



TIPPING THE SCALES TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

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TIPPING THE SCALES TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

Mark 3:11 (NKJ) And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying “You are the Son of God.”

John 11:46-53 (NKJ)

46 But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. **47** Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, “What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. **48** If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.” **49** And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, **50** nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.” **51** Now this he did not say on his own *authority*; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, **52** and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad. **53** Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.

1 Peter 3:22 (NKJ) who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

AUTHORITIES

Around 1993 I had a dream that I was standing at the entrance to a cave. As I stood there, I had my hands out and three “ghostlike” beings came against me. The next day I was ministering to a man and as we prayed for him, I learned that the beings coming against him were “authorities.” The Lord then told me that these “authorities” were beings that carried “blessings” and “curses and misfortune.” I then started studying more about authorities.

AUTHORITY – Exert energy, force, might. The power of sway or controlling influence over others – Webster

AUTHORITY (Greek) – Arndt and Gingrich, Greek-English Lexicon –
Exosia (Greek) - Authority as a freedom of choice, right to act, or decide.
It is the ability to do something, capability, might, power to indicate the
thing that is to be done.

Dictionary of New Testament Theology

Authority - The lawful right of action and *unrestrictive* possibility or
freedom of action.

BLESS

Dictionary of New Testament Theology

Bless – barak (Hebrew): - A self contained beneficial force which one
could transmit to another and which stood in contrast to the destructive
power of cursing.

Barak -

- The conferring of and transference of ***BENEFICIAL POWER***.
- The performance of a blessing involved a word ***invested with power***.
- It works vertically with the ***continual growth*** of succeeding
generations.
- Horizontally it effects for *peace, security* from enemies, good
fortune, and well being for the tribe or group.

Derek Prince - Possible List of BLESSINGS Deut. 28:3-13

- ❖ Exaltation
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Reproductiveness
- ❖ Prosperity
- ❖ Victory
- ❖ God's Favor

CURSE

The Problem of ‘Curse’ in the Hebrew Bible. Herbert Chanan Brichto. Journal of Biblical Literature, Monograph Series, Volume XIII. Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis. 1963.

The English term “curse” has a broad connotation ranging from a simple synonym for misfortune, to a condition of unrelieved hopelessness brought on by supernatural forces; magical or divine. However, that is not the actual definition of “curse.” The actual definition of a curse is the following:

1. a prayer or invocation for harm or injury to come upon one : imprecation
2. something that is cursed or accursed
3. evil or misfortune that comes as if in response to imprecation(to place a curse) or as retribution
4. a cause of great harm or misfortune : torment
5. menstruation

There are four words in the Old Testament that have been translated “curse.”

1. **Alah** - אלה [’alah /aw·law/]. The number one meaning is “oath.” An oath is a promise with the promise that a penalty will take place (curse) if there is a false assertion or failing of one to keep his word.

Genesis 24:40-41 (NKJ) 40 But he said to me, ‘The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father’s house. **41** You will be clear from this oath...

Genesis 26:28 (NKJ) But they said, “We have certainly seen that the LORD is with you. So we said, ‘Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a covenant with you,

Deuteronomy 29:12 (NKJ) that you may enter into covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath, which the LORD your God makes with you today,

Ezekiel 17:13 (NKJ) And he took the king’s offspring, made a covenant with him, and put him under oath. He also took away the mighty of the land,

Proverbs 29:24 (NKJ) Whoever is a partner with a thief hates his own life; he swears to tell the truth, but reveals nothing.

2. **Arur** - אָרַר [*'arar /aw-rar/*] AV translates as “curse” 62 times, and “bitterly” once. to curse, cursed be he, to be cursed, cursed. to curse, lay under a curse, put a curse on, to be made a curse, be cursed. Gen 3:14, Gen 4:11, Gen 27:29, Deut 27:15-26, Jos 6:26, I Sam 14:24, Jer 20:14-16, Joshua 9:22, Numbers 22:6-12, Mal 2:2, Mal 3:9-11. Best rendered **Banned**. “Its basic sense is best rendered spell. When applied to the earth or rain, it is a spell which bars fertility to men. When applied to men or animals, it bars them from the benefits of fertility or association with their fellow creatures. The power of the curse is derived from deity or an agency endowed by God of the society with unusual powers.”

Genesis 3:14 (NKJ) So the LORD God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you *are* cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

Genesis 4:11 (NKJ) So now you *are* cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.

