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AVENGE, AVENGES, AVENGED, AVENGING, AVENGETH, AVENGER

Lamech (a descendant of Cain) said that if those who kill Cain would be **avenged** sevenfold, then those who killed him would be **avenged** 77 fold. (He was an immensely proud and wicked man.)

- **Genesis 4:24:** "If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold."

When Joseph had power over his brothers and could have **avenged** himself for the terrible things they had done to him, he didn't. Instead he showed them grace and mercy.

- **Genesis 42:25:** "Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them."

Under the Mosaic Law, people weren't allowed to **avenge** themselves.

- **Leviticus 19:18:** "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD."

Under the Mosaic Law, God said that if the Israelites broke His commands then He would send enemies upon them to kill them, to **avenge** the fact they had quarreled with Him by breaking His covenant.

- **Leviticus 26:25:** "And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy."

God wanted Israel to be **avenged** for what the Midianites did to them. (The Midianites had tempted Israel to engage in sexual immorality and idolatry.)

- **Numbers 31:2:** "Avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites: afterward shalt thou be gathered unto thy people."

Moses told the Israelites that when they went to war against the Midianites, they would **avenge** the Lord upon the Midianites.

- **Numbers 31:3:** "And Moses spake unto the people, saying, Arm some of yourselves unto the war, and let them go against the Midianites, and avenge the LORD of Midian."

A city of refuge was a place where a person who accidentally killed someone could flee and find refuge so that he wasn't killed by the **avenger** of blood.

- **Numbers 35:6:** "And among the cities which ye shall give unto the Levites there shall be six cities for refuge, which ye shall appoint for the manslayer, that he may flee thither: and to them ye shall add forty and two cities."
- **Numbers 35:11:** "Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither,

which killeth any person at unawares."

- **Deuteronomy 19:4:** "And this is the case of the slayer, which shall flee thither, that he may live: Whoso killeth his neighbour ignorantly, whom he hated not in time past;"
- **Joshua 20:3:** "That the slayer that killeth any person unawares and unwittingly may flee thither: and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood."

Under normal circumstances, the **avenger** of blood would kill people who accidentally killed someone else.

- **Numbers 35:12:** "And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not, until he stand before the congregation in judgment."

The **avenger** of blood wasn't allowed to kill people who were in a city of refuge.

- **Numbers 35:12:** "And they shall be unto you cities for refuge from the avenger; that the manslayer die not, until he stand before the congregation in judgment."

God executes the judgment of the fatherless and the widow. (He hears their cases and **avenges** them.)

- **Deuteronomy 10:18:** "He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment."

God didn't want cities of refuge to be located so far from

people that they couldn't reach them before the **avenger** of blood found them.

- **Deuteronomy 19:6:** "Lest the avenger of the blood pursue the slayer, while his heart is hot, and overtake him, because the way is long, and slay him; whereas he was not worthy of death, inasmuch as he hated him not in time past."

Even though the **avenger** of blood had a legal right to put to death those who killed someone accidentally, if he did so then he was shedding innocent blood. God hates the shedding of innocent blood, which is why He commanded the Israelites to set aside cities of refuge to protect people.

- **Deuteronomy 19:10:** "That innocent blood be not shed in thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and so blood be upon thee."

Under the Mosaic Law, murderers were to be put to death by the **avenger** of blood.

- **Deuteronomy 19:12:** "Then the elders of his city shall send and fetch him thence, and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die."

The fact that God will one day **avenge** the blood of His servants is a cause for rejoicing.

- **Deuteronomy 32:43:** "Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people."

When Joshua asked God to stop the sun and the moon in the sky, they both remained in place until Joshua had finished **avenging** the Gibeonites and killing their enemies.

- **Joshua 10:13:** "And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day."

If an **avenger** of blood pursued someone who fled to a city of refuge, the elders of the city were to protect that person who and not turn him over to be killed. (This is specifically for the case where the death was accidental.)

