

Living Free From the Curse

The Principle of Reversal (4)

May 1, 2016

Review:

1. **All men deserted Him and He experienced loneliness**, (Jesus took our loneliness; so that we can receive His nearness and acceptance.) **so that the isolated, lonely ones might experience His presence.**
2. **He, who knew no sin, took sin upon Himself**, (Jesus took our sin and depravity so that we could receive His righteousness) **so that sinners might receive His righteousness**
3. **He unjustly carried guilt** (Jesus took our guilt so that we could receive His mercy) **so that we might receive comfort and mercy.**
4. **His (temporary) death** (Jesus took our death so that we could receive His [eternal] life) **secured for us eternal life.**
5. **His natural life ended with no heir**, (Jesus took our barrenness so that we can receive His fruitfulness) **so that we might not be barren.**

6. Jesus became a curse to redeem us from the curse

Jesus took our curse so that we can receive blessing

I. The entry of the curse

The curse came with the fall (sin, disobedience of man)

Gen 3:14-19 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." 16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." 17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

A. Seed of the woman

1. The term can be **translated** - offspring (Gen 15:3);
or descendants (Gen 15:5, 13, 18).
2. The term can **refer to** - an individual (Gal 3:16);
or a group of people (Ps 105:6; 106:27)
3. **The Seed** of the woman is the promised Messiah.
Seed continues to be used throughout the Bible as a Messianic term (Num 24:7; Is 6:13).
4. **When Jesus went to the cross** -
He was bruised in His heel - He suffered a terrible but temporary injury (John 12:31; Col. 2:15).
In His resurrection - He defeated the enemy.

B. To the serpent:

1. **Cursed are you ...**

2. Contrast between the bruised heel and head

Serpent and his seed will bruise the heel (speaks of a serious injury) of the Seed of the woman.
Seed of the woman will bruise the head (speaks of the defeat of the serpent) of the serpent.

3. Satan lives on borrowed time

He is already defeated (Jn 12:31; 16:11; Col 2:13-15; Heb 2:14; 1Jn 3:8)
We need to announce our victory (Rom 16:20; 1Jn 4:4; Rev 17:14).

C. To the woman:

1. **Notice** - no curse is pronounced on her.

2. **Her pain in childbirth will be multiplied.**

3. **She will not be fulfilled in marriage.**

"Your desire will be for your husband."

The word **desire** can be translated; "an attempt to usurp or control"; We can paraphrase this verse: "You will now have a tendency to dominate your husband."

"He will rule over you."

The word rule speaks of violence; We can paraphrase this verse: "he will have the tendency to act as a tyrant over you." The battle of the sexes has begun. Each strives for control and neither lives in the best interest of the other.

C. To the man:

1. **Notice** - no curse is pronounced on him.

2. **The ground is cursed**

3. **He also will experience frustration**

Though the curse was not directed at the man, it is trouble for the man. Now his life will be marked by hard work and sweat, thorns and thistles, and finally death.

II. What the Bible says about the curse:

A. The curse is like a flying scroll

Zec 5:1-4 Then I lifted up my eyes again and looked, and behold, there was a flying scroll. 2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" And I answered, "I see a flying scroll; its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits." 3 Then he said to me, "This is the curse that is going forth over the face of the whole land; surely everyone who steals will be purged away according to the writing on one side, and everyone who swears will be purged away according to the writing on the other side. 4 "I will make it go forth," declares the LORD of hosts, "and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name; and it will spend the night within that house and consume it with its timber and stones."

B. A curse (of the LORD) is on:

1. The serpent (Gen 3:14-15)

2. The earth (Gen 3:17-19; 5:29; 8:21)
A curse devours the earth (Isa 24:6)

3. Cain (Gen 4:11-12)

4. Those who curse Abraham and his descendants (Gen 12:3)
When Balaam tried to curse the Israelites, he learned that he could not curse those whom God had blessed (Num 22-24).

5. The house of the wicked, (Prov 3:33)
Those who fall into the pit of the adulteress (Prov 22:14)

6. Those who put their trust in human strength instead of in the Lord (Jer 17:5).

7. Self effort

Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

8. OT end with "lest I come and smite the land with a curse." (Mal. 4:6)

Mal 4:5-6 "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. 6 "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse." (Jer 11:2-5)

Disobedience to God's law brings a curse (Dt 11:26-28)

"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I am commanding you today; 28 and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, (Dt 28:16-67)

C. The curse works in 7 areas of life - Dt 28

<u>Areas</u>	<u>Results</u>
1. Relationship with God; v. 23	Unanswered prayers; v. 23
2. Health; v. 22, 27, 35, 59-63	Sickness, mental illness; v. 34, 66-67
3. Finances; v. 29-33, 38-44, 51-52	Debt; v. 43-44
4. Occupation; v. 17, 20	Defeat in battle; v. 25, 26
5. Marriage; v. 30, 54, 56	Divorce; v. 30, 56
6. Children; v. 18, 32, 41, 53-57	Rebellious kids; v. 32, 41
7. Home; v. 16, 30	Live in fear; v. 66

D. Jesus broke the curse

Gal 3:13-14 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us--for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"-- in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Dt 21:22-23)

Jn 3:14-15 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. (Num 21:4-9)

2Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, ...

Eight ways - Jesus broke the curse

Gal 3:13 Christ ... become a curse for us -

1. He sweats drops of blood - Breaks all mental and emotional curse

Lk 22:44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

2. They spit in His face - Breaks the curse of shame

Num 12:14 if her father had spit her face - she would have born her shame

Mt 26:67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him,

Mt 27:30 They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head.

3. He was mocked (Mt 26:67-68, 27:27-29)

4. His beard was pulled out (Isa 50:6)

5. He was scourged (Mk 15:15; Jn 19:1)

Dt 25:340 strikes to be humiliated

1Pt 2:24 by His stripes you were healed

6. Crown of thorns on His head (Mt 27:29)

Gen 3:17-18 the curse of the ground = thorns

7. He is nailed to the cross (Mt 27:35)

Dt 21:22-23 cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree

8. He hangs naked (Mt 27:35)

Gen 3:7 they realized they were naked and hid themselves

The curse is finally removed when Jesus returns

Rev 22:3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

Zec 14:9-11 And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. 10 All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses. 11 People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.

7. He was slain according to the Law to take away our bondage to the Law. Jesus took our bondage to the law so that we could serve God in freedom

Jesus fulfills the Law - Mt 5:17-18

His death fulfills the Old Testament - Lk 18:31-32

Purposes of the Law (10 Purposes)

What the Law could not do (6 things)

How God establishes His Law