

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Natural Enemies

Study Guide

New Testament Studies

John Weaver

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Pastor John Weaver - Natural Enemies

Part One of Two

November 01, 2013

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21.

Major Themes

Natural Enemies in Every Realm

The concept of natural enemies is universal, seen in animals, insects, and the spiritual realm, where opposing forces cannot coexist.

Lecture support: Weaver gives examples of mongoose and cobra, king snake and rattlesnake, ladybugs and aphids, dragonflies and mosquitoes, then applies it to spiritual realities.

Righteousness vs. Wickedness as Natural Enmity

When one party desires to act righteously and the other wickedly, natural enmity surfaces, as seen in Ahab's covetousness and Naboth's obedience to God's law.

Lawful vs. Unlawful Use of the Law

The law can be used lawfully for justice or unlawfully for injustice; Jezebel's scheme used religion, law, and justice as a cover for murder and theft.

Tyranny and the Abuse of Power

Ahab and Jezebel represent tyranny, using their authority to confiscate property and destroy the innocent, illustrating that tyrants are never satisfied.

Divine Judgment on Hidden Sins

Some sins are open and judged in this life, but others are hidden; however, God sees all and will bring judgment in eternity.

Believers Must Be Wise and Discerning

Christians must understand their enemies' tactics, including the misuse of law and religion, and be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

Key Arguments

Natural enemies are inherent in the spiritual realm

Just as in nature, spiritual forces are opposed; righteousness and unrighteousness, light and darkness, Christ and Belial cannot coexist.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 and John 8:42-45 to show the enmity between believers and unbelievers.

Naboth's refusal was based on God's law, not stubbornness

Naboth refused to sell his vineyard because God's law forbade permanent sale of inheritance; his stand was righteous, not rebellious.

Lecture support: Weaver references Leviticus 25:23,28 and Numbers 36:7 to show the biblical basis for Naboth's refusal.

Jezebel's plot was a misuse of religion, law, and justice

Jezebel proclaimed a fast, demanded two witnesses, and charged blasphemy to give a legal appearance to her murderous scheme.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the elements of her crime: under color of religion (fast), law (two witnesses), and justice (stoning for blasphemy).

Tyrants are never satisfied and will use any means to get what they want

Ahab had plenty but coveted Naboth's vineyard; Jezebel manipulated the system to seize it, showing the insatiable nature of tyranny.

Lecture support: Weaver compares Ahab to Haman in Esther 5:13 and quotes Matthew Henry on Jezebel's manipulation.

Something can be legal but not lawful

Actions done under authority or with a veneer of legality can still be unjust and contrary to God's law.

Lecture support: Weaver states that Ahab and Jezebel's actions were done under color of law but were not right, and cites examples from 'Outlaws with Badges'.

Scripture References

1 Kings 21:17-20

The Lord sends Elijah to confront Ahab; Ahab calls Elijah his enemy.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Believers are not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers; righteousness and unrighteousness have no fellowship.

Romans 16:20

The God of peace will bruise Satan under your feet shortly.

Revelation 12:11

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony.

Romans 8:37

We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

John 8:42-45

Jesus tells the Jews they are of their father the devil and cannot hear His word.

John 15:18-20

If the world hates you, it hated Me first; the servant is not greater than the master.

1 Kings 21:1-3

Ahab offers to buy or trade for Naboth's vineyard; Naboth refuses, saying the Lord forbid it.

Ezekiel 46:18

The prince shall not take the people's inheritance by oppression.

Leviticus 25:23,28

The land shall not be sold forever; it returns in the Jubilee.

Numbers 36:7

The inheritance of the children of Israel shall not remove from tribe to tribe.

1 Kings 21:4-11

Ahab sulks; Jezebel plots to have Naboth killed under false charges.

1 Timothy 1:8

The law is good if a man use it lawfully.

Esther 5:13

Haman says all his wealth avails nothing as long as Mordecai sits in the gate.

Deuteronomy 17:6-7

At the mouth of two or three witnesses shall the death penalty be executed.

Deuteronomy 19:15

One witness is not enough; a matter is established by two or three witnesses.