Genesis 27:29 (NKJ) Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed *be* everyone who curses you, and blessed *be* those who bless you!”

Deuteronomy 27:15-16 (NKJ) 15 ‘Cursed *is* the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets *it* up in secret.’ “And all the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen!’ **16** ‘Cursed *is* the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.’ “And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’

Joshua 6:26 (NKJ) Then Joshua charged *them* at that time, saying, “Cursed *be* the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates.”

I Samuel 14:24 (NKJ) And the men of Israel were distressed that day, for Saul had placed the people under oath, saying, “Cursed *is* the man

who eats *any* food until evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies.” So none of the people tasted food.

Malachi 2:2 (NKJ) If you will not hear, and if you will not take *it* to heart, to give glory to My name,” Says the LORD of hosts, “I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, because you do not take *it* to heart.

Malachi 3:10-11 (NKJ) 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing that *there will not be room* enough to receive it. **11** “ And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,”...

3. **Qualet:** קָלַל [qalal /kaw·lal/] translates as “curse” 39 times, “swifter” five times, “light thing” five times, “vile” four times, “lighter” four times, “despise” three times, “abated” twice, “ease” twice, “light” twice, “lighten” twice, “slightly” twice, and translated miscellaneously 12 times. **1** to be slight, be swift, be trifling, be of little account, be light, to be slight, be abated (of water), to be swift, to be trifling, be of little account, to be swift, show oneself swift. to appear trifling, be too trifling, be insignificant. to be lightly esteemed, to make despicable, to curse, to be cursed, to make light, lighten, to treat with contempt, bring contempt or dishonor, to shake, to whet, to shake oneself, be moved to and fro. Gen 8:21, Lev 19:14, Is 65:20, Neh. 13:25, Job 3:1, Ps. 37:22, 109:28, Prov 30:10.

Genesis 8:21 (NKJ) And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

Leviticus 19:14 (NKJ) Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the LORD.

Qualet is best translated “abuse” or “to treat harshly or injuriously.”

- a. General term for punishment, misfortune, disaster, harm- Deut 11:26-29, Deut. 27:12-13,28:15, 30:1, Deut 30:19, **NOTE: Proverbs 26:1-2 (sense of disgrace-not curse...see vs. 1)**
- b. curse-Deut. 23:6, Judges 9:56-57, Jer. 29:22,
- c. material misfortune – Gen 27:12-13, II Kings 22:19

Isaiah 65:20 (NKJ) “No more shall an infant from there *live but a few* days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child

shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner *being* one hundred years old shall be accursed.

Proverbs 26:1-2 (NKJ) **1** As snow in summer and rain in harvest, So honor is not fitting for a fool. **2** Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, So a curse without cause shall not alight.

Qualet

Slightness as to provision, speed, circumstances.” It is to be in a position that is less than deserved.

- It is a **lowered** position.
- It is rapid **take away**.

4. Qabab [*qabab* /kaw·**bab**/] A primitive root; Eight occurrences; translates as “curse” seven times, and “at all” once. **1** to curse, utter a curse against. to curse. This word connotes the act of uttering a formula designed to undo its object. This word may well be a loan word since it appears either on the lips of (or is applied to) Gentiles (or persons of mixed parentage, Lev 24:1 1), or in poetical passages. The most frequent use of our root relates to the incident involving Baalam and Balak. Certainly the “magical” belief and intent of Balak is prominent here. Perhaps the same overtone is present in Lev 24:11, where the man of mixed parentage may have used the name of God as a magical formula. Elsewhere our root is used apart from any magical connotation and as the uttering of a formula (OTW)

Leviticus 24:11 (NKJ) And the Israelite woman’s son blasphemed the name of *the LORD* and cursed; and so they brought him to Moses. (His mother’s name *was* Shelomith the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.)

New Testament – Curse

1. **καταράομαι** [*kataraomai /kat·ar·ah·om·ahee/*] translates as “curse” six times. **1** to curse, doom, imprecate evil upon. Matt 26:74, Luke 6:28, Romans 12:14, James 3:9

Matthew 26:74 (NKJ) Then he began to curse and swear, *saying*, “I do not know the Man!” Immediately a rooster crowed.

Luke 6:28 (NKJ) bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

Romans 12:14 (NKJ) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

James 3:9 (NKJ) With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.

