



Will God’s Vengeance Squash Us Like Bugs?

Zephaniah 3:8: (NASB) Therefore wait for Me, declares the LORD, for the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; for all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal.



Vengeance, indignation, burning anger and jealousy. These are some of the words that the Bible uses to describe God’s reactions to this present evil world. To put it mildly, God is not happy. Can you blame Him? Look at us - look at what this world does, what it stands for and how we treat one another. God will not allow such sin and corruption to continue. He will act, and when He does there will be no mistaking His response. The Bible emphatically describes what looks like world-ending events - these events are called “The Day of Vengeance,” “Armageddon,” “The Time of Trouble,” “The Day of Wrath.” Wait, aren’t we

always talking about God being a God of love? How could this vengeance of God possibly be interpreted as an act of love? Is God so vengeful and angry that He is going to squash us like bugs, or is there another way to understand what His vengeance is, how it works and what it accomplishes?

First of all, what did Jesus say about the dramatic Old Testament prophecies of destruction?

Matthew 24:21-24: (NASB) ²¹For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. ²²Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ²³Then if anyone says to you, Behold, here is the Christ, or there he is, do not believe him. ²⁴For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved - since the days will be cut short, we know life will be saved. This is a ray of hope.

This is a strong warning, but not something Jesus talked about a lot. For such a dramatic, life-altering event, one would think Jesus would have brought it up more often.

Luke 4:16-21: (NASB) ¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and as was his custom, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. ¹⁷And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. And he opened the book and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸The spirit of the LORD is upon me, because He anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD. ²⁰And he closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

Here Jesus emphatically read specific texts from the book of Isaiah and then sat down. This is so typical of our understanding of Jesus - he shows us the power of God for the healing and freedom of mankind that he came to fulfill.



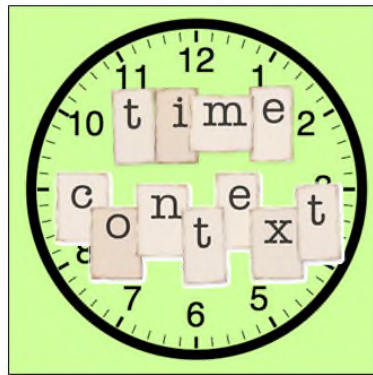
Jesus came at his first advent in part to spread the good news of the Gospel - to proclaim a release of captives (from sin and death), give sight to the people blinded by sin and provide real freedom. He literally fulfilled this prophecy when he physically healed people and cast out demons, foreshadowing a worldwide healing to come later.

But notice that Jesus stopped quoting the Isaiah prophecy right before it said this:

Isaiah 61:2: (NASB) *To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn...*

Why did Jesus not finish quoting the part about the Day of Vengeance? This gives us an important lesson in putting prophecy in its correct time context.

Jesus did not read about the Day of Vengeance because it was not relevant to the timing of his first advent - it was a prophecy related to his second advent. He omitted the part of the prophecy which would have its



All prophecy does not apply to all time periods.

To understand prophetic events, they must be viewed in their proper time context.

application at some future time. He came to pay the ransom price and set in motion the plan of reconciliation between God and man. Because of his ransom, the rest of the details would fall into place. *For more on the doctrine of the ransom, please see the Bonus Material at the end of this Rewind.*

The Day of Vengeance would be just a small step in a big plan. It was not yet time to proclaim vengeance as it was not yet relevant in that time period.





To understand God's vengeance, we have to understand the context of where and why it applies and how it works. Much of Christianity thinks God's anger is uncontrolled like our own often is.

Is God's vengeance like our vengeance - uncontrollable and full of rage?

Vengeance: Strongs #5360 naqam (naw-kawm'); from #5358 revenge: avenged, quarrel, vengeance

Genesis 4:15: (KJV) *And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance <5360> shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him.*

Notice the clear calculation God proclaims here: *vengeance is designed to thwart wrongdoing.*

Cain had to live with his sin of murdering his brother for the rest of his life - regret, loneliness and guilt. This was a greater punishment than immediate death and would be an example for those around him. God instructed the rest of the population to not take vengeance into their own hands.

This type of vengeance was not full of emotion or rage; it was a warning put in place so that no one would harm Cain until his natural life ended.

