

Lesson Booklet:

THE CURSES

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INTRODUCTION

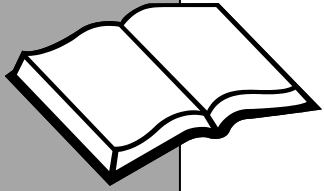
The purpose of this text is to aid the reader in a better understanding of various truths found in the Holy Scriptures and discovering for themselves how the Scriptures apply to their lives. It is the desire of this work that through this study of the Scriptures each learner will be brought closer in their relationship to their Creator as a result of these lessons.

Presented on the following pages is a series of one page lessons associated with the topic of the “*The Curses*”. The lessons contained in this booklet are intended only to introduce the subject at hand; further more in-depth resources are available in the online library where you obtained this booklet. Each lesson has been optimized to work best for use in a small group, but is also appropriate for individual review. In fact, if you plan to meet with others to work through this lesson book, it is highly recommend that you work through the lessons ahead of time to find answers in Scripture, as most lessons welcome discussion. When prompted for discussion, *opinions* should be heard and discussed, of course. However, a Scripture verse or passage should accompany discussions as the foundation for what the belief or opinion is based on. Study tools, such as a printed concordance or searchable Bible software to help you find the location of a Scripture that you may be having a hard time remembering, are encouraged for use with these lessons. Please remember always to study the Scriptures in context of the full passage to ensure that it properly accompanies the topic being discussed.

Concerning the source used for these lessons, please note that all Scripture quotations in this book are taken from the Modern King James Version of the Bible. The purpose in using this particular English translation is simply because it is, by name, a modern version of the widely accepted King James Version. From the start, readers are encouraged to have his or her preferred translation of their Bible alongside for reference while reading along.

In addition, traditional Christian terms and names are *intentionally* used throughout this lesson book to reach a larger scope of readers and help those who may be beginners in this knowledge learn with ease. Occasionally, the need to employ the use of a Hebrew term or phrase may present itself for a clearer understanding of Scripture; when this occurs, the corresponding English meaning is always supplied.

Salvation and Sin



Scripture Highlight

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jeremiah 29:11-12

For I know the purposes which I am purposing for you, says the LORD; purposes of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you shall call on Me, and you shall go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

James 5:16

Confess faults to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. *The* effectual fervent prayer of a righteous one avails much.

1 John 3:4

Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness.

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have come between you and your God, and your sins have hidden *His* face from you, from hearing.

Proverbs 28:9

He who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *is* a hateful thing.

Matthew 7:21-23

Not everyone who says to Me, Lord! Lord! shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord! Lord! Did we not prophesy in Your name, and through Your name throw out demons, and through Your name do many wonderful works? And then I will say to them I never knew you! Depart from Me, those working lawlessness!

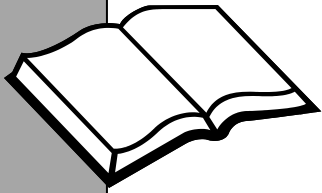
2 Peter 2:21

For it would have been better for them not to have fully known the way of righteousness, than fully knowing *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Discussion

The Scriptures above may not be verses that one would commonly expect to see mixed together as part of a salvation message; however, they are an honest message. The lessons that you are about to study pertain to the curses of disobedience, curses that are prevalent today as much as they were as in past times found in the pages of the Scriptures. Discuss among yourselves the importance of studying both the positive Scriptures and... well... the not so positive ones.

Blessing and Curses



Scripture Highlight

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call Heaven and earth to record today against you. I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, choose life, so that both you and your seed may live, so that you may love the LORD your God, *and* that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him. For He is your life and the length of your days, so that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give it to them.

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, and those who love it shall eat the fruit of it.

Ephesians 6:1-3 (see also Deuteronomy 5:16)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

Study

Blessings and curses can be found spoken from a Father to his children. Noah speaks both blessings and curses on his sons (Genesis 9:20-27). Isaac speaks a blessing upon Jacob and cannot change his words afterward (Genesis 27:37), thus directing the blessing of the firstborn to Jacob, rather than Esau (the oldest). Jacob blessed some of his sons, but could not bless others – as Reuben (the oldest), Simeon and Levi had all done things to prevent a blessing (Genesis 34:30 & 35:22), so the blessing of the firstborn went to Judah.

It is very important what we speak; read Matthew 12:36-37, Ecclesiastes 5:6, Proverbs 18:21. Think for a moment about the fact that these blessings and curses were all “spoken”. For example, Abraham is told in Genesis 12:2-3 that those who bless him will be blessed and those who curse him will be cursed (consider our connection to Abraham by reading Romans 4:16-18; Galatians 3:6-14, 28-29).