Deuteronomy 13:8-10

The penalty for enticing to idolatry is stoning.

1 Timothy 5:24

Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; some follow after.

Ecclesiastes 5:8

If you see oppression, marvel not; God is higher than the highest.

Matthew 10:16

Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the concept of 'natural enemies' in the animal kingdom help us understand spiritual conflicts?

Consider: Weaver uses examples from nature to introduce the idea that enmity is inherent in the spiritual realm.

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2. In what ways do we see the enmity between righteousness and unrighteousness play out in our daily lives?

Consider: Based on 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Weaver argues that believers and unbelievers are natural enemies.

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3. What can we learn from Naboth's refusal to sell his vineyard about standing on God's law in the face of pressure?

Consider: Naboth's response was based on Leviticus 25 and Numbers 36, not stubbornness.

4. How does Jezebel's plot illustrate the danger of using religion, law, and justice as a cover for wickedness?

Consider: Weaver details the three elements of her crime: color of religion, law, and justice.

5. Why is it important to distinguish between something being 'legal' and something being 'lawful' according to God's standards?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that actions can be done under authority but still be unjust.

6. How should the reality that some sins are hidden but will be judged affect our response to injustice?

Consider: Weaver cites 1 Timothy 5:24 and Ecclesiastes 5:8 to encourage trust in God's ultimate justice.

Applications

Distance yourself from tyranny when possible

Weaver suggests that the farther we can distance ourselves from tyrants and tyranny, the safer we will be, as seen in Naboth's proximity to the palace.

Lecture support: Weaver notes that if Naboth's vineyard had been far from the palace, his life might have been preserved.

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers

Because of natural enmity, Christians should avoid binding partnerships, marriages, or contracts with non-believers to prevent inevitable conflict.

Lecture support: Weaver applies 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 to marriage and business, stating it will not work.

Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves

Believers must understand the tactics of their enemies, including the misuse of law and religion, and respond with wisdom and innocence.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Matthew 10:16 and the example of Jezebel's cunning.

Trust in God's ultimate justice

Even when evildoers escape judgment in this life, God sees all and will bring justice in eternity; believers should not be discouraged.

Lecture support: Weaver references 1 Timothy 5:24 and Ecclesiastes 5:8.

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - Natural Enemies

Part Two of Two

December 28, 2013

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-39.

Major Themes

Natural Enmity Between Righteousness and Wickedness

There is an inherent, irreconcilable conflict between those who follow God's law and those who pursue evil, as seen in the confrontation between Elijah and Ahab.

Lecture support: Elijah acknowledged the enmity when Ahab asked, 'Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?' and Elijah answered, 'I have found thee, because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord.'

Tyranny vs. Liberty and Freedom

Tyranny seeks total control over lives, liberties, and property, while God's design is for individuals to enjoy peace, security, and freedom under His law.

Lecture support: Naboth simply wanted to be left alone to enjoy his inheritance, reflecting the biblical ideal of every man sitting under his own vine and fig tree (1 Kings 4:25; Micah 4:4).

The Tyrant's Disregard for Life and Law

Tyrants view human life as expendable in pursuit of their desires, using murder and deception without regard for God's law or justice.

Lecture support: Ahab and Jezebel murdered Naboth and his sons to seize the vineyard; Menahem ripped up pregnant women because they did not recognize him as king.

The Deceptive Cloak of Patriotism and Religion

Tyrants often disguise their oppression under the guise of patriotism or religion to deceive and subjugate the people more easily.

Lecture support: Jezebel used a fast and legal witnesses to murder Naboth under the color of religion and justice; modern governments spy on citizens under the pretense of national security.

Christianity and Tyranny Cannot Coexist

Biblical Christianity, with its principles of liberty and God's law, is fundamentally opposed to all forms of tyranny, whether by one or many.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'tyranny and Christianity cannot coexist. They can't. If you will look at all the countries in this world that have tyranny, they're not Christian countries.'

Believers Must Recognize and Fight Spiritual Enemies

Christians are called to acknowledge that opponents of Christ and His gospel are enemies, and to engage in spiritual warfare rather than seeking peace with the world.