- **Joshua 20:5:** "And if the avenger of blood pursue after him, then they shall not deliver the slayer up into his hand; because he smote his neighbour unwittingly, and hated him not beforetime."

When the Lord delivered the enemies who were oppressing Israel (Jabin and Sisera) into the hands of the Israelites, He was **avenging** Israel.

- **Judges 5:2:** "Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves."

When the Philistines killed the woman who was supposed to marry Samson (along with her father), Samson said that once he **avenged** himself he would stop.

- **Judges 15:7:** "And Samson said unto them, Though ye

have done this, yet will I be avenged of you, and after that I will cease."

The reason Samson wanted God to give him strength was so he could **avenge** himself upon those who had blinded him.

- **Judges 16:28:** "And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."

King Saul said the reason he forbade anyone from eating food before that evening was so he could be **avenged** of his enemies. (In other words, he did it out of pride and selfishness.)

- **1 Samuel 14:24:** "And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food."

When King Saul spoke to his men about the Philistines, he didn't refer to them as the enemies of Israel. Instead he viewed them as his personal enemies, who he wanted to be **avenged** of. It seems his focus was purely on himself, and not on the needs of his nation (which can be seen by the fact that he forbade his people *from eating food*).

- **1 Samuel 14:24:** "And the men of Israel were distressed that day: for Saul had adjured the people, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may

be avenged on mine enemies. So none of the people tasted any food."

Saul told his servants to tell David that what he wanted as a dowry for his daughter Michal was to be **avenged** of his enemies. (However, that was a lie. What Saul really wanted was for David to be killed.)

- **1 Samuel 18:25:** "And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines."

David prayed that God would **avenge** him of Saul.

- **1 Samuel 24:12:** "The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee."

When Abigail saw David, she said that God had restrained David from **avenging** himself with his own hand.

- **1 Samuel 25:26:** "Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Nabal."

Abigail told David that if he killed Nabal and all of his household, he would be **avenging** himself.

- **1 Samuel 25:31:** "That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor

offence of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid."

After David heard Abigail speak, he said that her words had stopped him from **avenging** himself with his own hand (because he had planned on killing Nabal and his entire household).

- **1 Samuel 25:33**: "And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand."

When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said that God had pleaded his cause with Nabal. (In other words, God had **avenged** him.)

- **1 Samuel 25:39**: "And when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, Blessed be the LORD, that hath pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and hath kept his servant from evil: for the LORD hath returned the wickedness of Nabal upon his own head. And David sent and communed with Abigail, to take her to him to wife."

When Rechab and Baanah brought the head of Ishbosheth to David, they said that God had **avenged** David.

- **2 Samuel 4:8**: "And they brought the head of Ishbosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ishbosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the

king this day of Saul, and of his seed."

When Nathan told David the story of the rich man who took the poor man's lamb, David wanted to **avenge** the poor man.

- **2 Samuel 12:6:** "And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Throughout David's life he had a habit of being hard on people who were righteous (such as Tamar, who he did nothing to **avenge** after her brother raped her), and lenient on murderers and rapists (such as Saul, Amnon, and Absalom). When a woman went to David and asked him to protect her son (who she said had murdered someone), David immediately said he would make sure he wasn't punished.

- **2 Samuel 14:10-11:** "And the king said, Whoever saith ought unto thee, bring him to me, and he shall not touch thee any more. Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the Lord thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the Lord liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth."

The argument the woman from Tekoah made was that since everyone dies eventually, Absalom shouldn't be punished for **avenging** the rape of Tamar by murdering his brother (which was a *terrible* argument.)

- **2 Samuel 14:14:** "For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from

him."

After Absalom was killed, Ahimaaz wanted to tell David that God had **avenged** David of his enemies.

- **2 Samuel 18:19:** "Then said Ahimaaz the son of Zadok, Let me now run, and bear the king tidings, how that the LORD hath avenged him of his enemies."