Consider the importance of how our Heavenly Father speaks to us, and how we respond. The commandment referenced in the *Scripture Highlight* above pertains to our earthly parents; should we not also honor our Heavenly Father such that it may be well with us? Although many today live in communities that view rebellious behavior as normal, read the account in Deuteronomy 21:18-21 of how rebellious youths were to be dealt with. Should the curses in Scripture for rebellion (spoken of as “witchcraft” in 1st Samuel 15:23) against our Heavenly Father be any different?

Discussion

Balaam was a prophet for hire. He knew how important the words of a blessing and curse were. Numbers chapters 22 through 24 tell of how he was paid by King Balak of Moab to speak a curse against Israel. However those who know the story, know that Balaam was unable to speak a curse, but was only able to speak blessings upon Israel.

What is often overlooked is that Balaam in his knowledge of spiritual things succeed in assisting Moab to cause great harm to Israel by causing Israel to bring a curse upon themselves! This account can be found in Numbers 25 (concerning the Moabite women and their sex god *Baal-Peor*, meaning *Lord of Openings/Holes*).

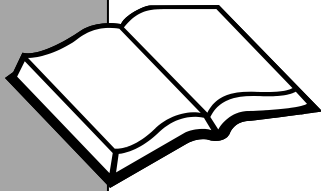
Have people today brought curses upon themselves because of religious leaders following the error of Balaam (see Jude 1:11, Revelation 2:14, 2nd Peter 2:15, 1st Timothy 4:1-2)? If so, explain what/how.

Extra

Read Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 and look for: *Blessings* such as: Peace, Exaltation, Health, Fertility, Prosperity, Victory, Honor, etc.

Curses such as: Terror, Drought, Humiliation, Mental and Physical sickness, Poverty, Defeat, Oppression, Failure, Our Heavenly Father’s Disfavor, etc.

The Big “IF” – Choosing To Obey



Scripture Highlight

Leviticus 26:3

If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments and do them,

Leviticus 26:14

But if you will not listen to Me, and will not do all these commandments,

Study

The *Scripture Highlight* above from chapter 26 of Leviticus above focuses on a very common theme of the Scriptures: Blessings for Obedience –vs– Curses for Disobedience. If you have not already, read and compare this chapter to the very similar Deuteronomy 28. Some may choose to ignore this principal, or even teach against it. However, James writes in James 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” Some may say that our Heavenly Father does not do such things or reveal such things, but Amos 3:6-7 says that He does. Study these Scriptures.

We often hear how Christ came to teach us how to have abundant life (John 10:10) – this concept of abundant life may sometimes be too much associated only with life-after-death, and not this life we live now. Obedience to His word is the path to obtaining abundant life in this life we live now. However, one must *choose* to obey.

Discussion

The Scriptures given to us are both exciting and predictable. Examine the following 7 year events from the past:

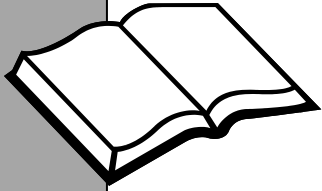
A few “seven year” periods of time in Scripture:	
Genesis 29:20-30	Jacob served 7 years for each Leah and Rachel
Genesis 41:26-54	Joseph, Pharaoh’s dream of 7 years
Leviticus 25	Description of 7 year Sabbatical (and 49 year Jubilee) cycles of time
Leviticus 26	Description of 7 year curses associated with disobedience
Judges 6:1-25	Israel oppressed by Midian for 7 years
Judges 12:9	Ibzan judged Israel 7 years
2 Samuel 24:13	David presented with choice of 7 years of famine
2 Kings 8:1-3	Elisha speaks of the 7 years of famine
Jeremiah 34:14	At the end of 7 years, release from slavery
Ezekiel 39:9	A prophecy of fire for 7 years against Gog

Now, consider the following 7 year Sabbaticals presented in Leviticus 26 associated with the current 49 year Jubilee cycle:

7 Year Curses Described in Leviticus 26	Beginning in the Modern Year	Year from Creation
Curse of Terror	1996	5832
Curse of Drought / Severe Weather	2003	5839
Curse of Pestilence / Illness / Plagues	2010	5846
Curse of War	2017	5853
Curse of Captivity and Desolation	2024	5860

Examine and discuss the chart above that depicts the curses from beginning of this final 49 year Sabbatical cycle of this 6th millennia. Daniel records a prayer of repentance in Daniel 9 after he calculated and understood “the number of the years” (verse 2) associated with the curses from disobedience and repented. Can we today understand and do the same?

