

Bible Questions Answered

Leviticus 19:18

Thou shalt not take revenge, nor hold a grudge against thy people in thy own country, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am Yahweh.

Psalms 59:5

O Howa, the god of all armies! You are the God of Israel,

Wake up, and punish all nations;

Do not be gracious to the wicked and perfidious.

Whether the two are contradictory"

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These two passages may seem contradictory on the surface, but from the context and theology of the Bible as a whole, they can actually be understood as teachings at different levels and objects.

First paragraph (Leviticus 19:18):

"Thou shalt not venge, nor hate thy people in thy own country, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the eternal Lord."

This passage is from the book of Leviticus and is an ethical code of ethics in the Law of Moses that taught the Israelites how to behave with one another, with an emphasis on personal relationships. It highlights that:

- 不可報私仇。
- Thou shalt not hold a grudge against his fellow man.
- Treat your neighbor with love (who at that time was primarily referring to Israel's compatriots).

Jesus quoted this phrase in the New Testament and expanded it to include the universal principle of loving one's neighbor as oneself (cf. Matthew 22:39).

Second paragraph (Psalm 59:5):

"O Yahweh, the God of hosts! Awake, you are the God of Israel, and punish all the nations; Do not be merciful to the wicked who have perfided."

This passage from the Psalms is a cry from the psalmist (David) to God in the midst of a difficult situation, asking God to judge the wicked with righteousness. The key points here are:

- **It is not personal revenge**, but a request for God's sovereignty and justice to judge.
 - "All nations" represents those forces that are hostile to God and his people.
 - It is a poetic language with emotional tension and appeal.
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How to understand the relationship between the two:

Leviticus 19:18

Psalm 59:5

Moral imperatives at the individual level

Pray to God for justice

Personal revenge is prohibited, and love is called upon to be loved as oneself

Trust God to punish the wicked, not take revenge yourself

Targets are "the people of your own country" and "your neighbors"

The target is "all nations" and "perfidious and wicked"

So, **these two passages are not contradictory**, but reflect different levels of ethics and beliefs in the Bible

- There should be compassion and love for man;
- When faced with injustice, people should entrust judgment to God rather than doing it themselves.

In Romans 12, Paul also says, "Do not avenge yourselves, but give in and submit to the wrath of the Lord." This is an integration and interpretation of these two passages.