When Cushie met David after the battle with Absalom, he told David that God had **avenged** him of all those who had risen up against him.

- **2 Samuel 18:31:** "And, behold, Cushie came; and Cushie said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee."

After Saul broke Israel's covenant with the Gibeonites and slaughtered them, David asked the survivors how that terrible wrong could be **avenged**. The Gibeonites said they didn't want money or the death of the Israelites.

- **2 Samuel 21:3-4:** "Wherefore David said unto the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? and wherewith shall I make the atonement, that ye may bless the inheritance of the Lord? And the Gibeonites said unto him, We will have no silver nor gold of Saul, nor of his house; neither for us shalt thou kill any man in Israel. And he said, What ye shall say, that will I do for you."

After David **avenged** the slaughter of the Gibeonites, God put an end to the famine in Israel.

- **2 Samuel 21:14:** "And the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son buried they in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the sepulchre of Kish his father: and they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God was intreated for the land."

There are times when God **avenges** people.

- **2 Samuel 22:48:** "It is God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me."

There are times when God **avenges** the murder of His prophets.

- **2 Kings 9:7:** "And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel."

It's not wrong to pray that God would **avenge** His people for the terrible things the wicked have done to them.

- **Nehemiah 4:4:** "Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity:"

The new proclamation from King Ahasuerus gave the Jews the right to **avenge** themselves against their enemies.

- **Esther 8:13:** "The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies."

God wants to stop the **avenger**.

- **Psalm 8:2:** "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger."

God **avenges** the blood of the innocent.

- **Psalm 9:12:** "When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble."

God will **avenge** the poor and the fatherless.

- **Psalm 10:14:** "Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless."

When we seek vengeance, we must look to God. He is the one who **avenges** us.

- **Psalm 18:47:** "It is God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me."

The psalmist said that the right hand of the king would teach him terrible things. (This seems to speak of the king going to war and **avenging** the people.)

- **Psalm 45:4:** "And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things."

It's not wrong to want God to **avenge** the terrible things that the wicked have done.

- **Psalm 54:5:** "He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: cut them off in thy truth."

When Asaph referred to the future destruction of Jerusalem, he prayed that God would make Himself known among the Gentiles by **avenging** the blood of His servants, which had been shed.

- **Psalm 79:10:** "Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed."

It's good to praise God when He **avenges** those who reproached Him.

- **Psalm 79:12-13:** "And render unto our neighbours sevenfold into their bosom their reproach, wherewith they have reproached thee, O Lord. So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations."

Instead of taking revenge on our enemies, we must wait on the Lord. He is the one who will **avenge** us in due time.

- **Proverbs 20:22:** "Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee."

There are times when God **avenges** Himself upon His enemies.

- **Isaiah 1:24:** "Therefore saith the LORD, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies."

God is the one who will **avenge** us.

- **Isaiah 35:4:** "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you."

The Jews claimed that God wasn't going to avenge them for all the terrible things that happened to them. They said there would be no justice for them. (They were wrong.)

- **Isaiah 40:27-28:** "Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding."

God said He would **avenge** His soul because of the wickedness of Israel and Judah.

- **Jeremiah 5:9:** "Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"
- **Jeremiah 9:9:** "Shall I not visit them for these things?"

saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

Jeremiah asked God to **avenge** him of those who persecuted him.

- **Jeremiah 15:15:** "O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke."
- **Jeremiah 20:12:** "But, O LORD of hosts, that triest the righteous, and seest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I opened my cause."

It's not wrong to pray that God would **avenge** us.

- **Jeremiah 15:15:** "O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke."
- **Jeremiah 20:12:** "But, O LORD of hosts, that triest the righteous, and seest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I opened my cause."
- **Jeremiah 51:35:** "The violence done to me and to my flesh be upon Babylon, shall the inhabitant of Zion say; and my blood upon the inhabitants of Chaldea, shall Jerusalem say."
- **Luke 18:8:** "I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

When the Jews plotted against Jeremiah, he didn't **avenge** himself. Instead he prayed that God would **avenge** him.

