

IS THERE ROOM FOR REVENGE?

It is God, not His gift, that vindicates you.

KEY POINTS

“Then Samson prayed to the LORD, ‘Sovereign LORD, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.’” (Judges 16:28)

- ❖ Previously, we learned that forgiveness is the gift of not taking personal things personally. Now, we will look at the other end of the spectrum: revenge.
- ❖ The Mosaic Law has provisions for this, one of the best-known being “eye for eye, tooth for tooth” (Deuteronomy 19:21). But with the full counsel of scripture, we must consider Jesus’ teaching as a response: “...if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also” (Matthew 5:39).
- ❖ Is there a righteous way of dealing with revenge? That’s what we will tackle head on—how Christians handle this need for revenge and not deny its reality.

When Samson was forgotten, he trusted God to remember him.

- ❖ Judges 16:28 occurs towards the end of Samson’s story, where Samson had been subdued by the Philistines for the first time in his life. He had lost his strength, his eyesight, and was a prisoner.
- ❖ He had come from an anointed, independent life, but was now alone, dependant, and lost. But it was in that darkness that Samson prayed to the Lord. After all, he was a Nazirite, and he knew what the source of his great strength had been. Even though he had blown it by revealing the secret of his strength to a heathen—Delilah—he still had hope in God.
- ❖ So, he prayed, saying, *“Sovereign Lord,”* which has a literal translation of “Lord Jehovah.” In the Hebrew, he said, “Yahweh Adonai.” This couples the title of majesty (Lord) with the personal name (Yahweh or YHWH), highlighting both the intimacy of covenant and the transcendence of sovereignty. Samson knew that, despite his failings, he had personal access to the highest authority.
- ❖ *“Remember me.”* Samson knew what he once had in God. And he knew God enough to know that even though he had let Him down, God would still extend His grace to him.

Samson asked God for the gift he once had.

- ❖ *“Please, God, strengthen me just once more....”* Here Samson was—through his own fault—at his lowest point in life. The Bible doesn’t specify if he had prayed to God earlier on in his captivity. But, in this instance, when the best of the Philistines were gathered together, Samson asked God to strengthen him, to return the anointing that had left him after revealing the secret of his strength to Delilah.
- ❖ He wanted that gift back but was very intentional in his prayer. He didn’t ask for God’s presence or for the other products that came with the Nazirite anointing. He simply asked for the strength he “once” had, just one more time, knowing what he intended to use the strength for—even at the cost of his own life.
- ❖ Paul the apostle tells us that “God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable” (Romans 11:29). Once God has confirmed your gifts, never doubt them. But how do you actually do that?

KEY SCRIPTURE: Judges 16:28 (all scripture in NIV unless otherwise noted)

- ❖ Here’s one way: write down your goals and read them every day. That will keep drawing you back to your calling.

Samson’s gift allowed for vengeance but not vindication.

- ❖ Though Samson was physically blind, he “saw” a great opportunity. He had been at odds with the Philistines for most of his life and now had a chance to hit them hard.
- ❖ His goal to get revenge on the Philistines was very personal, which we can understand. They had gouged out his two eyes! But. This level of vengeance clouds vision.
- ❖ Samson stands in history as one of the Judges of Israel. His purpose, by definition, was greater than himself. It was always about God’s plan and God’s people. Neither of these were in the forefront of the narrative here, save for the secondary role God was asked to play in equipping Samson. Revenge gives people tunnel vision.
- ❖ And God granted Samson revenge, allowing him to kill many more Philistines when he died than when he had lived (Judg. 16:29-30). But note the fact that Samson died as well while in captivity to the Philistines. Revenge yes, but vindication, no.
- ❖ This topic is another one of those tough spiritual disciplines in an increasingly crowded world fraught with opportunity for offense. But here’s a suggestion: check your motivation before you react. With some distance from the situation timewise, you may still need to address it, but your posture will determine the effectiveness of your outcome.
- ❖ Revenge may hurt the other person, but it will seldom heal you. Righteousness, however, will correct the other person, and it will vindicate you.
- ❖ Is there room for revenge? Well, in a sense there is, but only as vindication, not as vengeance. Because “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (Rom. 12:19).

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Have you ever been “wronged” or falsely accused? Did you try to proclaim your innocence or clear your name, or did you remain silent? What was the result?
2. Discuss Haman’s treatment of Mordecai and the Jews in Esther 5:9-14 and 7 in light of Romans 12:19.
“Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”
3. In light of the above words, if you again encountered the same or a similar situation as discussed in the first question, would you still have the same reaction, or would you do things differently? If the latter, what?

PRAYER TIME Sovereign Lord, remember me, strengthen me, and fight my battles. For the battle is Yours.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)
- 💡 (New idea)
- 🗨️ (Think about)
- 👉 (Do this)
- ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)
- 🔄 (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Start-up: What are things you make room—or no longer make room for—in your life? What was the benefit?

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS: Canadian political leaders: municipal, provincial, federal.

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 Phone Access: 647-374-4685

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For God's gifts
and His
call are
irrevocable.

Romans 11:29 NIV



FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.

(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled

(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

APRIL 19, 2026

Faith SANCTUARY

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Reaching the World Through Prayer

~ 2026 ~

Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

*"You have heard that it was said,
'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'
But I tell you, do not resist an
evil person. If anyone slaps you
on the right cheek, turn to them
the other cheek also."*

Matthew 5:38-39 (NIV)

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