2. **□πάρατος, □πικατάρατος** [*epikataratos /ep·ee·kat·ar·at·os/*] Three occurrences; translates as “cursed” three times. **1** accursed, execrable, exposed to divine vengeance, lying under God’s curse.
3. **κατάρα** [*katara /kat·ar·ah/*] translates as “curse” three times, “cursing” twice, and “cursed” once. **1** an execration, imprecation, curse. Galatians 3:10-13
4. **□ναθεματίζω** [*anathematizo /an·ath·em·at·id·zo/*] Four occurrences; translates as “curse” once, “bind under a curse” once, “bind with an oath” once, and “bind under a great curse + 331” once. **1** to devote to destruction. **2** to declare one’s self liable to the severest divine penalties. Mark 14:71, Acts 23:21

RELATED BIBLICAL WORDS “to Curse”

laanah (Hebrew) - wormwood - a plant ranked with gall, having very bitter juice from an unusual root supposed to mean, “to curse.”

Mar (Hebrew) – bitter. Its opposite definition is “to bless.” It may mean that in its translation as bitter it carries with it the idea of a curse.

akal (Hebrew)- devour “to eat, consume.” In Aramaic - “to take pieces. Therefore the devourer does not cause an increase but a decrease.

HOW ARE BLESSINGS, CURSES, AND DISFAVOR PASSED

DOWN TO FUTURE GENERATIONS?

❖ Idolatry

Deuteronomy 5:9 (NIV) You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.

Exodus 20:4-5 (NIV) **4**You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. **5**You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Sin or Sins Goes Down

Sin- Awa – Root means, “to bend, twist or distort” Translated as sin, iniquity, or guilt.

Isaiah 6:7 (NKJ) And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.”

Numbers 14:18 (NIV) The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.'

Deuteronomy 5:9 (NIV) You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

William Wilson–Old Testament Word Studies

Awa – “iniquity, vanity, trouble: this word seems to have special reference to the nature and consequences of sin, especially idolatry: and it stands in opposition to the solid good and happiness which attends on true religion. To turn the wrong way: applied to the distortion of the heart or actions, from that which is right to that which is wrong.

The word “iniquity” applies to the original depravity of man, by which he is turned aside from the image of God and the love of holiness. To act in a deceitful, tricking, insidious manner, bad, dishonest. Dealing in secret, or under some cover, unfair usage, unrighteousness in judgment.

Hate- It expresses an emotional attitude towards persons and things, which are opposed, detested, despised and with which one wishes to have no contact or relationship. It is therefore the opposite of love.... hate separates and keeps distant. It is ill will and aversion towards God. (DNTT)

❖ **Sexual Immorality**

Acts 15:20 (NIV) Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.

Deuteronomy 27:15-26 (NIV) **15** "Cursed is the man who carves an image or casts an idol-- a thing detestable to the LORD, the work of the craftsman's hands-- and sets it up in secret." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **16** "Cursed is the man who dishonors his father or his mother." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **17** "Cursed is the man who moves his neighbor's boundary stone." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **18** "Cursed is the man who leads the blind astray on the road." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **19** "Cursed is the man who withholds justice from the alien, the fatherless or the widow." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **20** "Cursed is the man who sleeps with his father's wife, for he dishonors his father's bed." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **21** "Cursed is the man who has sexual relations with any animal." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **22** "Cursed is the man who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **23** "Cursed is the man who sleeps with his mother-in-law." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **24** "Cursed is the man who kills his neighbor secretly." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **25** "Cursed is the man who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **26** "Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

Proverbs 5:1-10 (NIV) **1** My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, **2** that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. **3** For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; **4** but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. **5** Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. **6** She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not. **7** Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. **8** Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house **9** lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel, **10** lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house.

Numbers 22-24- This account about Balak and Balaam demonstrates the power of sexual sin resulting in the disfavor of God coming against the Israelites. Balak asks Balaam to curse Israel. Over and over against Balak refuses. But something happens in Numbers 25. A plague hits Israel. Why. We are told in Numbers 31 and Revelations 2:14 that Balaam evidently told Balak, "I cannot curse Israel but I can show you how to allow Israel to enter into the curse." Balaam counseled Balak to have the Israelites to enter into sexual sin. I believe this resulted in the generational iniquity to go down to the next generation. It was the sexual sin which resulted in the curse and disfavor coming against the people. Balak had gotten what he wanted without Balaam having to directly curse Israel.