Vengeance: (Root word) Strongs #5358; naqam (naw-kam'); to grudge, i.e. avenge or punish

Here is another way the root word is used:

Judges 16:28: (KJV) *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** <5358> of the Philistines for my two eyes.*

The story of Samson is that he gave in to temptation and lost his great strength. In the text above, Samson prayed to avenge his enemies, and the Lord gave him the strength to do so, resulting in the death of both his enemies and his own death.

Here the word is used again - God is instructing man how to behave:

Leviticus 19:17-18: (NASB) *¹⁷You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take **vengeance** <5358>, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.*

We are not supposed to hate those around us, even if they do something wrong against us. If this is God's standard, we can reasonably assume He applies this standard to His own character. We are to rise above emotional reactions, but where is the justice?

Here is where the justice is:

Romans 12:19: (KJV) *Vengeance is mine, I will repay sayeth the Lord.*

God warns against two things in the Leviticus texts:



1. Do not take vengeance.
2. Do not hold a grudge.



These are two separate things. Vengeance is more cold and calculating and implies a justified or just action. Bearing a grudge is more an emotional action.

What is a just action? These New Testament words all can carry the same thought of justifiable action - not emotional action.

Vengeance: Strongs #1556; ekdikeo (ek-dik-eh'-o); from #1558; to vindicate, retaliate, punish; a (re-)venge

Vengeance: Strongs #1557; ekdikesis (ek-dik'-ay-sis); from #1556; vindication, retribution: (a-, re-)venge (-ance), punishment

Vengeance: Strongs #1558; ekdikos (ek'-dik-os); from #1537 and #1349; carrying justice out, i.e. a punisher; a (re-)venger

God is able to give retribution, retaliation and punishment without His clarity being crowded out by emotion. God is not flailing about in an out of control manner with His vengeance. He is calculating and emotionless in His execution of justice.

Vindicating puts someone or something back to their original standing. In God’s case, it means He will cause the world to be brought back in harmony with Him through the ransom sacrifice of Jesus. Vindication does not require great emotion.



The Day of Vengeance is one step in the process of reconciliation, and God’s vengeance is therefore purposeful. We will soon start to look at how the Bible describes the Day of Vengeance, but this next audio clip gives examples of what people think it might be like...



Introduction, *The Battle of Armageddon: Documentary on Imminent Future*, Aurora Productions

- I’m not looking forward to it.
- Everything’s just going to keep going as normal.
- A lot of wars.
- We can’t even begin to think about the increase of technology.
- Lots of problems.
- A new world order.
- You know, certain things like goes on - over population, that type of stuff.
- What about you? Do you think there’s any truths to the warnings of the modern day prophets of doom? Is the world really teetering on the brink of catastrophe?
- Could indeed a comet or meteor collide with earth and obliterate life on our planet? Will unparalleled natural disasters, such as catastrophic earthquakes or floods, destroy entire cities or countries? Will a breakdown in our computer system cause an abrupt ending to civilization as we know it? Or will mankind simply destroy itself?

Nahum Prophecy



Nahum 1:2-4: (NASB) ²A jealous and **avenging <5358>** God is the LORD; the LORD is **avenging <5358>** and wrathful. The LORD takes **vengeance <5358>** on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies. ³The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished...

How does this fit into what we already discussed? This sounds angry, but God’s anger is directed at *sin* and He will *always* (eventually) avenge anything that dwells in sin. The character of God has to be clearly understood as based in justice.

Sin is anything that misses the mark. That means God’s vengeance will be towards human governments, false religions and even false teachings within Christianity. This covers the full spectrum of humanity. Again, God will always (eventually) avenge anything that dwells in sin.

Psalm 89:14: (NASB) *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; lovingkindness and truth go before You.*

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of God’s throne.

As we continue, remember the highly symbolic nature of prophecy:

Nahum Prophecy



...³In whirlwind and storm is His way, and clouds are the dust beneath His feet. ⁴He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; He dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither; the blossoms of Lebanon wither.

Storm and clouds = generally represent great trouble in society

Whirlwind = a concentrated storm that uproots and destroys - a revolution - the most intense kind of societal trouble

(Source: Biblical commentary from Jamieson, Fausset and Brown) As Bashan was famed for its pastures, Carmel for its corn fields and vineyards, so Lebanon for its forests (Isaiah 33:9). There is nothing in the world so blooming that God cannot change it when He is wroth.



Does the earth survive the day of God’s vengeance? Do any people even survive it?

