

Murder — A Compilation

The basis of everything the Bible says about murder is found in Gen 9:5-6. It is life for life. God demands an accounting. This is the rule for all nations. Those who oppose the death penalty oppose God.

The heart of the matter is that man is made in the image of God. If you kill someone you do violence to God. Murder is a fundamental denial of the image of God in the murdered person (Gen 1:26-27).

This was one of the reasons God had destroyed the earth in Noah's day (Gen 6:11,13).

In the nations it is acceptable to kill someone else if you are defending yourself (Ex 22:2). The Law also takes into account accidental death (Dt 19:4-5) and manslaughter (Num 35:22-25). Then there would be judgment and the killer's life could be spared. There was atonement for the sin of manslaughter.

But for premeditated murder — hatred, lying in wait, enmity — there is no atonement short of the murderer's death (Num 35:16-21). There is only one possible verdict for someone convicted of premeditated murder (Num 35:30-34).

The sixth commandment (Ex 20:13) means *premeditated murder*, which is followed up by Ex 21:12,14.

And there is the proverb Kenny himself found, Pr 28:17. At the teaching, we said that if a murderer had truly repented and been saved, he would willingly go back to face his execution. By telling him this we support God's word and uphold God's authority in the nations. To act otherwise would be subversive.

Here are a few of the verses having to do with murder in the Old and New Testaments:

horag: to smite with deadly intent; destroy, kill, murder, slaughter.

All of Ps 10 speaks of the wicked who has no remorse, as in verse 8: "...in the hiding places he kills (murders in KJV) the innocent; his eyes stealthily watch for the unfortunate", and verse 11: "He says to himself, 'God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it.'" Their ultimate judgment is revealed in verses 15 and 18.

rotsach: to dash in pieces, i.e., kill (a human being), especially to murder.

As in Psalm 94:6-7.

The murderer thinks that God does not see or care (Mt 19:18; Rom 1:28-32; 1 Pet 4:15; 1 Jn 3:11-12,15; 1 Tim 1:8-10; Rev 21:8; 22:15; Mt 15:19-20; see also Mk 7:21).

From Authority 5, pages 3 and 4:

The command "You shall not murder" (Ex 20:13) is given to the people, but it is the responsibility of the government to see that the murderer's life is taken away from him. Good government sees to it that Genesis 9:6 is fulfilled. Gen 9:6 establishes human government over man. Those who do not uphold and advocate this are not worthy of the nations. This is one of the main reasons we pray for conservative forms of government.

From Authority 10, pages 6-7:

Gen 9:6 was the law for all the nations and Israel adopted it for themselves as well. If you do anything against another person, you come against God Himself—His image. This is what you do if you do or think evil, hurt or strike, be selfish to, and especially if you take the life of another human being.

Based on Num 35:16-34, if the murderer is not put to death, then the whole land is defiled, polluted. That is why the stone has to be dropped on them someday. A government that does not enforce capital punishment is lawless in that respect. It is making way for the age of lawlessness. (See Yonah's comments, pages 12-13 in *Authority 10*.)

From one of the teachings:

If a man does not instinctively recognize the Image of God in his fellow man (Rom 1:18-22), he has suppressed the truth in unrighteousness and is in the place of God's wrath. He shows that he knows this truth (placed in every man's conscience by God) by how he treats his neighbor with respect. The one who does not acknowledge this, especially to the point of assaulting God's image in man, is worthless in God's sight and fit only for destruction. Those who do not acknowledge the rightness of capital punishment have also denied His image in man and merit the same destiny.

The reason we were so excited about Kenny is because by going back and facing execution, he was going to uphold God's word. This obedience would prove his faith in the God who could save his soul from death. In murdering that man, he had already forfeited his earthly life. His willing surrender,

acknowledging the fact that he'd already forfeited his life, would have caused men to fear and honor God. Who knows but that the reality of Kenny's surrender might have kept others from murder when they saw someone submit to the legitimate consequences of their vile act.

My hope is that somehow, perhaps by the words we say, our Father could still be honored. Kenny's confession would have been shocking to the world and perhaps have helped many sliding to the left. "I killed a man. My life is required of me. I believe if I willingly receive the due penalty of my wicked act, God will honor my faith and save my immortal soul."

Kenny has demonstrated himself to be faithless and a liar. Short of his repenting and coming clean of his lies and accepting the guilt of murder, I can see nothing standing between him and the eternal lake of fire.

Mt 16:25 — If Kenny had lost his life willingly, he would have saved it. Now, whatever happens here in this case, he shall lose it.