Numbers 22:1-6 (NKJ) **1** Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan *across from* Jericho. **2** Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. **3** And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they *were* many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel. **4** So Moab said to the elders of Midian, "Now this company will lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." And Balak the son of Zippor *was* king of the Moabites at that time. **5** Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which *is* near the River^[a] in the land of the sons of his people,^[b] to call him, saying: "Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! **6** Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."

Numbers 24:25 (NKJ) So Balaam rose and departed and returned to his place; Balak also went his way.

Numbers 25:1-8 (NKJ) **1** Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. **2** They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. **3** So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel. **4** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel." **5** So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor." **6** And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who *were* weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. **7** Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw *it*, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; **8** and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel.

Numbers 31:14-17 (NKJ) **14** But Moses was angry with the officers of the army, *with* the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, who had come from the battle. **15** And Moses said to them: "Have you kept all the women alive? **16** Look, these *women* caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD. **17** Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known a man intimately.

Revelation 2:14 (NKJ) But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

❖ **By Not Being Canceled**

Exodus 20:4-5 (NIV) 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. **5** You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin [iniquity] of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Blessings Go Down Thousands of Generations When Not Canceled!

Exodus 20:6 (NKJ) but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Proverbs 17:13 (NIV) If a man pays back evil for good, evil will never leave his house.

Can Curses only go down three to four generations?

Curses and disfavor can spread down ten generations to those born out of a forbidden marriage (or out of wedlock)

Deuteronomy 23:1-2 (NIV) 1 No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the LORD. **2** No one born of a forbidden marriage nor any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.

Everlasting Curses

Proverbs 17:13 (NIV) If a man pays back evil for good, evil will never leave his house.

1 Samuel 2:31 (NIV) The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your family line

Jeremiah 23:40 (NIV) I will bring upon you everlasting disgrace-- everlasting shame that will not be forgotten."

Jeremiah 25:9 (NIV) I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon," declares the LORD, "and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin.

2 Samuel 12:10 (NIV) Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.

2 Samuel 3:28-29 (NIV) 28 Later, when David heard about this, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever innocent before the LORD concerning the blood of Abner son of Ner. **29** May his blood fall upon the head of Joab and upon all his father's house! May Joab's house never be without someone who has a running sore or leprosy or who leans on a crutch or who falls by the sword or who lacks food."

EVIDENCE OF GENERATIONAL CURSES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 23:33-36 (NKJ) 33 Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? **34** Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: *some* of them you will kill and crucify, and *some* of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, **35** that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to The blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. **36** Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

INDICATIONS OF A CURSE

- ❖ Humiliation
- ❖ Mental and/or Emotional Breakdown- Deut. 28:20,28,34,65
- ❖ Repeated or chronic sickness- Deut. 28: 21,22,27,28,35,59,61
- ❖ Barrenness, a tendency to miscarry or related female problems- Deut. 28:18
- ❖ Breakdown of marriage- Deut. 28:30
- ❖ Family Alienation- Deut. 28:32
- ❖ Continuing financial insufficiency- Deut. 28:17,29,47-48
- ❖ Defeat
- ❖ Oppression
- ❖ Being “accident prone”- Deut. 28:29
- ❖ A history of suicides and unnatural or untimely deaths- Deut. 28

Deuteronomy 28:20-48 (NIV) 20 The LORD will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him. **21** The LORD will plague you with diseases until he has destroyed you from the land you are entering to possess. **22** The LORD will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, with blight and mildew, which will plague you until you perish. **23** The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron. **24** The LORD will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed. **25** The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven, and you will become a thing of horror to all the kingdoms on earth. **26** Your carcasses will be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away. **27** The LORD will afflict you with the boils

