God implies specific regulations the people had to comply with.

In his article, Nicholas Miller explores the biblical background and historical development of the just war theory. He outlines its basic principles and discusses under what circumstances a Christian can and cannot support

war. Miller compares just war theory with other approaches such as pacifism, conscientious objection, and cooperation.

Oleg Kostyuk takes a different approach to the question of war. As a Ukrainian himself reflecting on the situation in his home country, he explores the shift from pacifism to just war attitudes among Israelites. He then moves to discuss NT statements and argues that a Christian needs to take a nonviolent stance, even amid military conflict.

In the final article of this issue, Dindo Paglinawan explores the original meaning of the enthroned king in Ps 110:1 and analyzes how Jesus in the Gospel of Mark reworks and reapplies the military triumph and victorious enthronement of the psalm. Paglinawan shows how victory and enthronement for Christ are accomplished through enduring shame and humiliating death.

We hope and pray that these articles will stimulate you to further reflection. We also want to invite you to write articles and book reviews that address contemporary issues from various cultural perspectives.