- **Jeremiah 18:22:** "Let a cry be heard from their houses, when thou shalt bring a troop suddenly upon them: for they have digged a pit to take me, and hid snares for my feet."
- **Jeremiah 18:23:** "Yet, LORD, thou knowest all their counsel against me to slay me: forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal thus with them in the time of thine anger."

There are times when God **avenges** Himself.

- **Jeremiah 46:10:** "For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates."

God called Himself the LORD God of recompenses. (He judges people according to what they've done, and He's the one who **avenges**.)

- **Jeremiah 51:56:** "Because the spoiler is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the LORD God of recompences shall surely requite."

God was going to **avenge** the innocent blood that had been shed.

- **Hosea 1:4:** "And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel."

In the parable of the unrighteous judge, the widow wanted to be **avenged** of her adversary.

- **Luke 18:3:** "And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary."

In the parable of the unrighteous judge, the widow ignored the rejection of the judge and persisted in demanding that he **avenge** her, until he finally gave in and did so.

- **Luke 18:4-5:** "And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me."

The parable of the unjust judge was taught in the context of someone who had been wronged, and praying that she would be **avenged** of her adversaries.

- **Luke 18:6-8:** "And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Jesus held up the widow as an example of what to do. Just as she continued to go before the judge until he relented and **avenged** her, so we must continue to pray that God would **avenge** us even if our prayers aren't granted right away. We must not take no for an answer, but must continue to be persistent because that's what God wants. He will eventually grant that prayer and **avenge** us.

- **Luke 18:6-8:** "And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

It's not wrong for us to cry out day and night that God would **avenge** us.

- **Luke 18:7:** "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?"

When Jesus asked if He would find faith on the earth when He returned, it was in the context of the saints praying that God would **avenge** them.

- **Luke 18:8:** "I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

The day when God will **avenge** us is the day that the Lord Jesus Christ returns. That will be a day of judgment.

- **Luke 18:8:** "I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

When Moses saw that one of the Hebrews was wronged, he **avenged** him.

- **Acts 7:24:** "And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:"

The reason Moses **avenged** the Hebrew and killed his Egyptian oppressor was because he believed the Hebrews understood that God was going to use him to save them from slavery.

- **Acts 7:25:** "For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not."

The Lord is the one who will **avenge** us. We must not avenge ourselves.

- **Romans 12:19:** "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; *I will repay*, saith the Lord."

Those who've been hurt by evil need to be **avenged**. God has ordained the government to be the one who carries out that vengeance.

- **Romans 13:4:** "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he

beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

Since God gave the government the responsibility to fight against evil and **avenge** the innocent, it has the right to charge taxes and citizens have the responsibility to pay them.

- **Romans 13:6:** "For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing."

The most important thing in life isn't making sure that we're **avenged** in this world. Instead it's the gospel.

- **1 Corinthians 6:7:** "Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?"

The godly sorrow that the Corinthian church experienced produced a desire to be **avenged**.

- **2 Corinthians 7:11:** "For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

Paul warned the Thessalonian church that God **avenges** those who have been defrauded.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:6:** "That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified."

Jesus will come from Heaven to this world. When He does He will **avenge** His church and punish the wicked.

- **2 Thessalonians 1:7-8:** "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

When Alexander did great evil to Paul, the apostle didn't take vengeance himself. Instead he asked God to **avenge** him.

- **2 Timothy 4:14:** "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:"

The martyrs in Heaven want to know how much longer it will be until God **avenges** their blood.

- **Revelation 6:9-10:** "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

God told the martyrs that their blood will indeed be **avenged**, but not until more Christians are murdered for their faith.

(However, one day God will indeed **avenge** them.)

- **Revelation 6:11:** "And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

It's not wrong to rejoice when God **avenges** us.

- **Revelation 18:20:** "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her."