of Egypt and with tumors, festering sores and the itch, from which you cannot be cured. **28** The LORD will afflict you with madness, blindness and confusion of mind. **29** At midday you will grope about like a blind man in the dark. You will be unsuccessful in everything you do; day after day you will be oppressed and robbed, with no one to rescue you. **30** You will be pledged to be married to a woman, but another will take her and ravish her. You will build a house, but you will not live in it. You will plant a vineyard, but you will not even begin to enjoy its fruit. **31** Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will eat none of it. Your donkey will be forcibly taken from you and will not be returned. Your sheep will be given to your enemies, and no one will rescue them. **32** Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation, and you will wear out your eyes watching for them day after day, powerless to lift a hand. **33** A people that you do not know will eat what your land and labor produce, and you will have nothing but cruel oppression all your days. **34** The sights you see will drive you mad. **35** The LORD will afflict your knees and legs with painful boils that cannot be cured, spreading from the soles of your feet to the top of your head. **36** The LORD will drive you and the king you set over you to a nation unknown to you or your fathers. There you will worship other gods, gods of wood and stone. **37** You will become a thing of horror and an object of scorn and ridicule to all the nations where the LORD will drive you. **38** You will sow much seed in the field but you will harvest little, because locusts will devour it. **39** You will plant vineyards and cultivate them but you will not drink the wine or gather the grapes, because worms will eat them. **40** You will have olive trees throughout your country but you will not use the oil, because the olives will drop off. **41** You will have sons and daughters but you will not keep them, because they will go into captivity. **42** Swarms of locusts will take over all your trees and the crops of your land. **43** The alien who lives among you will rise above you higher and higher, but you will sink lower and lower. **44** He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him. He will be the head, but you will be the tail. **45** All these curses will come upon you. They will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the LORD your God and observe the commands and decrees he gave you. **46** They will be a sign and a wonder to you and your descendants forever. **47** Because you did not serve the LORD your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, **48** therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the LORD sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until he has destroyed you.

Deuteronomy 29:18 (NIV) Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison (*wormwood*)

Jeremiah 9:15 (NIV) Therefore, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "See, I will make this people eat bitter food (*wormwood*) and drink poisoned water.

Proverbs 5:3-5 (NIV) **3** For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; **4** but in the end she is bitter as gall (*wormwood*), sharp as a double-edged sword. **5** Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.

Jeremiah 23:10-15 (NIV) **10** The land is full of adulterers; because of the curse the land lies parched and the pastures in the desert are withered. They follow an evil course and use their power unjustly. **11** "Both prophet and priest are godless; even in my temple I find their wickedness," declares the LORD. **12** "Therefore their path will become slippery; they will be banished to darkness and there they will fall. I will bring disaster on them in the year they are punished," declares the LORD. **13** "Among the prophets of Samaria I saw this repulsive thing: They prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray. **14** And among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen something horrible: They commit adultery and live a lie. They strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his wickedness. They are all like Sodom to me; the people of Jerusalem are like Gomorrah." **15** Therefore, this is what the LORD Almighty says concerning the prophets: "I will make them eat bitter food (*wormwood*), and drink poisoned water, because from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land."

Amos 5:7 (NIV) You who turn justice into bitterness (*wormwood*) and cast righteousness to the ground

Numbers 5:18 (NIV) After the priest has had the woman stand before the LORD, he shall loosen her hair and place in her hands the reminder offering, the grain offering for jealousy, while he himself holds the bitter water that brings a curse.

Judges 5:23 (NIV) 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the LORD. 'Curse its people bitterly, because they did not come to help the LORD, to help the LORD against the mighty.'

EXAMPLES OF EFFECTS OF GENERATIONAL SIN

Descendants of Cain

- ❖ **Genesis 4:23 (NIV)** Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, listen to me; wives of Lamech, hear my words. I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for injuring me.
- ❖ **Cain** – Sin of rebellion goes down seven generations – Gen. 4:23
- ❖ **Ham** – Sin of seeing father's nakedness (perhaps Homosexual)
- ❖ **Genesis 9:22 (NIV)** Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside.
- ❖ **Cush** – Ham's son was the father of Nimrod.
- ❖ **Genesis 10:6-11 (NIV)** **6** The sons of Ham: Cush, Mizraim, Put and Canaan.**7** The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. **8** Cush was the father of Nimrod, who grew to be a mighty warrior on the earth. **9** He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD. **10** The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Akkad and Calneh, in Shinar. **11** From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah

Benjamites

- ❖ **Judges 1:21 (NIV)** The Benjamites, however, failed to dislodge the Jebusites, who were living in Jerusalem; to this day the Jebusites live there with the Benjamites.
- ❖ **Judges 2:1-2 (NIV)** **1**The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, "I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, **2**and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.' Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this?"

- ❖ **Judges 2:10-13 (NIV) 10** After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. **11** Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. **12** They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the LORD to anger **13** because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

- ❖ **Judges 19:19-22 (NKJ) 19** although we have both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and bread and wine for myself, for your female servant, and for the young man *who is* with your servant; *there is no* lack of anything.” **20** And the old man said, “Peace *be* with you! However, *let* all your needs *be* my responsibility; only do not spend the night in the open square.” **21** So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank. **22** As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men,^[a] surrounded the house *and* beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, “Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him *carnally!*”
The effects of the earlier idol worship was now perversion which caused the men to desire sex with this Levite man.

