**HOLY WAR**

**Some Christians believe that it is sometimes necessary to use violence to defend religion. This is called Holy War. Its causes can include claiming land for a religion, spreading the faith and defence of religious followers.**

**Holy Wars have three elements:**

1. **The achievement of a religious goal.**
2. **The authorisation of a religious leader (eg the Pope).**
3. **The promise of a heavenly reward for those who take part or fall in combat.**

**Can any modern war really be considered a “Holy War”? Is Holy War definitely something God would want? Which Bible references back up the idea of Holy War and which ones are against it?**

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