The day is coming when God will **avenge** the apostles and prophets.

- **Revelation 18:20:** "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her."

At the end of the tribulation, God will **avenge** the blood of His servants that was shed by the "great whore" (the evil and murderous religion of the end times). One day the martyrs will be **avenged**.

- **Revelation 19:2:** "For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand."

REVENGE, REVENGED, REVENGERS, REVENGES, REVENGETH, REVENGING, REVENGER

Joseph's brothers thought that he was waiting for his father to die, and then he would take **revenge** for all the terrible things they had put him through.

- **Genesis 50:15:** "And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him."

When Joseph's brothers asked him to forgive them, Joseph didn't take **revenge** for all the evil they had done to him.

- **Genesis 50:17-19:** "So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him. And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants. And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?"

Under the Mosaic Law, if someone caused permanent injury to their neighbor, then that same injury had to be inflicted upon them. (This is what the "eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" was referring to. It wasn't talking about **revenge**, but instead the legal punishment for inflicting permanent harm on someone.)

- **Leviticus 24:20:** "Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again."

Under the Mosaic Law, the **revenger** of blood had a legal obligation to hunt down and kill murderers.

- **Numbers 35:19:** "The revenger of blood himself shall slay the murderer: when he meeteth him, he shall slay him."

Under the Mosaic Law, murderers were to be put to death as soon as they were found by the **revenger** of blood. There was to be no delay in their execution.

- **Numbers 35:21:** "Or in enmity smite him with his hand, that he die: he that smote him shall surely be put to death; for he is a murderer: the revenger of blood shall slay the murderer, when he meeteth him."

To repay the Philistines for giving his bride away to another man, Samson didn't take **revenge** against the person who took away his bride-to-be, or the person his bride was given to. Instead he set Philistine fields on fire.

- **Judges 15:5:** "And when he had set the brands on fire, he let them go into the standing corn of the Philistines, and burnt up both the shocks, and also the standing corn, with the vineyards and olives."

Ahithophel told Absalom to rape David's concubines in order to strengthen his support in Israel. (However, it's possible this was actually about getting **revenge** for what David had done

to Bathsheba, since Ahithophel was her grandfather.)

- **2 Samuel 16:21:** "And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong."

The reason the psalmist was ashamed was because people were trying to take **revenge** upon him.

- **Psalm 44:16:** "For the voice of him that reproacheth and blasphemeth; by reason of the enemy and avenger."

We're not allowed to take **revenge** into our own hands. It's not our place to recompense evil.

- **Proverbs 20:22:** "Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee."

If you want to make your enemy suffer then help them in their time of need. If you seek **revenge** then that's the right way to get it.

- **Proverbs 25:21-22:** "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink: For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee."

The Jews wanted to take their **revenge** on Jeremiah because he had faithfully proclaimed God's words (and they hated God).

- **Jeremiah 20:10:** "For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him."

People were teaching others to take **revenge**, even though the Mosaic law actually prohibited it.

- **Matthew 5:38-39:** "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. "

God doesn't allow us to take **revenge** against our enemies. Instead we must do good to them and pray for them.

- **Matthew 5:44:** "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;"

We must not take **revenge**.

- **Romans 12:17:** "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men."

Instead of taking **revenge** when we're wronged, we must step back and give space for God's wrath.

- **Romans 12:19:** "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

The way to overcome evil isn't by taking **revenge** or by returning evil for evil. Instead it's by blessing our enemies instead of cursing them.

- **Romans 12:21:** "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

VENGEFUL, VINDICTIVE, VENGEANCE

God promised sevenfold **vengeance** on whoever killed Cain.

- **Genesis 4:15:** "And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him."

Lamech (a descendant of Cain) was **vengeful** (and wicked).

- **Genesis 4:24:** "If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold."

God was the one who told Moses to get **vengeance** upon the Midianites (because they tempted Israel to sin through idolatry and sexual immorality).