- ❖ **Judges 19:25** They rape the Levite’s concubine.

- ❖ **Judges 20** the tribe of Benjamin would not participate in dealing with this sin.

- ❖ **I Samuel 9:21-23 (NKJ) 21** And **Saul answered and said, “Am I not a Benjamite,** of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?” **22** Now Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the hall, and had them sit in the place of honor among those who were invited; there *were* about thirty persons. **23** And Samuel said to the cook, “Bring the portion which I gave you, of which I said to you, ‘Set it apart.’ ”

- ❖ **I Samuel 13:6-7 (NKJ) 6** When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits. **7** And *some of* the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he *was* still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.
Saul makes a sacrifice without waiting for Samuel.

❖ **I Samuel 15:20-23 (NKJ) 20** And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. **21** But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.” **22** So Samuel said: “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. **23** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he also has rejected you from being king.”

Saul is disobedient again

❖ **II Samuel 16:5-6 (NKJ) 5** Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name *was* Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came. **6** And David said to Abishai and all his servants, “See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now *may this* Benjamite?...”

❖ **I Samuel 18:10-11 (NKJ) 10** And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played *music* with his hand, as at other times; but *there was* a spear in Saul’s hand. **11** And Saul cast the spear, for he said, “I will pin David to the wall!” But David escaped his presence twice.

Attempted murder of David

❖ **I Samuel 28:7 (NKJ)** Then Saul said to his servants, “Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.” And his servants said to him, “In fact, *there is* a woman who is a medium at En Dor.”

Saul engages in occult activity.

❖ **II Samuel 1:4 (NKJ)** Then David said to him, “How did the matter go? Please tell me.” And he answered, “The people have fled from the battle, many of the people are fallen and dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also.

Saul commits suicide

- ❖ **II Samuel 16:5-8 (NKJ) 5** Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name *was* Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came. **6** And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men *were* on his right hand and on his left. **7** Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: “Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue! **8** The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you *are caught* in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!”
Shimei the Benjamite curses David in the hour of his humiliation by Absalom

IS GENERATIONAL BONDAGE FAIR?

- ❖ **Ezekiel 18:25-29 (NIV) 25** Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, O house of Israel: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? **26** If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin, he will die for it; because of the sin he has committed he will die. **27** But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life. **28** Because he considers all the offenses he has committed and turns away from them, he will surely live; he will not die. **29** Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

What About Numbers 23:23

- ❖ **Numbers 23:23** There is no sorcery against Jacob, no divination against Israel. It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, ‘See what God has done!’

Examples of Generational Sin

- ❖ **Leviticus 26:39 (NIV)** Those of you who are left will waste away in the lands of their enemies because of their sins; also because of their fathers' sins they will waste away.
- ❖ **Numbers 14:33 (NIV)** Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the desert.
- ❖ **I Samuel 2:30-33 (NIV) 30** Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that your house and your father's house would minister before me forever.' But now the LORD declares: 'far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. **31** The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your family line **32** and you will see distress in my dwelling. Although good will be done to Israel, in your family line there will never be an old man. **33** Every one of you that I do not cut off from my altar will be spared only to blind your eyes with tears and to grieve your heart, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life.
- ❖ **I Samuel 3:13-14 (NIV) 13** For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them. **14** Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli, 'the guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"
- ❖ **I Kings 14:9-11 (NIV) 9** You have done more evil than all who lived before you. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have provoked me to anger and thrust me behind your back. **10** Because of this, I am going to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam. I will cut off from Jeroboam every last male in Israel-- slave or free. I will burn up the house of Jeroboam as one burns dung, until it is all gone. **11** Dogs will eat those belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city, and the birds of the air will feed on those who die in the country. The LORD has spoken!'
- ❖ **Job 21:19-21 (NIV) 19** God stores up a man's punishment for his sons.' Let him repay the man himself, so that he will know it! **20** Let his own eyes see his destruction; let him drink of the wrath of the Almighty. **21** For what does he care about the family he leaves behind when his allotted months come to an end?