Ignoring the Curses



Scripture Highlight

Leviticus 26:16

I will also do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, consumption, and burning fever, consuming the eyes and causing sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

Leviticus 26:19

And I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heaven like iron and your earth like bronze.

Deuteronomy 28:58-59

If you will not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and fearful name, JEHOVAH YOUR GOD, then Jehovah will make your plagues remarkable, and the plagues of your seed great and persistent plagues; with evil and long-lasting sicknesses.

Discussion

The early curses described in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28, like all curses, are *warnings*. They are warnings meant to encourage repentance. These warnings start out with curses like Terror, wasting and prolonged sicknesses, and weather conditions such as plagues that affect weather and crops. Eventually, these curses can escalate to sever problems such as war and captivity. The message is always the same: repent.

Sometimes, however, the people choose excuses over repentance and ignore the curses. For example, terror is seen as a reason to speak of war, rather than a need to speak of repentance. In an area that is plagued with unusual hail storms, the solution that some may come up with is to install a better roof on their home or be sure to park in the garage – they may even halfheartedly attribute the hail to the false goddess “Mother Nature” – rather than examine any need for repentance. Since the *Stokholm Declaration of 1972*, the *United Nations* has blamed death and disease in the world on various things, even the need to protect the human rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transvestites – not any need for repentance. They blame obvious curses on the weather as *Global Warming* or *Climate Change* – rather than any need for repentance. All this when creation itself waits for deliverance from what the sins of man have done to the planet (see Romans 8:19-22).

Discuss some of the various excuses people can and have used to ignore possible curses and avoid repentance.

Study

As presented in the discussion above, hail storms set upon an area *may* actually be a plague; to see hail referenced as a plague in the Scriptures, see Exodus chapters 9 & 10, Psalm 78:47-48, Psalm 105:32, Isaiah 28:17, Haggai 2:17, Revelation 8:7 and 16:21.

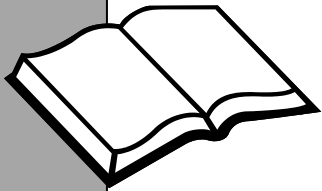
On a separate piece of paper make the following topic headings: | *1st Seven Years* | *2nd Seven Years* | *3rd Seven Years* | *4th Seven Years* | *5th Seven Years* |. Leviticus 23, starting at verse 14, describes various possible curses that begin in particular seven year periods during a 49 year Jubilee cycle (described in Leviticus 25) that lead to repentance. Research Leviticus 23 and list the curses that you discover under the proper *Seven Year* heading on that separate piece of paper.

Research & History

Like the historic Flu Epidemic that started during a *3rd Seven Year* cycle associated with the curse of Pestilence, some epidemics that fell within a *3rd Seven Year* cycle of a 49 year cycle are considered “historic”:

1832 Cholera; England and Paris
1816-1819 Typhus; Ireland
1720-1722 Great Plague; France
1668 Plague; France
1665 Plague; England
1663-1664 Plague; Holland
1636 Plague; England
1574 Plague; Scotland
1485 Sweating; England
1428 Plague; England

Who Sends the Curses and Why?



Scripture Highlight

Matthew 22:36-40

Master, which *is* the great commandment in the Law? Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second *is* like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Exodus 15:26

And he said, If you will carefully listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and will do that which is right in His sight, and will give ear to His commandments, and keep all His laws, I will put none of these diseases upon you, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I *am* the LORD who heals you.

2nd Chronicles 7:13-14

If I shut up the heavens, and there is no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send a plague among My people; if My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Ezekiel 20:33-38

As I live, says the Lord Jehovah, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, I will reign over you. And I will bring you out from the people, and I will gather you out of the lands in which you are scattered among them, with a mighty hand and with a stretched out arm and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. Just as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, says the Lord Jehovah. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. And I will purge out from among you the rebels and those who sin against Me. I will bring them out from the land where they reside, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I *am* the LORD.

Study

Study the full Chapter 20 of Ezekiel; compare to Ezekiel 14:12-23. Who sends the curses and who is delivered from them? Also, read what the Torah says about a mark on the wrist forehead and forehead in Deuteronomy 6:6-8 (see also Exodus 13:9 and Deuteronomy 11:18). What good sign/seal is looked for (Revelation 7:3, 9:4, & 14:1)?