This prophecy in Nahum, as with all “Day of Vengeance” prophecies, can easily cause deep fear as it might sound like God’s anger is out of control.

We need to remember that God’s vengeance is *always* in context with God’s plan. God’s plan is *entirely* built around the ransom of Jesus - he came to release the captives from sin and death and provide the opportunity for everlasting life.

Nahum Prophecy



Nahum 1:5-9: (NASB) ⁵*Mountains quake because of Him and the hills dissolve; indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence, the world and all the inhabitants in it.*

Symbolic meanings:

Mountains - governments

Hills - organizations of men; the earth itself does not dissolve

Earth - the present organization of society itself

World - the entire order of earthly influence, perhaps including angelic influence as well

What happens to all these things? Quaking, dissolving and upheaval.

Nahum Prophecy



⁶*Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire and the rocks are broken up by Him.*

The anger of God against sin and rebellion will be displayed in a way that will never be forgotten. These texts sound like a volcanic eruption whose objective is to destroy any and all influences that stand against His justice and righteousness.

Remember the picture language. The idea of anger that overthrows all opposition is appropriate when we remember who it is who is angry, why He is angry and what His anger is being dispatched to accomplish.



Nahum Prophecy



⁷*The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him. (Now there seems to be a ray of hope!)* ⁸*But with an overflowing flood He will make a complete end of its site, and will pursue His enemies into darkness.* ⁹*Whatever you devise against the LORD, He will make a complete end of it. Distress will not rise up twice.*

The time for sin and suffering will come to an end. From fire that destroys evil to a flood of water (symbolizing truth), to habitation of darkness (symbolizing ignorance) will come to a thorough end. Once ended, these influences will not rise up again.



WHY NOW? Because God said certain things needed fulfillment:

Genesis 1:27-28: (NASB) *27God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28God blessed them; and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*

God gave man dominion over the earth and the ability to fill it. That was His command. Once the now sinful and satanic dominion proves its futility and the earth has been filled, it will be time to intervene.

This illustrates the principle about waiting for evil to be fulfilled:

Genesis 15:16: (NASB) *Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.*

The Amorites were against God and were cursed. It would take four generations for their sin to come to its conclusion - to get to an ending point. This is how God works - He allows both good and bad to come to fruition. God is not pushing evil along, He is allowing it to happen to a limited point for everlasting lessons of what happens when man tries to rule himself.

God will not allow the man-made, sin-driven destruction of humanity to happen:

Matthew 24:22: (NASB) *Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

God’s timing is perfect.

Example: Think about raising children. Sometimes a parent can see the outcome of their child’s actions and can either intervene or wait. Waiting can allow certain lessons to shine through. When the wrongdoing comes to its fruition, the parent says, “That is enough.”



This is counterintuitive to what most people think about God’s vengeance!



How do we know that there is light at the end of the vengeance tunnel?



Introduction, *Electronic Armageddon*, National Geographic

- *It may be the most powerful weapon you’ve never heard of. A sudden burst of electromagnetic energy that destroys anything electric in the blink of an eye - the power grid, computer control systems, radio communication - all stop. It can come from nature or from an enemy. It doesn’t matter. The result is the same. With little or no warning, life as you know it will end. What would you do if you found out an EMP (electromagnetic pulse) attack is imminent? Would you know what to do?*

God’s vengeance is real but comes for a distinct purpose and for a distinct period of time.

Light at the end of the “vengeance tunnel” is laid out for us in two parts:



First, we (those who are believers and who are walking in the footsteps of Jesus) are shown light THROUGH the tunnel:

Psalm 46:1-11: (NASB) ¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah.

Our refuge and strength carries us through the fall of mountains (governments) slipping into the heart of the sea (the restless masses of humanity) who, in their swelling, clamor and fight for their perceived rights.

In the midst of society crumbling, we have a refuge and strength:

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, The holy dwelling places of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

Do you see the contrast? *Though its waters roar and foam - restless, fearful humanity as society is in turmoil, as opposed to the calm river (of truth) whose streams make glad the city of God.*

We have a spiritually-safe dwelling place within the knowledge and faith in God’s plan:

Psalms 91:1: (NASB) *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.*

And yet the trouble still grows:

⁶The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered; He raised His voice, the earth melted. ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah. ⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, who has wrought desolations in the earth.

This is the Day of Vengeance in progress. Look and see what the anger of God destroys!

But now look and see what the anger of God accomplishes!