BREAKING GENERATIONAL BONDAGE

Identification Repentance

- ❖ **1 Peter 1:18 (NIV)** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

- ❖ **Leviticus 26:40 (NIV)** But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their fathers-- their treachery against me and their hostility toward me,

- ❖ **Nehemiah 1:5-7 (NIV)** **5** Then I said: "O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, **6** let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. **7** We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses."

- ❖ **Nehemiah 9:32-35 (NIV)** **32** Now therefore, O our God, the great, mighty and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love, do not let all this hardship seem trifling in your eyes-- the hardship that has come upon us, upon our kings and leaders, upon our priests and prophets, upon our fathers and all your people, from the days of the kings of Assyria until today. **33** In all that has happened to us, you have been just; you have acted faithfully, while we did wrong. **34** Our kings, our leaders, our priests and our fathers did not follow your law; they did not pay attention to your commands or the warnings you gave them. **35** Even while they were in their kingdom, enjoying your great goodness to them in the spacious and fertile land you gave them, they did not serve you or turn from their evil ways.

- ❖ **Jeremiah 3:20-25 (NIV) 20** But like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me, O house of Israel," declares the LORD. **21** A cry is heard on the barren heights, the weeping and pleading of the people of Israel, because they have perverted their ways and have forgotten the LORD their God. **22** Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding." "Yes, we will come to you, for you are the LORD our God. **23** Surely the commotion on the hills and mountains is a deception; surely in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel. **24** From our youth shameful gods have consumed the fruits of our fathers' labor-- their flocks and herds, their sons and daughters. **25** Let us lie down in our shame, and let our disgrace cover us. We have sinned against the LORD our God, both we and our fathers; from our youth till this day we have not obeyed the LORD our God.

- ❖ **Acts 9:15 (NAS)** But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

- ❖ **Philippians 3:5-6 (NAS) 5** circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; **6**as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

- ❖ **Daniel 9**

GENERATIONAL BLESSINGS

- ❖ **Exodus 20:6 (NKJ)** but showing love to a thousand of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- ❖ **Psalm 112:2 (NKJ)** His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- ❖ **Psalm 103:17-18 (NKJ)** But from everlasting to everlasting the LORD's love is with those who fear Him, and his righteousness with their children's children-- with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey him.
- ❖ **Jeremiah 32:18 (NKJ)** You show love to thousands but bring the punishment for the fathers' sins into the laps of their children after them. O great and powerful God, whose name is the LORD Almighty,
- ❖ **2 Timothy 1:5 (NKJ)** I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE GENERATIONAL LINE

- ❖ 5 Generations back - 62 Ancestors
- ❖ 10 Generations Back - 2046
- ❖ 25 Generations Back - 67,108,864
- ❖ 50 Generations Back - 2.252 x 10¹⁵
- ❖ 100 Generations Back- 2.536 x 10³⁰
- ❖ 300 Generations Back- 4.074 x 10⁹⁰

WHAT GENERATES A BLESSING OR A CURSE

Job 1:6 (NKJ) Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

❖ Christ

Psalm 115:12-15 (NKJ) **12** The LORD has been mindful of *us*; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. **13** He will bless those who fear the LORD, *both* small and great. **14** May the LORD give you increase more and more, you and your children. **15** *May you be* blessed by the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

Mark 11:13-14 (NKJ) **13** And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. **14** In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard *it*.

Galatians 3:13-14 (NKJ) **13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." **14** He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

❖ Idolatry

Deuteronomy 27:15 (NKJ) 'Cursed *is* the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets *it* up in secret.' "And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen!'

Deuteronomy 5:7-9 (NKJ) **7** 'You shall have no other gods before Me. **8** 'You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness *of anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; **9** you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me,

Jeremiah 44:8 (NKJ) 8 in that you provoke Me to wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense to other gods in the land of Egypt where you have gone to dwell, that you may cut yourselves off and be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth?

❖ **Spoken Word**

Ephesians 4:29 (NKJ) Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Matthew 12:35-36 (NIV) 35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. **36** But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

Psalm 109:3 (NIV) With words of hatred they surround me; they attack me without cause.

Psalm 109:17-18 (NIV) 17 He loved to pronounce a curse-- may it come on him; he found no pleasure in blessing-- may it be far from him. **18** He wore cursing as his garment; it entered into his body like water, into his bones like oil.

