

The Lord Avenges

Douglas W. Cho, D.R.S.

[Nahum 1:2-3] God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; The Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies; The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked.

1. God Avenges His Enemies

Some people, whether believing or non-believing, think that the image of an avenging God does not fit the image of the all-powerful, almighty creator God if He takes merciless vengeance against His enemies just like a vengeful human being. Many theologians, pastors, and Bible-reading church-goers cite the numerous bible verses that describe God as a merciful, loving, and forgiving God. They want to confine the character of God into such a mold of a benevolent creator who bestows blessings to all of His creation. However, such an act of willful mis-characterization of God based on their preference and pre-conceived ideas about His nature is entirely wrong and is not biblical. When pastors and teachers present such a partial image of God only, they are doing injustice to their God and are presenting 'another gospel' to the uninformed believers. God has declared that He will be merciful and loving to His chosen people, to those who come to Him in repentance. The benevolent side of God's nature is apparent in His dealings with the people of God over many centuries of human history. However, as we read in Nahum 1 above, God has declared that He will avenge His enemies with His strong might and wrath for their rebellion and wickedness. He will not acquit them at all.

But people say, "Didn't Jesus teach to turn your cheek when your enemy strikes your left cheek? Didn't He teach your brother's offenses even 70 times seven and treat your enemies with forgiveness and love?" Yes, He did and His teachings apply to us even today. However, the teachings of Jesus Christ, who as God created the universe, who as God destroyed the whole world with the great flood, and who as God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstones, teaches us to love our personal enemies and to forgive our brethren daily. God's teachings on how we should deal with God's enemies are very different from those on how to treat our brethren and personal 'enemies.' Who are God's enemies? They are Satan, the chief enemy, the fallen angels, evil spirits, and those people who have been won over by Satan and are siding against God, trying to destroy and take down the divine principles, moral standards, fear of God, and the pure faith in Christ Jesus. We may not have the power to fight these forces actively. But we can identify them in our society, in our nation, and the world as the enemies of God whom we serve, and we can do all things in our power to expose them, to oppose their endeavors while letting the pure light of Christ shine through our spirits and examples.

God will work with us in our fight against 'these powers of evil, principalities, and forces in the air' and take up His weapons of warfare to punish them, to bring down their kingdom, and to throw them into the fires of the Bottomless Pit in the end-times. This is a solemn declaration of the Almighty God recorded in the Bible. True Christians are comforted and strengthened when they think of their God as the avenging God. We are glad and thankful that we have an avenging Father who will take up the work of vengeance on account of all persecuted peoples of God throughout the history of mankind.

2. Why Does God Avenge?

Some people complain about this aspect of God's character. God is, after all, the Almighty Creator who created heavens and the earth and all things therein. Why would such a Creator not show his benevolent kindness to all people including those who err but have to avenge for their inequities? This is a narrow-mindedness on God's part and so unlike the magnanimous creator, they complain. However, such a stance is mistakenly coming from the misunderstanding of the justness and holiness of God. God is holy apart from all others; He need not explain His acts and intentions to anyone; He stands by and changes not the principles and standards of justice that He alone

has established, and He never yields to or negotiates with the evil. All His creation is dedicated to being fully compliant to His laws and principles, except those who have taken the stand with Satan and his cohort, and they joyfully sing of God's holiness and justness. For this reason, the apostle Paul has declared that we humans have no excuse for not believing and not obeying Him.

[Romans 1: 18-20] 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Satan himself believes and knows God because he was one of God's archangels. So do Satan's disciples and followers. Although one might say he/she does not believe in God, everyone knows in one's heart that there is one true Creator. Even the most primitive tribes without the benefit of a civilization know and worship God by setting up idols. Therefore, if you, who are educated, say that you don't believe in God, you are only expressing your dishonesty and self-deceit.

God is angry toward people who deny Him, do not recognize His supremacy but rather stand with Satan who rebelled against God and made himself God's chief enemy. Many immigrants have come to this country as refugees and have received many benefits provided by the American people and government in the form of education, healthcare, social welfare support, and opportunities of jobs and advancements. Yet, some of them criticize the principles and tenets of this great nation and seek to throw down the free democratic fabric of the nation, which God has blessed so plentifully. Such persons are ingrates and traitors. Likewise, when we have received life from God and have benefited from all of God's providence and kindness, betraying His kindness and love and jumping sides to join Satan brings God's wrath and cause Him to do vengeance against such enemies. Perhaps this little analogy helps you understand why God's wrath toward evil is fully justified. As the apostle Paul has declared, no one has any excuse whatsoever for criticizing God for His hatred toward the evil.

3. How Does God Avenge?

[Psalm 7: 11-13] God is a righteous judge, a God who displays his wrath every day. 12 If he does not relent, He will sharpen His sword; He will bend and string His bow. 13 He has prepared His deadly weapons; He makes ready His flaming arrows.

God is hearing the many fervent prayers of the righteous saints and will show His great wrath toward the wicked. He is preparing His weapons of warfare. Through the scriptures we can learn that God has used the following four methods of avenging His enemies:

First, God uses natural disasters against His enemies as a means of avenging them. The most notable example is the great flood of Noah's era. God chose to destroy all breathing living things including humans, except Noah and his family and the pairs of animals that joined Noah on his ark to avoid deaths, because the people of the era had been won over by the fallen angels and became morally, sexually, biologically and physically corrupt. There are numerous proofs of the great flood all over the world even today. God has repeatedly used natural disasters to punish evil peoples and nations. I anticipate China's Sansha Dam will be destroyed soon due to heavy rainfalls, resulting in flooding and destruction of the Yangtze River tributary. This natural calamity will enhance the downfall of the Chinese Communist Party and China as a nation in the coming future. We shall see God using natural disasters again and again until the end-times arrive at our doorstep. As we carefully observe and recognize His work of recompense and avenging, let us give honor and glory to God for His justness.