- **Numbers 31:1-2:** "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites: afterward shalt thou be gathered unto thy people."

When the Israelites fought against the Midianites to get **vengeance** for what they had done to Israel, they also killed Balaam – the person who taught Balak that God would curse Israel if they sined. This means they got **vengeance** on the very person who caused all these things to happen.

- **Numbers 31:8:** "And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword."

Even though the reason the Israelites fought against the Midianites was because their women tempted Israel to sin, they didn't kill any of the Midianite women. Instead they killed all the men and spared all the women, even though getting **vengeance** upon the women who had tempted Israel to sin (which caused God to kill thousands of Israelites in response) was the entire point of the battle.

- **Numbers 31:15-16:** "And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive? Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the Lord in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord."

In the song that Moses taught the Israelites, Moses said that God had **vengeance** laid up in His storehouse.

- **Deuteronomy 32:34-35:** "Is not this laid up in store with me, and sealed up among my treasures? To me belongeth vengeance and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste."

One day God will take **vengeance** upon His enemies, and upon those who hate Him.

- **Deuteronomy 32:41:** "If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me."

In the song that Moses taught the Israelites, Moses told the nations that they should rejoice with the people of God, because God is going to render **vengeance** upon His adversaries.

- **Deuteronomy 32:43:** "Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people."

The reason Jephthah's daughter told her father to keep his vow (and offer her as a human sacrifice) was because God had taken **vengeance** on her father's enemies.

- **Judges 11:36:** "And she said unto him, My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon."

Throughout Samson's life he was motivated by personal **vengeance**. He consistently sought to kill those who had wronged him in some way.

- **Judges 16:28:** "And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes."

When David was dying, his final thoughts were getting **vengeance** against his enemies. He could have legally taken action against the crimes of Joab and Shimei at any time, but

instead he decided to have someone else do it for him after he died.

- **1 Kings 2:9-10:** "Now therefore hold him not guiltless: for thou art a wise man, and knowest what thou oughtest to do unto him; but his hoar head bring thou down to the grave with blood. So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David."

The reason Jehu wanted Joram's body to be cast into the field of Naboth was because Ahab (Joram's father) murdered Naboth to steal that land. Jehu cast his body into that field as an act of **vengeance**.

- **2 Kings 9:26:** "Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith the LORD; and I will requite thee in this plat, saith the LORD. Now therefore take and cast him into the plat of ground, according to the word of the LORD."

It's not wrong to pray that God would take **vengeance** upon the enemies of His people.

- **Nehemiah 4:4:** "Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity:"

When we seek **vengeance**, we must look to God.

- **Psalms 18:47:** "It is God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me."

When God takes **vengeance** upon the wicked, the righteous

will wash their feet in their blood.

- **Psalm 58:10:** "The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked."

When God takes **vengeance** upon the wicked, He will be glorified.

- **Psalm 58:11:** "So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth."

Vengeance belongs to God.

- **Deuteronomy 32:35:** "To me belongeth vengeance and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste."
- **Psalm 94:1:** "O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself."
- **Hebrews 10:30:** "For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people."

The psalmist said twice in one verse that **vengeance** belongs to God.

- **Psalm 94:1:** "O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself."

It's not wrong to look forward to God taking **vengeance** upon

those who have murdered your children, and then demanded that you be happy about it and sing them a song.

- **Psalm 137:8-9:** "O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones."

The reason the saints should have a two-edged sword in their hand is so they can execute **vengeance** upon the heathen. (This may be a reference to the saints ruling over the world with Christ during the millennium.)

- **Psalm 149:6-7:** "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;"

Jealousy and rage leads to a desire for **vengeance**.

- **Proverbs 6:34:** "For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance."

There are times when a desire for **vengeance** is so great that no amount of money can stop it.

- **Proverbs 6:35:** "He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts."

The day of the Lord's **vengeance** will punish the world for what they have done to Zion.

