

“For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged,  
 and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.” Luke 7:2

“With the measure that a person measures, he is measured with it.” *m. Sota* 1:7<sup>1</sup>

**1. Measure for Measure:**

- The biblical concept of retributive justice was believed to be built into the structure of God’s cosmos<sup>1</sup>.
  - Retributive Justice<sup>2</sup>: certain wrongful acts deserve proportional punishment.
  - What you do to others will be done to you.
- M4M sounds like the eastern (Buddist and Hindu) concept of Karma, but Karma has a much broader scope, including past lives and your future destiny.

**Karma** (n.)- The totality of a person's actions and conduct during successive incarnations, regarded as causally influencing his or her destiny.

- Biblical M4M is not the same as Karma. In our modern usage of “karma,” we refer to the retributive justice that seems to come about with people's bad behavior.

**2. Biblical Examples:**

Sheds	blood	man
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- **Genesis 9:6** -
- **Psalm 7:14-16**

“Whoever is pregnant with evil conceives trouble and gives birth to dillusionment. Whoever digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit they have made. **The trouble they cause recoils on them; their violence comes down on their own heads.**”

- **Isaiah 3:11**

“Woe to the wicked! Disaster is upn them! **They will be paid back for what their hands have done.**”

- **Obadiah 1:15**

“The day of the LORD is near for all nations. **As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head.**”

- **Zechariah 7:13**

“‘When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,’ says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>1</sup> Greek *Kosmos* was first used by the Greek mathematician and philosopher Pythagoras to describe the order and beauty of the universe. *Kosmos* means ‘good order’ and also ‘beauty’ – like cosmetology.

<sup>2</sup> <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice-retributive/>

3. **Biblical Narrative provides examples:**

Action	Reaction
- Jacob <b>deceived</b> his father for a blessing which was rightfully the older (Esau) - Gen. 27	- Jacob <b>deceived</b> by Laban by giving him Leah because it was her birthright – Gen. 29:16-26
- Jacob <b>deceived</b> father with ‘skin of young goat’ – Gen. 27:16	- Jacob <b>deceived</b> by the blood of a young goat Gen. 37:31
- Egyptians drown babies – Ex. 1:22	- Egyptians drown in the Red Sea – Ex. 14:28
- Sampson sin of lust with eyes – Judges 16: 1; 4	- Samson eyes gouged out – Judges 16:21
- Haman builds gallows to hang Mordechai – Esther 5: 9-14	- Haman is hung on gallows – Esther 7:10

4. **New Testament:**

- **Matthew 6:14** – forgive, and you will be forgiven
- **Matthew 7:1-2** – how you judge, you will be judged.
- **Galatians 6:7-8** – you reap what you sow.
- **Romans 11:11** – Paul reads Deuteronomy 32:21 and sees that salvation to the Gentiles is a form of measure for measure.
  - The Israelites made God jealous (Deut. 32:21)/God will make Israel jealous (Rom. 11:11).

5. **Warnings** of the misuse of Measure for Measure:

- The Rabbis, and Jesus, warned against the misuse of Measure for Measure.
- Do not confuse suffering with God’s retribution!
  - Job
  - John 9:2 – “who sinned? He or his parents that he was born blind.”
  - Jesus' death on the cross. Isaiah 53: 4-5 notes that He was wounded for “our transgressions.”

6. Proper understanding of Measure for Measure:

- Your behavior – if we correctly understood the nature of reality within God’s cosmos, we would act accordingly.
- Forgiveness –
  - An understanding that ultimately justice will prevail – that improper behavior will be met with a retributive response from God – is vital to forgive another that has created an upset entirely.
  - We are not supposed to take action in the form of revenge – we forgive and allow God’s justice to prevail.
  - We may not see that justice meted out, but we can have faith that God and His cosmos are just and good.