



# 19-Minute Studies: Grand Themes Key Words

## Old Testament Themes & Words

Angel of the LORD  
Circumcision  
Fasting  
Line of the Savior  
LORD  
Sabbath  
Tithes and Firstfruits  
Zion

## New Testament Themes & Words

Apostles  
Body of Christ  
Children of God  
Gospel  
Kingdom of God  
Persecution  
Reconciliation  
Repentance

## Figures of Christ

David's Son  
King  
Priest  
Prophet  
Rock  
Shepherd and Sheep  
Slaves and Servants  
Son of Man

## Salvation Words

Covenant  
Faith  
Glory of the Lord  
Grace  
Holiness Redemption  
Resurrection  
Righteousness  
Sacrifice for Sin

## Important Symbols

Anointing  
Fire  
Idolatry and Adultery  
Light and Darkness  
\*Seven\*  
Twelve  
Water  
Wind and Spirit  
Yeast

## Christian Life

### Themes & Words

Abraham's Children  
False Teaching  
Holy Spirit's Presence  
Law  
Miracles, Signs, Wonders  
Names  
Presence of Christ

### Retribution and Restitution

Testing Faith  
Witnesses

## Retribution and Restitution

(answers on the third page)

1. What do these words mean to you?

- Retribution - \_\_\_\_\_
- Restitution - \_\_\_\_\_
- Revenge - \_\_\_\_\_
- Retaliation - \_\_\_\_\_

Let's look briefly (too briefly!) at these concepts in the Bible:

### Retribution

**Exodus 21:23-25**—*If there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise. (Almost identical words are found in Leviticus 24:20; Deuteronomy 19:21.)*

**Leviticus 19:18** – *Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people.*

2. What does the Exodus passage command? What does the Leviticus passage forbid? Does this seem like a contradiction?

The “eye for eye” Bible passage of Exodus 21:23 must be taken in context:

**Exodus 21:1** – *These are the laws you are to set before them...*

3. In what context was Israel to apply “eye for eye, tooth for tooth”? So, explain what “eye for eye” means:
4. Laws of retribution and restitution were given to Israel’s judges to guide them in their sentencing of criminals. If you were one of Israel’s judges, how would these laws instill in you a sense of fairness?

Have principles changed in the New Testament? Look at these NT passages:

**Matthew 5:38ff** – *[Jesus said,] “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 someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also...”*

**1 Peter 2:14** – *...Governors, who are sent by [God] to punish those who do wrong...*

5. In what context were Israel (and Christianity) not to apply “eye for eye, tooth

for tooth”?

6. And, what is Jesus not addressing in Matthew 5:38?

### Restitution

**Exodus 22:1**—*If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep. [From Israel’s civil law code.]*

**Numbers 5:6,7**—*When a man or woman wrongs another in any way and so is unfaithful to the LORD, that person is guilty and must confess the sin he has committed. He must make full restitution for his wrong, add one fifth to it and give it to the person he has wronged. [From Israel’s ceremonial law code, regarding the guilt offering.]*

7. Remember the Sabbath law which has a shadow (Sabbath Day) and an eternal principle (Time set aside to God). What eternal principle/s do we see in these laws about restitution? What is the “shadow” in each law?

**Romans 13:8** – *“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another.”*

8. What role does restitution play in covering over sin?

**Hebrews 10:1** – *“The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.”*

**Isaiah 53:5**—*He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

9. What role do restitution and retribution not play in covering sin?

### Prayer

Savior, our sins have racked up a huge debt that we could never pay. Thank you for making that payment, for taking that punishment, both the restitution and retribution! Send your Holy Spirit by your Scriptures to cause us to live in honor of you, as it is fitting for us to do. Amen.

*As a small additional study, consider these Bible passages that include both “mercy” and “justice”: Amos 5:15; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7:9; Matthew 23:23.*

**Helps (not answers, just hints)**  
(1.) Retribution: something done as punishment or vengeance. Restitution: compensation for a loss, damage or injury. Revenge: the punishment of someone in retaliation for harm done. Retaliation: deliberate harm in response to a harm done. (2.) The two passages seem to say contradictory things. The Leviticus passage seems to forbid the thing commanded in Exodus. (3.) The key word of the passage is the fourth one. This means the “eye for eye” rule was to be applied in certain circumstances. (4.) Judges could not be guided by personal prejudice or vengeance. They were to bring down fair sentences that fit the crime. (5.) One party of Pharisees especially applied the “eye for eye” for personal vengeance. (6.) Jesus’ words are not a blanket amnesty on all sinful activity. (7.) Consider what principle of restitution God would want a 21<sup>st</sup> century repentant Christian to follow after he has harmed or wronged someone. (8.) It is the debt of love we owe to another person. Think of what good things happen when someone offers restitution. (9.) Our restitution paid or punishment served does serve a purpose. But it cannot solve and erase the biggest problems our sins create. Only Jesus can do that!

Answers:

1. *Retribution – something done as punishment or revenge. (Punishment is within law; revenge is personal and outside of legal parameters.)*  
*Restitution – compensation for a loss, damage or injury.*  
*Revenge – the punishment of someone in retaliation for harm done.*  
*Retaliation – deliberate harm in response to a harm done.*
2. *Exodus commands punishment within a legal context. Leviticus forbids a personal “justice”, taking justice into one’s own hands. The apparent contradiction disappears when we observe this difference.*
3. *This phrase was meant in the context of legal affairs. In Old Testament law it was specifically mentioned only in regard to three types of crime. People who literalistically apply it to all sorts of harm handle God’s Word in a very inappropriate way. As a broader principle it means, “Let the punishment fit the crime.”*
4. *These laws would encourage the judge to truly administer justice. It would serve to prevent either excessive severity or permissiveness in the practice of law. God wants crime to be punished appropriately as a deterrent. Be he also does not want a vindictive spirit to pervade the law code.*
5. *Many in the religious establishment around Jesus applied the “eye for an eye” principle to personal relations. Jesus clearly condemns this sort of thinking.*
6. *In Matthew, Jesus is not talking about the legal system. Other passages like the 1 Peter passage talk about that. By comparing these two passages, we understand that when we need legal recourse, we can do so. But we must act without any feeling of revenge when we seek the due course of law.*
7. *The “shadow” portion is the exact amount of restitution. The eternal principle is that when we sin against someone we should seek to “make it right.” Yes, the most important thing is to confess our sin and ask forgiveness both from God and the person we have sinned against. But we should also try to make it right. Examples: If we have publicly slandered someone, we should publicly apologize for that. If we have defrauded someone, we should do our best to replace what we have taken. This is simply a matter of showing love to that person.*
8. Confer chart:

**Results of Making or Not Making Restitution**

<i>Restitution Paid</i>	<i>No Restitution Paid</i>
<i>1) Relationships restored</i>	<i>1) Relationships broken or only partially healed</i>
<i>2) People are certain of your sincerity</i>	<i>2) People doubt your sincerity</i>
<i>3) Internal peace and joy</i>	<i>3) Feelings of guilt can often remain</i>
<i>4) A cause of sin is removed</i>	<i>4) Encouragement to sin (anger, slander, etc.)</i>
<i>5) God is honored by your sincerity</i>	<i>5) Brings dishonor to God</i>

*Maybe you can think of more!*

9. *Restitution and retribution play an important role in demonstrating love to our neighbor, and maintaining peace and order in our society. They play no role is paying for our sin. That had to be done by Jesus and his perfect sacrifice for our sins.*