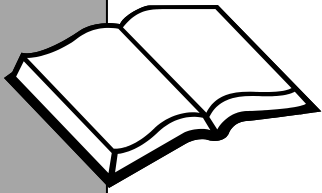
Who sent the plagues on Egypt? Would He do the same to His own people (see Deuteronomy 28:27)? Why? There is much talk about another mark these days, a “mark of the beast” (Revelation 13:16 & 20:4). Is there a connection between this bad mark and the fact that this enemy continually seeks to change times and laws as mentioned in Daniel 7:25?

Group Study & Discussion

Matthew 22:36-40 above does not replace the commandments; this passage only summarizing them. Which of the Ten Commandments are about our Heavenly Father, and which are about how we are to treat our neighbor?

Few would disagree with most of the Ten Commandments; however, many disagree with the 4th commandment concerning the Sabbaths. Ezekiel 20:22-27 calls this blasphemy. Why is this particular commandment so hard for some to obey? Why do some people choose false teachings of men (Matthew 15:9, Mark 7:7) over what is written in Scripture?

Repeated Warnings



Scripture Highlight

Amos 4:6-13

And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, and you have not returned to Me, says the LORD. And I have also withheld the rain from you, when *there were* yet three months to the harvest. And I caused rain to fall on one city and caused it not to rain on another city; one piece was rained on, and the piece on which it did not rain dried up. So two or three cities wandered to one city to drink water, but they were not satisfied; yet you have not returned to Me, says the LORD. I have stricken you with blasting and mildew. When your gardens and your vineyards, and your fig trees, and your olive trees increased, the creeping locust devoured them; yet you have not returned to Me, says the LORD. I have sent the plague among you in the way of Egypt; I have slain your young men with the sword, and have taken away your horses. And I have made the stench of your camps to come up into your nostrils; yet you have not returned to Me, says the LORD. I have overthrown some among you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a firebrand plucked out of the burning; yet you have not returned to Me, says the LORD. So I will do this to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel. For lo, He forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what his thought is. He who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the high places of the earth; the LORD, the God of hosts, *is* His name.

Amos 8:11

Behold, the days come, says the Lord Jehovah, that I will send a famine in the land; not a *famine* of bread nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.

Study

There is a pattern to the curses that are explained in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28; warnings of these curses are repeatedly given to bring about repentance.

The book of Jeremiah alone records repeated warnings of war, famine, pestilence, and drought:

Jeremiah 11:22, 12:12, 14:1, 14:13-18, 15:2, 16:4, 18:21, 21:7-9, 24:10, 27:8-13, 29:17-18, 32:24, 32:36, 34:17, 38:2, 42:16-17, 42:22, 44:12-13, 44:18, 44:27, 52:6

Similar to Jeremiah, Ezekiel also records warnings in 5:12-17, 6:11-12, 7:15, 12:16, 14:13, 14:21, 36:29-30.

Do not assume that this is just an Old Testament idea, as the New Testament speaks of such things as well:

Matthew 24:7, Mark 13:8, Luke 4:25, 15:14 & 21:11, Acts 7:11 & 11:28, Romans 8:35, Revelation 18:8

Examine these scriptures for yourself.

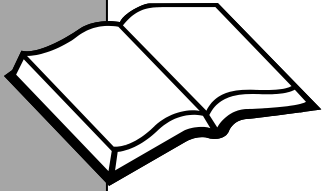
Discussion

Many modern day preachers often proclaim prosperity without worries of tomorrow and continually teach only positive and uplifting messages that do not deal with the problem of sin. One might say that they are very poor watchmen (see Ezekiel 33:6). Unfortunately, something very similar must have been done in Jeremiah's day concerning the teachers around him:

Jeremiah 5:11-13 For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very deceitfully against Me, says the LORD. They have lied against the LORD and said, *It is not He*; neither shall evil come on us; nor shall we see sword nor famine. And the prophets shall become wind, and the word *is not* in them; so it shall be done to them.

Discuss this issue in connection to the two passages from Amos in the *Scripture Highlight* above. Be sure to consider how people will thirst for hearing the words of the LORD during tribulation and the importance of learning His words now.

Cannibalism, it's no picnic



Scripture Highlight

Leviticus 26:28-29

Then I will walk contrary to you also in fury. And I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. And you shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters you shall eat.

Deuteronomy 28:53-57

And you shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters, which the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and in the anguish with which your enemies shall distress you. The man *that is* tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his sons which he has left; so that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his sons whom he shall eat, because he has nothing left to him in the siege and in the anguish with which your enemies shall distress you in all your gates. The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not have ventured to set the sole of her foot on the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter, and toward her young one who comes out from between her feet, and toward her sons whom she shall bear. For she shall eat them secretly for lack of all *things*, in the siege and anguish with which your enemies shall distress you in your gates.