⁹He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariots with fire. ¹⁰Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah.



How does he *make wars to cease to the ends of the earth*? How is He *exalted among the nations and exalted in the earth* if the earth just melted? This must be the symbolic language of prophecy.

One of Satan’s greatest tools of control is fear. If taken literally, we would be scared, paralyzed and would lose faith.

Our light through the tunnel is NOW. We have to be courageous, and we need to give hope to others. Our protection may even be in death, for it is only through death that eternal life can be gained.

The Gospel is full of HOPE through fearful times.



Second, there is light at the END of the “vengeance tunnel” for unbelievers as well:

Zephaniah 3:8-9: (NASB) *⁸Therefore wait for Me, declares the LORD, For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; for all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal.*

Again, the necessary destruction caused by the Day of Vengeance is evident - but it is not the end of the story. For the unbeliever, this would be a cause for great fear, and from their perspective they would see God through this fear as a monster. We must put context in place. When there is an individual who does not have faith, who cannot see the light through the tunnel, we have to show them the context.



Show them what God’s anger accomplishes - here is the very next verse after the earth is “devoured by fire”:

⁹For then I will give to the people’s purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

The earth could not have been literally devoured by literal fire and burned to a crisp.

Then I will give to the people’s purified lips - these cannot be the true followers of Christ, because they would have had purified lips beforehand.

After God shows His anger and vengeance upon sin and unrighteousness, then He gives the people *purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the*

Lord. They will be brought back to God! God’s vengeance and anger eventually bring purified life and harmony!

Serving shoulder to shoulder - they got the lesson of sin vs. righteousness and are now praising God. A transformation will take place.

Psalm 76:8-10: (NASB) *⁸You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared and was still ⁹when God arose to judgment, to save all the humble of the earth. Selah. ¹⁰For the wrath of man shall praise You; with a remnant of wrath You will gird Yourself.*



The wrath of man shall praise You - the Day of Vengeance will bring all of this to a crashing halt. All of the anger and frustration will end up bringing praise to God, because He will show His sovereignty in the end.



**Is this the only way to get humanity to straighten out?
Do we have to experience God’s vengeance?**

God’s anger and Day of Vengeance are just results upon a world that has shunned its Creator and His righteousness and followed after the sinful ways of godlessness and idolatry. This is the response to a world gone bad. God’s vengeance is put in place as a stopper for the sinfulness of man.

This helps us understand the attitude mankind has now towards God:

Proverbs 1:24-32: (NASB) ²⁴*Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention;* ²⁵*and you neglected all my counsel and did not want my reproof;* (This sounds like a rebellious teenager!) ²⁶*I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes,*

The “wisdom” of men is appropriately a mockery of justice and mercy before God. When you see your child going down a road they should not go, sometimes you just let it go so the child can learn the lesson and never want to do it again.

The result of the rebelliousness of the world against God continues:

²⁷*When your dread comes like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.* ²⁸*Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but they will not find me,*

This is the part where God makes humanity sweat. People so often look to God in their deepest desperation in tragedy or sickness, even if they are not religious. They expect Him to pay attention to them. Why? Because they are now suddenly paying attention to Him! What about all of the righteousness they rejected before that point?



The world as a whole is going down the road of an incredibly rebellious teenager, and God is saying, "You are going to get to a point where you will turn to Me, but I am not going to answer because you need to learn that by ignoring Me all this time through all of these generations, you will pay the consequences."

Their desperation was a direct result of their replacing God with the idolatry of self and greed. That is the world we live in. Look at our educational system and social system and you will find they are God-LESS. There will come a time when people will start to look up, and He is not going to answer...not until the right time.

²⁹Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear (reverence) of the LORD. ³⁰They would not accept my counsel, they spurned all my reproof. ³¹So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way and be satiated with their own devices. ³²For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them.

Let's translate this into the world today: The world today chooses to not respect the old ways of integrity and righteousness, of right and wrong. We now have a hard time saying something is wrong - "Well, if it feels good and is right for you, then it is okay." That is what this is saying.

Satiated with their own devices/the waywardness of the naive will kill them - It is naïve to believe there is not solid right and solid wrong. It is naïve to believe just because you want it you should have it. It is naïve to believe the world should be built around ME.

This all sounds so hopeless, yet God in His mercy provided Jesus as the pivot point for His human creation.

Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, the prophecies of destruction are connected with prophecies of the greatest hope that humanity can ever imagine.



A lot of Christians miss the great hope attached to these prophecies:

Isaiah 35:1-4: (NASB) *¹The wilderness and the desert will be glad, and the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it will blossom profusely and rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble.*

This is a promise that the desert will produce a glorious abundance.

⁴Say to those with anxious heart, Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you.

Here is the introduction of how the earth is changing to be a place of wonderful fruitage - take heart - get strength from this - but then *Behold, your God will come with vengeance*. You cannot separate the vengeance of God from the glory of what the vengeance brings.



God's vengeance permanently stops the destructiveness of this present evil world.



God does not break society apart. He lets it come to the full amount of its evil and greed and directs its downfall.

Isaiah 35:5-10: (NASB) ⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. ⁶Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. ⁷The scorched land will become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, its resting place, grass becomes reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰and the ransomed of the LORD will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped - Jesus showed us healing at his first advent. This is what the sacrifice of his life would bring us. The message of hope was put in place.

But the redeemed will walk there - we get a sense of the beauty of humanity in harmony because God brought them through the Day of Vengeance. Evil is destroyed and resurrected humanity gets an opportunity for life.

With everlasting joy upon their heads - sorrow and sighing will flee away - this comes after vengeance. This is the result of God's vengeance.

God will again have a relationship with humanity:

Revelation 21:3: (NIV) *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.*



God's vengeance is powerful in its end result. *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.* That is what God's vengeance brings us. We hope you have seen this subject in a different way than you have before.

*So, will God's vengeance squash us like a bug?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



"FEAR NOT!" As we come to expressions in prophecy which seem to create fear or dread in our minds, it is important to call to mind that God's purpose for all mankind is to inaugurate a kingdom of *peace on earth, goodwill toward men*. This will be when God's will is to *be done in earth as it is in heaven*. (Matthew 6:10) If we wholeheartedly believe and accept the concept that soon *the government shall be upon his shoulder* (Isaiah 9:6), and the promise that of *peace there shall be no end* (Isaiah 9:7), we will not fear when we hear the most horrible predictions of prophecy. We will know that whatever unpleasantness must precede peace, it will all be worth the trauma.

As the Apostle Paul likens the incoming of the kingdom to the pains of childbirth (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3), we, too, are like confident mothers-to-be who are willing to endure the labor pains for the blessed results! Thus, when informed Christians hear terms like "The Day of the Lord," "The Day of Vengeance," "Armageddon," "A Time of Trouble such as never has been," "Day of Wrath," etc., we are inclined to remember the hand of Jesus on us, comforting us as he says, "Fear not!" (Revelation 1:17; Luke 12:32)



The concept of the RANSOM is important because it is the entire basis for our Christian faith and the plan of God for the world of mankind.

What does it mean to say “Jesus is the ransom?” 1 Timothy 2:5-6: (NASB) ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a **ransom <487>** for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

Ransom: Strongs #487, antilutron, a redemption price

Strongs #487 is only used in this one place in the Bible. It is derived from two Greek words:

anti: Strongs #473, instead of or because of; used to denote substitution or correspondence

Lutron: Strongs 3083, a redemption price, ransom

So, the word ransom in this one text means a “corresponding price.”

Adam, a perfect man, chose to disobey God resulting in sin and death for him and all his offspring. The entire human race was doomed to the prison of death in order to satisfy justice - Adam paid the penalty of his disobedience to God. (Romans 6:23: (KJV) *The wages of sin is death...*) All of our race are either dead or dying.

Without the intervening sacrifice of Jesus, the cycle of sin and death would continue in misery until eventually the human race died out.

The death of the perfect man Jesus became the *substitute* or *corresponding price* for Adam. Jesus willingly volunteered to die and thereby paid the ransom by his perfect obedience to God. The man Jesus would take Adam’s place in death, thereby satisfying justice.

Having paid the ransom price allows the work of the ransom to begin.

1 Corinthians 15:22: (KJV) *In Adam all die even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

This legal equivalency of “a perfect life (Adam) for a perfect life (Jesus)” allows for the resurrection of mankind and their opportunity for everlasting life in the kingdom. Mankind will finally have the full opportunity to be obedient without inherited sin. As a reward for his sacrifice, Jesus was resurrected as a highly exalted spirit being to complete the great work of bringing mankind back into a relationship with God.

