

DA39. Not Being Vengeful.

We are not to be vengeful.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Romans 12:17

Repay no one evil for evil, but try to do what everyone regards as good.

Romans 12:19

Never seek revenge, my friends; instead, leave that to God's anger; for in the Tanakh it is written, "ADONAI says, 'Vengeance is my responsibility; I will repay.'"

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 5:38-39

1 Thessalonians 5:15

Hebrews 10:30

1 Peter 2:23

Related New Testament Mitzvot

DA10 Living in Peace with Our Neighbors

DA12 Being Good & Kind to One Another

DA24 Loving Our Brother and Neighbor

DA36 Forgiving Those Who Sin Against Us

DA49 Not Harboring Malice or Being Spiteful to Our Neighbor

DA51 Not Being Mean to One Another

JA01 Blessing and Not Cursing Those Who Would Treat Us Wrongfully

JA07 Loving Our Enemies

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Deuteronomy 32:35

Vengeance and payback are mine for the time when their foot slips; for the day of their calamity is coming soon, their doom is rushing upon them.

Deuteronomy 32:43

Sing out, you nations, about his people! For he will avenge the blood of his servants. He will render vengeance to his adversaries and make atonement for the land of his people.

Psalms 94:1

God of vengeance, ADONAI! God of vengeance, appear!

Proverbs 20:22

"I'll pay back evil for evil"; wait for ADONAI to save you.

Proverbs 24:29

Don't say, "I'll do to him what he did to me, I'll pay him back what his deeds deserve."

Ezekiel 25:17

I will execute great vengeance on them with furious punishments; and they will know that I am ADONAI when I lay my vengeance on them.

Comment

Vengeance and revenge are not the same. Vengeance is the infliction of punishment or retribution exacted for the commission of an injury or wrongful act. Avenging (causing vengeance) is answering a wrongful act by punishing or requiring retribution from a wrongdoer; it is sometimes appropriate (and sometimes even required) by both biblical and secular law. Revenge, on the other hand, is the infliction of punishment or retribution with an attitude of wanting to hurt a person in return for his having hurt us. Revenge is always wrong because Scripture calls us to love and forgive our neighbor and even our enemies. The prohibition of this *Mitzvah* #DA39, to not be vengeful, forbids us from taking revenge or even wanting to take revenge for a wrong committed against us. Our obligation is to forgive those who have hurt us and, when vengeance is appropriate, Romans 12:19 requires that we give it over to the Lord.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

N01 Loving Our Neighbor, the Stranger, and Even Our Enemy

N04 Forgiving Our Neighbor

N18 Being Compassionate & Merciful Toward Our Neighbor