Isaiah 9:19-20

Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts is the land scorched, and the people shall be as the fuel of the fire; no man shall have pity on his brother. And *he shall* cut off on the right hand and be hungry; and he shall eat on the left, and they shall not be satisfied. Each man shall eat the flesh of his own arm;

2nd Kings 6:26-29

And as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried to him, saying, Help, my lord, O king! And he said, if the LORD does not help you, from where shall I help you? Out of the barn-floor, or out of the winepress? And the king said to her, What *ails* you? And she said, This woman said to me, Give your son so that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow. And we boiled my son and ate him. And I said to her on the other day, Give your son so that we may eat him. And she has hidden her son.

Study

What begins with curses of Terror and prolonged sicknesses due to non-repentance, ends with a people who have lost the pride of their power due to war in a stricken land that produces little, if any, food. These conditions have led to cannibalism in the past, and will again.

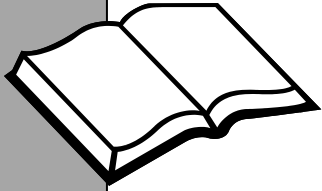
Read Jeremiah 19:1-9, Micah 3:1-7, and Zechariah 11:4-14.

Question

A religious lesson on Cannibalism like this one may not be popular. Some may not even speak of it. However, all this lesson has done is display Scripture and ask you, the student, to study and learn more Scripture.

Romans 6:23 states "For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Can we not discuss issues of both life *and* death?

Only a Remnant Survive



Scripture Highlight

Leviticus 27:32

And all the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, all that passes under the rod, a tenth shall be holy to the LORD

Ezekiel 34:17

And you, My flock, says the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I judge between lamb and lamb, *between* rams and he-goats.

Ezekiel 20:37-38

And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant. And I will purge out from among you the rebels and those who sin against Me. I will bring them out from the land where they reside, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I *am* the LORD.

Isaiah 10:22

For though Your people Israel are like the sand of the sea, *yet* a remnant of them shall return; the full end which is decreed shall overflow *with* righteousness.

Matthew 25:31-33

But when the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He shall sit on the throne of His glory. And all nations shall be gathered before Him. And He shall separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. And indeed *He* shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats off the left.

Discussion

The curses are cumulative and before the end comes, the Scriptures warn us that there will be great tribulation because people will not repent for many reasons. Many are simply not lovers of God, while many others have been deceived in various ways. The first part of 2nd Timothy chapter 3 describes much of this condition and the chapter ends reminding us that all Scripture (yes, even that “Old Testament” with those “commandments” that many choose to ignore) is given by inspiration of God. Read this chapter together, and share any other relevant scripture that you can as well.

In the end, only a remnant survives the curses of the coming tribulation. Pray that you will know and understand the Scriptures such that you will have the wisdom to obediently follow the instructions given to you by your Heavenly Father so that you may endure and be delivered from the curses that you have learned about in this set of lessons.

Study

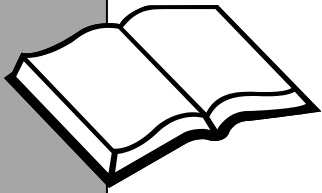
Ezekiel chapter 33 contains a very famous passage on the duties of a “watchman” over the land. Whether or not you feel that your voice would be heard across the land, your voice can and should be heard by your brother/neighbor – not rebuking your brother for sin is like hating your brother:

Leviticus 19:17

You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall always rebuke your neighbor, and not allow sin on him.

Read 1st John 2:9-10 and 3:14 as well as Matthew 5:21-22 with this thought in mind. Rather than hating those around us because of their sin and watching the curses come upon them, we should find acceptable ways to correct and teach them.

Curse Avoidance



Scripture Highlight

Acts 2:36-39

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God made this same Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. And hearing *this*, they were stabbed in the heart, and said to Peter and to the other apostles, Men, brothers, what shall we do? Then Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ to remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all those afar off, as many as *the* Lord our God shall call.