The ransom does not excuse the sins committed by those in this lifetime - it does not suddenly count sinners as saints and usher them into everlasting bliss. It merely releases the accepting sinner from the first condemnation and its results, and places him again on trial for life, in which his own willful obedience or willful disobedience will decide if he may or may not have life everlasting.

John 1:29: (KJV) *...The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world...*

Romans 5:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.



The Isaiah text that we began with in a fuller context:

Isaiah 61:1-3: (NASB) *¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; ²To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, ³To grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.*

A few more Day of Vengeance prophecies. Remember - symbolism abounds in prophecy!

Isaiah 63:1-6: (NASB) *¹Who is this who comes from Edom, with garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, this One who is majestic in His apparel, marching in the greatness of His strength? It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save. ²Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press? ³I have trodden the wine trough alone, and from the peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger and trampled them in My wrath; and their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, and I stained all My raiment. ⁴For the day of vengeance was in My heart, and My year of redemption has come. ⁵I looked, and there was no one to help, and I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; so My own arm brought salvation to Me, and My wrath upheld Me. ⁶I trod down the peoples in My anger and made them drunk in My wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.*

Micah 5:10-15: (NASB) *¹⁰It will be in that day, declares the LORD, that I will cut off your horses from among you and destroy your chariots. ¹¹I will also cut off the cities of your land and tear down all your fortifications. ¹²I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you will have fortune-tellers no more. ¹³I will cut off your carved images and your sacred pillars from among you, so that you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands. ¹⁴I will root out your Asherim from among you and destroy your cities. ¹⁵And I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath on the nations which have not obeyed.*

Isaiah 34:1-8: (NASB) *¹Draw near, O nations, to hear; and listen, O peoples! Let the earth and all it contains hear, and the world and all that springs from it. ²For the LORD'S indignation is against all the nations, and His wrath against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to slaughter. ³So their slain will be thrown out, and their corpses will give off their stench, and the mountains will be drenched with their blood. ⁴And all the host of heaven will wear away, and the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; all their hosts will also wither away as a leaf withers from the vine, or as one withers from the fig tree. ⁵For My sword is satiated in heaven, behold it shall descend for judgment upon Edom and upon the people whom I have devoted to destruction. ⁶The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is sated with fat, with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in the land of Edom. ⁷Wild oxen will also fall with them and young bulls with strong ones; thus their land will be soaked with blood, and their dust become greasy with fat. ⁸For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.*

Some notes on “Edom” and its representation:

(Source: Biblical commentary from Jamieson-Fausset-Brown) Idumea – originally extending from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea; afterwards they obtained possession of the country east of Moab, of which Bozrah was capital. Petra or Selah, called Joktheel (2 Kings 14:7), was capital of South Edom (see JFB on “Isa 16:1”). David subjugated Edom (2 Samuel 8:13,14). Under Jehoram they regained independence (2 Chronicles 21:8). Under Amaziah they were again subdued, and Selah taken (2 Kings 14:7). When Judah was captive in Babylon, Edom, in every way, insulted over her fallen mistress, killed many of those Jews whom the Chaldeans had left, and hence was held guilty of fratricide by God (Esau, their ancestor, having been brother to Jacob): this was the cause of the denunciations of the prophets against Edom (Isaiah 63:1, etc.; Jeremiah 49:7, Ezekiel 25:12-14, 35:3-15, Joel 3:19, Amos 1:11,12 Obadiah 1:8,10,12-18, Malachi 1:3,4). Nebuchadnezzar humbled Idumea accordingly (Jeremiah 25:15-21).



This text is NOT the Day of Vengeance, but rather is the vengeance of final destruction after the Day of Judgment:

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10: (NASB) ⁵This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. ⁶For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸dealing out **retribution <1557>** to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰when he comes to be glorified in his saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

This next text is NOT the Day of Vengeance, but rather a vengeance upon those who have been blessed with enlightenment and turned their backs on it:

Hebrews 10:26-31: (NASB) ²⁶For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰For we know Him who said, **vengeance <1557>** is mine, I will repay. And again, the LORD will judge His people. ³¹It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Quoted from Deuteronomy 32:35-36: (NASB) ³⁵Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, in due time their foot will slip; for the day of their calamity is near, and the impending things are hastening upon them. ³⁶For the LORD will vindicate His people, and will have compassion on His servants, when He sees that their strength is gone, and there is none remaining, bond or free.