Lecture support: Paul called some 'enemies of the cross of Christ' (Philippians 3:18-19); Elijah and Elisha treated wicked kings as enemies and would not cooperate with them.

Key Arguments

Natural enemies are manifested when tyranny opposes liberty

The conflict between Ahab and Naboth illustrates the fundamental opposition between a tyrant who seeks total control and a righteous man who desires freedom under God's law.

Lecture support: Naboth refused to sell his vineyard because God forbade it, wanting only to enjoy his inheritance; Ahab, through Jezebel, murdered him and his sons to take it by force.

Tyranny can be exercised by many, not just a single ruler

Totalitarianism is not limited to monarchs or dictators; it can be achieved through democratic processes where the many oppress the individual.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Mel Gibson's line from 'The Patriot': 'Does it matter if we're ruled by one tyrant 3,000 miles away or 3,000 tyrants a mile away?' and cites Karl Marx on elections.

Ahab considered Elijah his enemy because Elijah represented a different law system and kingdom

Elijah embodied God's law, a Christian culture, and a righteous kingdom, which were antithetical to Ahab's Baal worship and tyranny.

Lecture support: Ahab asked, 'Art thou he that troubleth Israel?' and Elijah replied that Ahab troubled Israel by forsaking God's commandments. Elijah represented another law system, culture, and kingdom.

Elijah did not minimize the enmity but acknowledged it directly

When Ahab called Elijah his enemy, Elijah confirmed it without softening the truth, demonstrating that there can be no compromise between righteousness and wickedness.

Lecture support: Elijah answered, 'I have found thee, because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord,' openly accepting the label of enemy.

All who oppose Christ and His law are enemies of the gospel

Scripture identifies those who reject Christ and His righteousness as enemies, and believers must recognize this to engage in spiritual battle.

Lecture support: Paul said in Romans 11:28 that concerning the gospel, the Jews are enemies; in Philippians 3:18-19, he wept over enemies of the cross of Christ.

The Word of God leads to liberty and prevents enslavement

A Bible-reading and Bible-believing people cannot be mentally or socially enslaved because the principles of Scripture produce freedom.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'it is impossible to enslave mentally or socially a Bible reading and Bible believing people,' and cites Galatians 5:1 to stand fast in liberty.

Scripture References

1 Kings 21:17-20

The main passage of the sermon, where God sends Elijah to confront Ahab in Naboth's vineyard, and Ahab calls Elijah his enemy.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Used to establish the principle of natural enmity between righteousness and unrighteousness, light and darkness, Christ and Belial.

1 Kings 21:14-16

Describes Jezebel telling Ahab to take possession of Naboth's vineyard after Naboth is dead, illustrating tyranny's confiscation.

1 Kings 4:25

Depicts the peace and security under Solomon where every man dwelt under his vine and fig tree, a picture of liberty.

Micah 4:4

Reinforces the image of sitting under one's vine and fig tree with none making them afraid, indicating divine blessing and protection.

Leviticus 26:6

God's promise of peace and safety for obedience, where people lie down without fear and evil beasts are removed.

Genesis 41:44

Pharaoh's declaration of total control over Egypt, illustrating the ultimate goal of tyranny.

2 Kings 9:26

Reveals that Naboth's sons were also murdered, showing the tyrant's disregard for life and inheritance.

2 Kings 15:13-16

Menahem's murder of Shallum and his brutal attack on Tiphseh, ripping up pregnant women, because they did not recognize him as king.

Amos 1:13

Ammon's sin of ripping up pregnant women of Gilead to enlarge their border, showing life means nothing to tyrants.

1 Kings 21:19

Elijah's pronouncement that dogs would lick Ahab's blood in the same place they licked Naboth's, a judgment spoken at the vineyard.

1 Kings 18:4, 16-18

Ahab calls Elijah a troubler of Israel, but Elijah counters that Ahab and his house troubled Israel by forsaking God's commandments.

1 Kings 21:25

Declares that there was none like Ahab who sold himself to work wickedness, stirred up by Jezebel.