Lev 26:40-46

If they shall confess their wilfulness and the wilfulness of their fathers, with their sin which they sinned against Me, and that also they have walked contrary to Me – I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies. If then their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they then pay for their iniquity, then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and also My covenant with Isaac, and also My covenant with Abraham I will remember. And I will remember the land. The land also shall be forsaken by them, and shall enjoy its sabbaths, while it lies waste without them. And they shall accept the punishment of their iniquities; because, even because they despised My judgments, and because their soul hated My statutes. And yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I hate them, to destroy them utterly and to break My covenant with them. For I *am* the LORD their God. But for their sakes, I will remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, so that I might be their God. I *am* the LORD. These *are* the statutes and judgments and laws, which the Lord made between Him and the sons of Israel in Mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

Study

Romans 6:23 both reminds us of Salvation and also what the wages of sin is. This is not a new concept. Ezekiel chapter 18 discusses this in detail. It is repeated twice (verse 4 and 10) that the soul who sins shall die. But how do we know, without lying to ourselves, that we shall live?

John in his first letter writes also about these concepts concerning our Messiah. A few questions are answered:

- How do we know that we know Him?
- Who is called a liar and does not know the truth?
- What is sin?
- How do we know that we love Him?

Read 1st John 2:3-4, 3:4, 3:22, and 5:2-3 to find some answers to these very important questions.

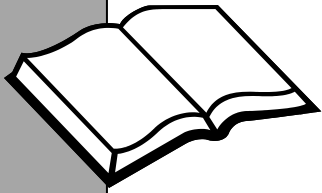
Discussion

In a previous lesson, you learned *Who* sends the curses and *Why*. Exodus 15:26 was highlighted as a Scripture of importance in that lesson. The *Scripture Highlights* in this lesson expands on the idea, and gives an answer. What is the answer, or common theme, to these *Scripture Highlights*?

Extra

One of the miracles during the Exodus was in Exodus 16:14-30, where the people were taught through action and testing about the Sabbath. Their obedient works were important, not just their faith. James 2:14-26 discusses how man is justified by works, and not by faith *only*. Be sure to practice the works you believe, and not just believe them; faith *and* your righteous works of obedience will prevent a curse.

Promises of Protection



Scripture Highlight

Job 5:20

In famine He shall redeem you from death; and in war from the power of the sword.

Psalms 33:19

To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Psalms 37:19

They shall not be ashamed in the evil time; and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

Psalms 37:25

I have been young, and am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his seed begging bread.

Psalms 91:3-7

Surely He will deliver you from the fowler's trap *and* from the destroying plague. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall trust. His truth *shall be your* shield, and buckler. You shall not fear the terror by night; nor because of the arrow *that* flies by day; *nor* for the plague *that* walks in darkness, of the destruction laying waste at noonday. A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; it shall not come near you.

Psalms 119:172

My tongue shall speak Your word, for all Your commandments *are* righteousness.

Romans 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have come between you and your God, and your sins have hidden *His* face from you, from hearing.

Study

Children sometimes need correction – whether they like it or not. We love them, and it's for their own good. Let's be blunt – many grown up people do not like correction, either. But, it's for their (our) own good. It is intended that we all live as righteous *children* of God. What attitude should we have towards correction? Proverbs, a book written from a wise father to his own child, has some answers to that question:

Proverbs 3:12, 9:8-9, 12:1, 12:15, 19:20

After you have read the Proverbs above, read Hebrews 12:6 to find out *why* our Heavenly Father corrects us.

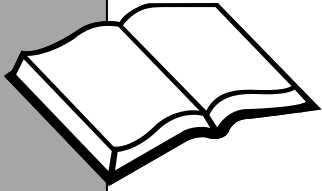
Discussion

The promises in the *Scripture Highlights* above are very comforting and often quoted. Overlooked, however, is the one very important behavior that is attributed to those who are delivered: they are – as seen in Psalm 37, verse 25 – “the righteous.”

Ezekiel Chapter 14:12-20 makes it clear that during tribulation even Noah, Daniel, and Job could only save themselves by their own “righteousness” – it is not about being part of a special group or following a special leader, but a personal responsibility.

Discuss from what you have learned from your studies of Scripture: What is righteous behavior?

Sevening



Scripture Highlight

Leviticus 23:3

Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day *is* the sabbath of rest, a holy convocation. You shall not do any work. It *is* a sabbath to the LORD in all your dwellings.

Leviticus 23:15

And you shall count to you from the next day after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths shall be complete.

Leviticus 23:24

Speak to the sons of Israel saying: In the seventh month, in the first *day* of the month, you shall have a sabbath, a memorial summons, a holy convocation.

Leviticus 25:4

But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest to the land, a sabbath for the LORD. You shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard.

Leviticus 25:8

And you shall number seven sabbaths of years to you, seven times seven years. And the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be forty-nine years to you.

