

Hebrews 10:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

Analysis

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

This verse provides scriptural confirmation of divine judgment, quoting Deuteronomy 32:35-36. The appeal to Scripture ("we know him that hath said") grounds the warning in God's revealed word, not human speculation. "Vengeance belongeth unto me" (emoi ekdikēsis, ἐμοὶ ἐκδίκησις) asserts God's exclusive right to execute justice. Humans are forbidden personal vengeance (Romans 12:19); God alone can righteously punish sin.

"I will recompense" (egō antapodōsō, ἐγὼ ἀνταποδώσω) means I will repay, requite, or render to each according to their deeds. God's justice is precise—He repays exactly what is deserved, neither more nor less. This is not arbitrary cruelty but exact justice. Those who reject His Son receive exactly the punishment their sin merits.

"The Lord shall judge his people" (krinei Kyrios ton laon autou, κρινεῖ Κύριος τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ) reminds covenant people that they face divine judgment. Being God's "people" doesn't grant immunity from His justice—it increases accountability. Those with greater privilege face greater judgment if they apostatize (Luke 12:48). This sobering truth counters presumption based on external covenant membership.

Historical Context

Deuteronomy 32 contains Moses' final song warning Israel of coming judgment if they forsake God. The context (Deuteronomy 32:15-43) describes Israel's rebellion, God's judgment through foreign nations, and ultimate vindication of His people. The author applies this pattern to the new covenant community: those who rebel will face judgment, but God will vindicate His truly faithful people.

First-century Jewish Christians needed this reminder. External Jewish identity didn't guarantee salvation; neither does external Christian profession. God judges hearts, not mere ethnicity or religious affiliation. The prophets regularly warned that covenant status without covenant faithfulness brings judgment (Jeremiah 7:4-15, Amos 3:2).

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that God alone has the right to vengeance affect your responses to personal wrongs and injustices?
2. In what ways might external religious affiliation tempt you to presume on God's grace without genuine heart commitment?
3. How can you maintain healthy fear of the Lord while also resting in His promises to never forsake His true children?

Interlinear Text

οἶδαμεν	γὰρ	τὸν	εἰπόντα	Ἐμοὶ	ἐκδίκησις	
we know	For	G3588	him that hath said	belongeth unto me	Vengeance	
G1492	G1063		G2036	G1698	G1557	
ἐγὼ	ἀνταποδώσω	λέγει	Κύριος·	καὶ	πάλιν	Κύριος·
I	will recompense	saith	The Lord	And	again	The Lord
G1473	G467	G3004	G2962	G2532	G3825	G2962
Κρινεῖ	τὸν	λαὸν	αὐτοῦ			
shall judge	G3588	people	G846			
G2919		G2992				

Additional Cross-References

Romans 12:19 (Judgment): Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Nahum 1:2 (Judgment): God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

Psalms 50:4 (Judgment): He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (Judgment): For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Psalms 135:14 (Judgment): For the LORD will judge his people, and he will repent himself concerning his servants.

Psalms 96:13 (Judgment): Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

Isaiah 61:2 (References Lord): To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Psalms 98:9 (Judgment): Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Romans 13:4 (Judgment): For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Ezekiel 18:30 (Judgment): Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

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