- **Isaiah 34:8:** "For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance,

and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion."

God will slaughter the inhabitants of Idumea in the day of His **vengeance**.

- **Isaiah 34:5, 8:** "For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. ... For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion."

God will dissolve the host of heavens, and roll up the heavens as a scroll, in the day of His **vengeance**.

- **Isaiah 34:4, 8:** "And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. ... For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion."

The reason we don't need to be afraid is because God is coming with **vengeance** and recompense.

- **Isaiah 35:4:** "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you."

God put on garments of **vengeance** for clothing.

- **Isaiah 59:17:** "For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head;

and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak."

One day there will be a day of **vengeance** of God.

- **Isaiah 61:2:** "To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;"

God sent the Messiah to proclaim His day of **vengeance**. (This will take place at His Second Coming.)

- **Isaiah 61:2:** "To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;"

The day of **vengeance** is also the year of God's redeemed.

- **Isaiah 63:4:** "For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come."

When the Lord appears, He will take **vengeance** upon His enemies.

- **Isaiah 66:6:** "A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies."

Since Judah was a wicked nation, God was going to visit them and get **vengeance** for what they had done.

- **Jeremiah 5:9:** "Shall I not visit for these things? saith the

LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

- **Jeremiah 9:9:** "Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

Jeremiah wanted to see God's **vengeance** poured out upon those who plotted to kill him.

- **Jeremiah 11:20:** "But, O LORD of hosts, that judgest righteously, that triest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I revealed my cause."

Jeremiah didn't take **vengeance** upon those who persecuted him. Instead he brought his case to God.

- **Jeremiah 20:12:** "But, O LORD of hosts, that triest the righteous, and seest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I opened my cause."

When God spoke against the army of Pharaohnecho, He said that it was a day of **vengeance**.

- **Jeremiah 46:10:** "For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates."

When God spoke against Babylon, He commanded her enemies to take **vengeance** upon her.

- **Jeremiah 50:15:** "Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her."

The destruction of Babylon was the **vengeance** of God.

- **Jeremiah 50:28:** "The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple."

When God spoke against Babylon, He said it was the time of His **vengeance**.

- **Jeremiah 51:6:** "Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the LORD's vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence."

When God spoke against Babylon, He said that its destruction was the **vengeance** of His temple (which Babylon had destroyed).

- **Jeremiah 51:11:** "Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the LORD hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is against Babylon, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance of his temple."

When God spoke against Babylon, He said that He was going to take **vengeance** on behalf of the Jews.

- **Jeremiah 51:36:** "Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will dry up her sea, and make her springs dry."

God was going to pour out His **vengeance** upon Jerusalem for the innocent blood that had been shed.

- **Ezekiel 24:8:** "That it might cause fury to come up to take vengeance; I have set her blood upon the top of a rock, that it should not be covered."

The Edomites had no right to take **vengeance** upon Judah.

- **Ezekiel 25:12:** "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because that Edom hath dealt against the house of Judah by taking vengeance, and hath greatly offended, and revenged himself upon them;"

Because the Edomites took **vengeance** upon the Jews, God was going to take **vengeance** upon them.

- **Ezekiel 25:13-14:** "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword. And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel: and they shall do in Edom according to mine anger and according to my fury; and they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord GOD."

The Jews were going to carry out God's **vengeance** upon the Edomites. (This same message is also found in the book of Obadiah.)

- **Ezekiel 25:14:** "And I will lay my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel: and they shall do in Edom according to mine anger and according to my fury; and they shall know my vengeance, saith the Lord GOD."

The reason the Philistines took **vengeance** upon the Jews was because they had hated them for a long time. They did it from a position of pure hatred.

- **Ezekiel 25:15:** "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with a despiteful heart, to destroy it for the old hatred;"

Because the Philistines took **vengeance** upon the Jews, God was going to take **vengeance** upon the Philistines.

- **Ezekiel 25:16:** "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will stretch out mine hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethims, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast."