Study & Discussion

Pay particular attention to the use of “sevens” in the *Scripture Highlight* from the two chapters of Leviticus above: 7 days/weeks/years and 7x7 (or 49) days/years. In your person studies of the Scriptures, you may have noticed other incidents of “sevens” – such as when Joshua’s troops marched around Jericho for seven days while the priest bore seven trumpets (Joshua 6), or where Naaman dipped himself seven times in the Jordan River to be cleansed from leprosy (2nd Kings 5), or the prophecy given to Daniel concerning the period of 70 periods of 49 years (Daniel 9), etc.

Consider that in Hebrew, שבע (*shabuwa*) is a term used to refer to seven or sevened, period of seven (days/weeks/years), and the Feast of Weeks; and, the similar root word שבע (*shaba*) is used to refer to an oath, to swear, and to curse. Take a moment to consider the connection between “sevening” ourselves by keeping the commandments given in Leviticus 23 and 25 above, that we are essentially fulfilling our end of the oath to keep the commandments given to us by our Heavenly Father? Is this not the duty of mankind?

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God, and keep His commandments. For this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

Discuss this issue, and also what you have learned about how the Curses which you have studied in this set of lessons are patterned in seven year time periods. Study together Deuteronomy chapter 30. The first few verses of this chapter describe an event that has already happened to Israel: the disobedient people of Israel fell under these curses, did not repent, and have been scattered into the nations of the world. Many of us may even be descendants of those people – whether we are or not, should we not learn from the mistakes of the past and repent of our own sins? Also, if you are sinning and not “sevening” yourself by refusing to keep the fourth commandment concerning the Sabbaths, will you repent and keep them?

Sevening Charts

7 days, 7th is Sabbath day

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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From the beginning there have been 7 days in a week, with the Sabbath on day 7 (Genesis 1:1-2:3).

The commandment tells us to keep this 7th day holy (Exodus 20:8-11, Deuteronomy 5:12-15). During the year, 7 Sabbaths, or 49 days, are counted between the Feasts of Firstfruits and Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15).

49 days, or 7 full weeks

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Not only is it important to keep the weekly Sabbath and the annual Sabbath feast days that occur throughout the year, but it is also very important to keep the

7 years, 7th is Sabbatical year

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Sabbatical years described in Leviticus 25 which explains that every 7th year is a Sabbatical year and that there are 49 years, or 7 weeks of years, between each Jubilee year.

If the Sabbaths are guarded, many blessings will be bestowed. However, if the Sabbaths are ignored and the people sin, then the curses that you have studied in this set of lessons will accumulate after specific 7 year periods of time.

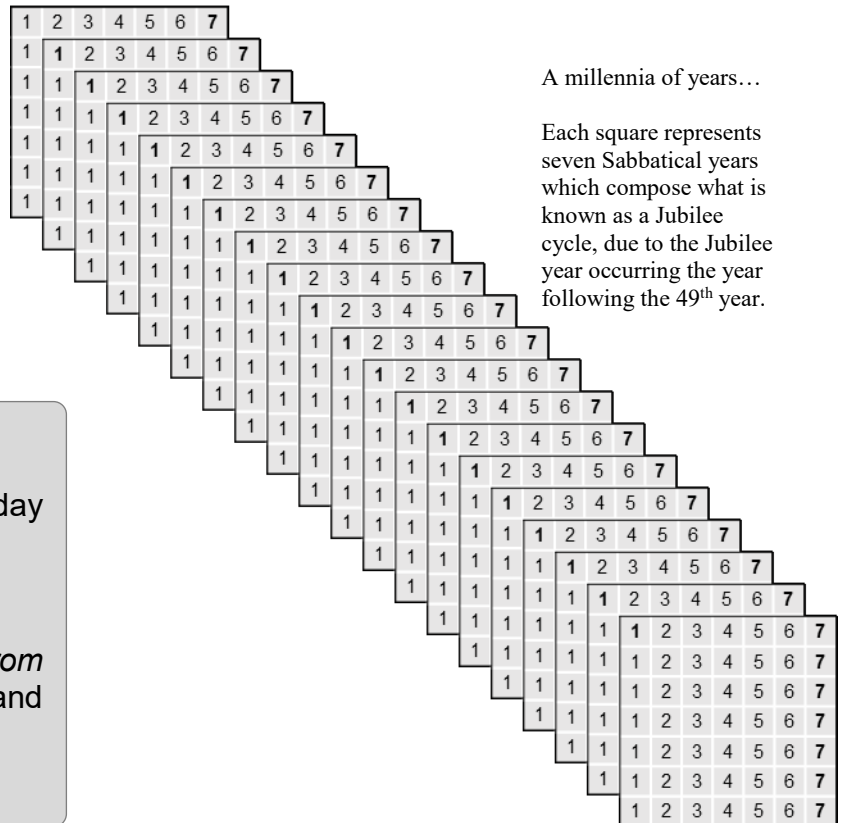
49 years, or 7 weeks of years, with a Sabbatical year every 7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

note: the Jubilee year occurs the first year of the next cycle.

