

↵ Nahum 1:1-2, vengeance is wrong for us, and we should never take it, **1st Peter 3:8-9; Romans 12:17-21.**

1. Why does God get to take vengeance and we don't?

- ✓ Simply, we would never do it right since nothing about us is right. This is why God restricts us to doing that which is beneficial to others and not harm, even when we do good, we often do it in a wrong way! We make mistakes, so God would rather us ere in blessing people rather than cursing. Vengeance is God's possession, so when we take it, we are taking from Him.

2. God's perfect vengeance is tied to His perfect justice, 2nd Thessalonians 1:6.

- ✓ That's the point, more or less, of the book of Nahum; God is paying the Ninevites back for the crimes they've committed: "city of blood" **Nahum 3:1**; noted for cruelty **Nahum 3:19**.
- ✓ Chapter 1 tells what God will do to this city; chapter 2 tells how; and chapter 3 tells why He will do it. How could God be just and let this kind of stuff go? This is also taken into the context of the book of Jonah which demonstrates God's pattern; wrath and vengeance come only after He's exhausted mercy and grace.
- ✓ God's perfect vengeance is a product of His perfect justice. Justice is not a standard that God follows; He is the standard. Justice is a part of who He is, and because there is injustice, His justice demands vengeance. And it will proceed, as do all other things from God, from His perfection.
- ✓ God will act against wrong because He is good; He will right every wrong. It's not very politically correct to talk of such things; we love to talk about heaven and live as though hell isn't real.

3. God's vengeance and justice are the balance to all other things we know to be true about Him.

- ✓ We have to fight for balance at all times, especially when it comes to our understanding of God. We love to talk about His love, mercy, forgiveness, and grace, but they are worthless attributes apart from His jealousy, vengeance and wrath.
- ✓ Why is there even a need to respond to His mercy or grace, who cares about His love, who needs His forgiveness, if there is no vengeance, no rectification of wrongs committed, why bother having a relationship with Him if there's no calling to account. Balancing verses: **Isaiah 66:15; Isaiah 59:17**.
- ✓ Some erroneously think that vengeance is just an Old Testament topic, but the book of vengeance is in the New Testament (aka The Revelation), **Revelation 6:10; 2nd Thessalonians 1:6; Matthew 3:12**.

Jesus loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life; but if you refuse His love, He has a terrible plan for your life, **Matthew 25:41**.