When God poured out His **vengeance** upon the Philistines, they would know that He was the Lord. God was going to use His wrath to make Himself known to the Philistines.

- **Ezekiel 25:17:** "And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them."

There are times when God pours out great **vengeance** upon nations for the way they treated the Jews.

- **Ezekiel 25:17:** "And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them."

Belshazzar was a **vindictive** and petty man. He referred to Daniel in the most humiliating way possible (seemingly out of pure spite).

- **Daniel 5:13:** "Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?"

Just because God is angry with someone and is going to punish them doesn't give us the right to take our own private **vengeance**.

- **Amos 2:1:** "Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime:"

The day is coming when God will pour out His **vengeance** upon the heathen.

- **Micah 5:15:** "And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard."

The amount of **vengeance**, anger, and fury that the Lord will pour out upon the heathen (the unbelieving Gentiles) is immense. It's far greater than they realize.

- **Micah 5:15:** "And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard."

The Lord will take **vengeance** on His adversaries.

- **Nahum 1:2:** "God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies."

This prophecy speaks of a time when the Lord will return to this world in person and literally set it on fire, as an act of **vengeance** against the wicked.

- **Nahum 1:5:** "The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein."

God will one day punish the wicked with tremendous anger and fiery **vengeance**. He is slow to anger but He will not acquit the wicked.

- **Nahum 1:6:** "Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him."

The disciples weren't allowed to take **vengeance** on any place that didn't receive them. All they were allowed to do was

shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against them.

- **Mark 6:11:** "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city."

The reason people were to flee from Jerusalem when armies came against it was because those were days of **vengeance**. In those days Jerusalem wasn't going to be a safe place because God was pouring out His wrath upon the city.

- **Luke 21:22:** "For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled."

When the people who lived on the island of Melita saw that a poisonous snake had bitten Paul, they said the reason it happened was because Paul escaped dying in the sea, so **vengeance** was killing him with a snake. (They were wrong.)

- **Acts 28:4:** "And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live."

God takes **vengeance** upon those who are unrighteous.

- **Romans 3:5:** "But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man)"

Even though God uses our wickedness for His own purposes,

God is still just to judge us for our sins and take **vengeance** upon us.

- **Romans 3:5-6:** "But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?"

Vengeance belongs to the Lord.

- **Romans 12:19:** "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Paul told the church to look forward to the **vengeance** that Jesus will pour out upon the wicked when He returns, and take comfort in it.

- **2 Thessalonians 1:7-10:** "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."

When Jesus returns and takes **vengeance** upon the world, He will do so with flaming fire.

- **2 Thessalonians 1:8:** "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of

our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Paul refers to the "day of Christ". Earlier in his letter to the Thessalonians he talked about the time when Christ would return to this world to punish those who persecute the church. In that day the wicked will receive flaming **vengeance**, and the saints will glorify and admire Christ.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:2:** "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand."

There's nothing wrong with asking God to take **vengeance** on people who have done us wrong and haven't repented.

- **2 Timothy 4:14:** "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:"

Those who reject the gospel are in terrible danger because the living God is also a God of **vengeance**. He will surely judge and punish those who rejected Christ, and that's a fearful thing.

- **Hebrews 10:31:** "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Those who are just haven't resisted the rich. (This seems to be referring to rising up against them and taking matters into their own hands, in some sort of mob violence or personal **vengeance**.)

- **James 5:1, 6:** "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. ... Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist

you."

Those who sin against God will suffer the **vengeance** of eternal fire.

- **Jude 1:7:** "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

The martyrs who are in Heaven are crying out for **vengeance**. They want God to avenge them.

- **Revelation 6:10:** "And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

The destruction of the city of Babylon during the tribulation will be an act of **vengeance**.

- **Revelation 18:20:** "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her."

VIGILANTE

God forbids mob violence. He doesn't allow **vigilante** justice.

- **James 5:6:** "Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you."