Secondly, God avenges using the living creatures. When God sent Moses and Aaron to the Egyptian pharaoh to release His people from their slavery status and attempted to persuade him repeatedly, the pharaoh's repeated refusal and disobedience caused God to send ten disasters to Egypt. The creatures God used to punish Egypt and the pharaoh's house were 1) water that turned to blood; 2) swarms of frogs; 3) swarms of lice; 4) swarms of flies; 5) diseases on the livestock; 6) skin diseases on the Egyptian people; 7) hailstones; 8) swarms of grasshoppers; 9)

darkness; and 10) deaths to all the firstborn animals and people. Of the ten measures of disasters, eight were living creatures employed by God.

COVID-19, which has been plaguing the entire world during the past two years, did not originate from God but from Wuhan, China, based on the sinister plot of the CCP as evidence has been shown. This wicked act of the CCP must be punished and they must pay for the damages inflicted by the pandemic on the peoples of the world. God will again use His creation to inflict punishment on the unbelieving and the wicked peoples during the end-times.

Thirdly, God uses people who are obedient to His will and plan to punish the disobedient and the wicked. As the people of Israel completed their 40-year journey in the wilderness and were entering the promised land, they were told to utterly destroy the people already occupying the land so that they could become conquerors and owners of the land God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These gentile tribes in the land of Canaan were enemies to God because they denied God but served idols and their culture of that of sexual and moral decadence.

God caused the economic and military might of the United States to fight together with the democratic western European nations against Germany and the Fascist nations during World Wars I and II, resulting in peace to the world. This was possible because America was a Christian nation that followed God's will and purpose. However, some American leaders have led the nation into needless and unjust wars that resulted in losses in lives and wastage of the nation's resources. A good example is the 20-year long war in Afghanistan, which came to a shamefully mismanaged closure recently. I sometimes wonder if the military might of the United States could be available for God's use during the end-times. The Book of Revelation does not give us any suggestion to God using the military might of America. I believe the military leaders of this nation give thoughts to the possibility where God calls for a mission for the world's greatest military to perform, just as He called the military of ancient Babylon into a mission.

The fourth type of weapon of vengeance and punishment that God uses against evil is supernatural weapons. The scripture records several times that God has used such means when other means are not available or not appropriate and plans to use them during the end-times.

- 1) As we have studied already, God sent a death angel to Egypt, who brought deaths to all first-born animals and people of Egypt during the first Passover night.
- 2) In 2 Kings 19, we read of the Assyrian king Sanhedrin coming to conquer the southern kingdom Juda by laying a siege around Jerusalem during the reign of King Hezekiah. Sanhedrin shouted derogatory remarks against God and the people of Juda, whereupon the prophet Isaiah prayed to God for help. God sent an angel, who killed 185,000 soldiers of the Assyrian army in one night, so that Sanhedrin returned to his own country and was assassinated by his sons.
- 3) Revelation 9 records a prophecy that God will employ a great supernatural army in the shape of grasshoppers, which will torture all people without the seal of God on their foreheads for five months. They will seek death but death will evade them [Rev. 9:2-10]. Soon afterward, God will employ 200 million armies of supernatural cavalry to kill one-third of all unrepentant peoples of the earth. They will die of the fire, smoke, and sulfuric gas that emanate from the mouths of the horses [Rev. 9:15-19]. The unbelievers and the wicked who deny and hate God but rather choose to follow Satan will be subject to such a horrific vengeance by the hand of God. So great is the wrath of God against His enemies and He is holy and just. When you read this prophecy today, what attitude should you have toward God? Come to Him in full repentance and surrender.

4. Our Prayer

As we observe how the evil acts by the Satan-serving wicked people in the U.S., in South Korea, and many parts of the world and how they cause suffering and persecution to righteous peoples, we are reminded of the prayer of the righteous in Psalm 94.

[Psalm 94:1-4] O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongs—O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth! 2 Rise up, O Judge of the earth; Render punishment to the proud. 3 Lord, how long will the wicked, How long will the wicked triumph?

The psalmist prayed: Vengeance belongs to the Lord and we are powerless to fight against them. So, Lord God, we plead that You show forth Your might against the proud and the wicked. How do You tolerate seeing them shout in triumph while wreaking havoc in this world, oppressing and persecuting the righteous people that look up to you? Please punish them and demonstrate clearly that You are angry with them! This is also our prayer.

They removed church crosses from their roofs, forbid the Christians from assembling in churches, block children from going to schools under the pretext of COVID-19 risk, forbid unvaccinated students from registering in colleges, deprive the health insurance benefits from the unvaccinated members, kick out the unvaccinated people from their jobs, forbid the unvaccinated persons from traveling by air and on ships, kick out of social media when people criticize such unfair, unscientific and oppressive measures, and socially ostracize such critics from all social activities. Lord, how long will You tolerate such evil forces to be in power in the U.S., China, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and other nations?

The far-left socialist political powers in being are marching the U.S. and South Korea into communist nations as a step toward unifying the whole world into a one-government and place it into the hand of the coming anti-Christ, who will turn the whole world into an anti-God, anti-Christ, Satan-serving world. Lord, look upon where they are heading with their endeavors, frustrate their efforts and punish them utterly! Show forth Your justice, oh God, and render divine help to the righteous warriors who strive to restore Your justice in the world. Send Your angels to help these warriors so that their endeavors result in triumphs soon, that Your glorious name and sovereignty may shine forth all over the world! Amen.