In our busy lives, it may be hard to think beyond this week to seven weeks away. Thinking ahead seven years may be even harder. Thinking ahead forty nine years is almost half a lifetime, but is still conceivable.

To think beyond one's own lifetime in the scale of millennium is something that our Heavenly Father is very capable of...



A millennia of years...

Each square represents seven Sabbatical years which compose what is known as a Jubilee cycle, due to the Jubilee year occurring the year following the 49th year.

Psalms 90:4

For a thousand years in Your sight *are* as yesterday when it is past, and *as* a watch in the night.

2nd Peter 3:8

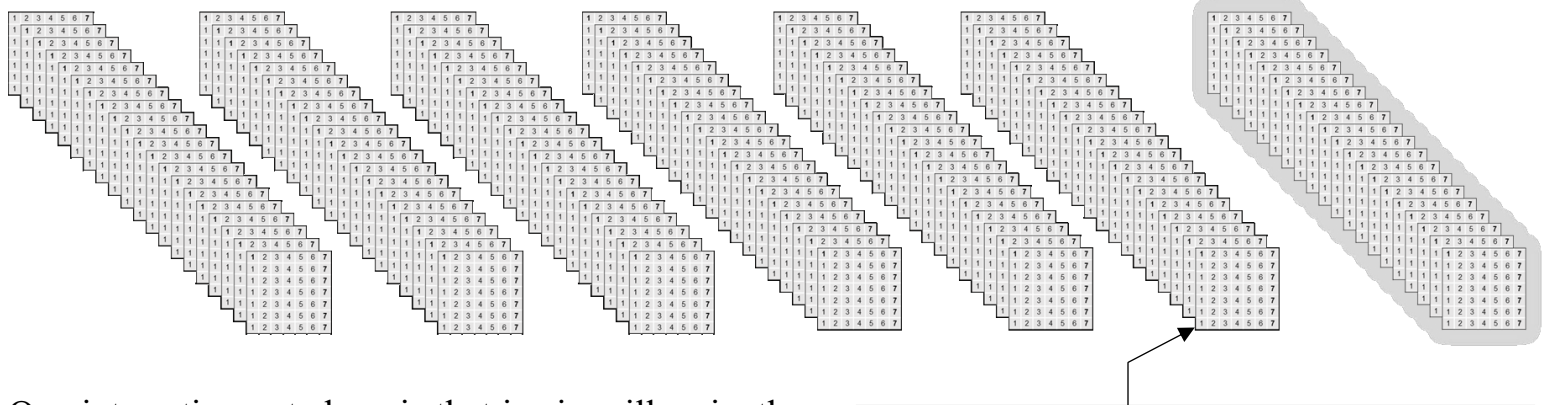
But, beloved, let not this one thing be hidden *from you*, that one day *is* with *the* Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Exodus 20:9-11 (also Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. You shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and sanctified it.

Our Heavenly Father has a plan for mankind. Man has six days to work and is given the Sabbath to rest. Since creation, mankind has been laboring for nearly six millennia, struggling against sin. Revelation 20:2 describes a 7th millennia of time where that serpent who deceived mankind in the garden (Genesis 3) is locked away. That 7th millennia will be a Sabbath of rest.

These six millennia represent the six millennial days that mankind has labored on this earth.



One interesting note here is that in six millennia, there are 120 Jubilee cycles of time. This relates to the amount of time given to mankind (Genesis 6:3). From creation until the time of Moses, there were 50 of these Jubilee cycles; and, from Moses until the end of the age of mankind, Daniel was told that there would be 70 more cycles (Daniel 9). We are in that last Jubilee cycle. Will you strive to avoid the curses of disobedience and enter into that Sabbath millennia of rest?

Hebrews 4:3

For we who have believed do enter into the rest, as He said, "I have sworn in My wrath that they should not enter into My rest;" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

We are in the last Jubilee cycle of the 6th millennial day. Examine the chart below with modern years filled in for this last Jubilee cycle. Consider what you have learned about the curses in this lesson, and also consider how close to today that Sabbath millennia of rest is.

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037
2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044