Numbers 32:23

The principle that sin will be found out, applied to Ahab's discovery and judgment.

1 Kings 21:21-24

The detailed judgment pronounced on Ahab's house, including the fate of Jezebel and Ahab's posterity.

Romans 11:28

Paul states that concerning the gospel, the Jews are enemies for the sake of the Gentiles.

Philippians 3:18-19

Paul weeps over those who are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction.

1 Timothy 6:12

Paul's exhortation to Timothy to fight the good fight of faith, used to call believers to spiritual warfare.

1 Kings 22:1-8

Ahab hates Micaiah because he prophesies evil, not good, illustrating the enmity between the wicked king and God's prophet.

2 Kings 3:8-14

Elisha refuses to acknowledge Jehoram except for Jehoshaphat's presence, showing his enmity toward the wicked king.

Study notes

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Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do we see the conflict between tyranny and liberty playing out in our own culture today?

Consider: Weaver argues that tyranny seeks control over lives, liberties, and property, while God's design is for freedom under His law.

2. How can we discern when patriotism or religion is being used as a cloak for tyranny?

Consider: Jezebel used a fast and legal witnesses to murder Naboth; modern governments may use national security to justify surveillance.

3. Why is it important for Christians to acknowledge that they have spiritual enemies, and how should this affect our daily lives?

Consider: Weaver states that we have failed to view the wicked as enemies and consequently do not want to fight the good fight of faith.

- 4.** What does it mean to 'sell yourself to work evil' as Ahab did, and how can believers guard against such a gradual surrender?

Consider: Ahab is described as having sold himself to wickedness, becoming Satan's absolute master and undivided slave.

- 5.** How does the biblical image of sitting under one's own vine and fig tree challenge our modern concepts of security and prosperity?

Consider: 1 Kings 4:25 and Micah 4:4 depict a society of peace, contentment, and freedom under God's blessing, without fear.

- 6.** In what ways might Christians today be tempted to minimize or deny the enmity between the church and the world, and what are the dangers of doing so?

Consider: Elijah did not water down the enmity with Ahab; he openly acknowledged it. Weaver warns against going AWOL in the spiritual war.

7. How can we practically 'stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free' in a society that increasingly opposes biblical values?

Consider: Galatians 5:1 is cited as the call to resist entanglement with bondage, and the ex-CIA agent's warning about media propaganda is given.

Applications

Recognize that tyranny and Christianity cannot coexist

Believers must understand that biblical Christianity is fundamentally opposed to all forms of tyranny, and one will ultimately overcome the other.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'tyranny and Christianity cannot coexist. They can't. If you will look at all the countries in this world that have tyranny, they're not Christian countries.'

Acknowledge opponents of Christ as enemies of the gospel

Christians should not be naive but recognize that those who oppose Christ, His law, and His righteousness are spiritual enemies.

Lecture support: Paul called some 'enemies of the cross of Christ' (Philippians 3:18-19) and said the Jews are enemies concerning the gospel (Romans 11:28).

Fight the good fight of faith

Believers are called to actively engage in spiritual warfare, not retreat or seek peace with the world's systems.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Timothy 6:12 and laments that the church no longer sings 'Onward Christian Soldiers' because it fails to recognize its enemies.

Be grounded in Scripture to avoid deception

Regular Bible reading and study produce liberty and protect believers from the enslaving propaganda of the world.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'it is impossible to enslave mentally or socially a Bible reading and Bible believing people,' and warns about TV propaganda.

Do not cooperate with or pray for the success of the wicked

Following the example of Elijah and Elisha, believers should not lend their support or prayers to those who oppose God's kingdom.

Lecture support: Elisha told Jehoram he would not look at him except for Jehoshaphat; Weaver says you'd never get Elijah to pray at a wicked king's inauguration.

Stand fast in the liberty of Christ

Christians must actively resist any form of bondage, whether spiritual, mental, or social, by holding to the freedom Christ has given.

Lecture support: Galatians 5:1 is quoted: 'Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - Natural Enemies - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01373

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01373&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Natural Enemies - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01378

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01378&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.