Psalm 109:21-25 (NIV) 21 But you, O Sovereign LORD, deal well with me for your name's sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me. **22** For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. **23** I fade away like an evening shadow; I am shaken off like a locust. **24** My knees give way from fasting; my body is thin and gaunt. **25** I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads. For he stands at the right hand of the needy one, to save his life from those who condemn him.

Proverbs 11:9 (NKJ) The hypocrite with *his* mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

James 3:6 (NIV) The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

James 3:9 (NIV) With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.

Psalms 101:7 (NKJ) He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; he who tells lies shall not continue in my presence.

Leviticus 19:16 (NIV) "Do not go about spreading slander among your people. "Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the LORD.

Isaiah 59:3-6 (NIV) **3** For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things. **4** No one calls for justice; no one pleads his case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil. **5** They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin a spider's web. Whoever eats their eggs will die, and when one is broken, an adder is hatched. **6** Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands.

Proverbs 12:18 (NIV) Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 18:4 (NIV) The words of a man's mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.

Proverbs 25:18 (NIV) Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is the man who gives false testimony against his neighbor.

Psalms 57:4 (NIV) I am in the midst of lions; I lie among ravenous beasts-- men whose teeth are spears and arrows, whose tongues are sharp swords.

Psalm 55:21 (NIV) His speech is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords.

Proverbs 30:11-14 (NIV) **11** "There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers; **12** those who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not cleansed of their filth; **13** those whose eyes are ever so haughty, whose glances are so disdainful; **14** those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour the poor from the earth, the needy from among mankind.

Psalm 64:2-4 (NIV) **2** Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked, from that noisy crowd of evildoers. **3** They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim their words like deadly arrows. **4** They shoot from ambush at the innocent man; they shoot at him suddenly, without fear.

Psalm 64:7-8 (NIV) **7** But God will shoot them with arrows; suddenly they will be struck down. **8** He will turn their own tongues against them and bring them to ruin; all who see them will shake their heads in scorn.

❖ Self Cursing

Examples of Self Cursing:

"I believe I am coming down with something"

"I could die"

"My arthritis"

"You are making me crazy"

"I'm no good"

"It doesn't matter what I do it won't work anyway."

"That won't work"

Proverbs 4:20-22 (NIV) **20** My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. **21** Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; **22** for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.

Proverbs 6:2 (NKJ) You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth.

Proverbs 10:11 (NIV) The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.

Proverbs 10:21 (NIV) The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgment.

Proverbs 11:11 (NIV) Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.

Proverbs 12:18 (NIV) Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Proverbs 15:4 (NIV) The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.

Proverbs 16:23-24 (NIV) 23 A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction. **24** Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJ) Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Matthew 15:11 (NIV) What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'

Matthew 15:18-19 (NIV) 18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.' **19** For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

❖ **Giving to Others**

Malachi 3:8-12 (NKJ) 8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. **9** You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, *even* this whole nation. **10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing that *there will not be room enough to receive it*. **11** “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” says the LORD of hosts; **12** and all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” says the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 7:7 (NKJ) “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matthew 7:1-4 (NKJ) 1 “Judge not, that you be not judged. **2** For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. **3** And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? **4** Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye?”

Luke 6:38 (NKJ) Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Luke 6:27-29 (NKJ) 27 “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. **29** To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold *your* tunic either.

Luke 6:32-38 (NKJ) 32 “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** And if you lend *to those* from

whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. **35** But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. **36** Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. **37** "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. **38** Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Deuteronomy 15:10 (NKJ) You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand.

Deuteronomy 24:19 (NKJ) "When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

❖ **Obedience to God**

Proverbs 16:20 (NKJ) He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

Jeremiah 17:5-7 (NIV) **5** This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. **6** He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. **7** "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.

Deuteronomy 27:26 (NIV) "Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

Deuteronomy 30:16 (NIV) For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28 (NKJ) 26 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: **27** the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; **28** and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

Malachi 2:2-3 (NIV) 2 If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor my name," says the LORD Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, **3** because you have not set your heart to honor me. "Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will spread on your faces the offal from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it.

Psalm 128:1-2 (NIV) 1 A song of ascents. Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. **2** You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.

Revelation 22:7 (NIV) "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

Luke 11:28 (NKJ) He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

❖ **Praise**

Psalm 67:5-7 (NKJ) 5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. **6** *Then* the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. **7** God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

❖ **Relationship to Parents**

Luke 11:28 (NIV) He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

Deuteronomy 27:16 (NKJ) 'Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

Proverbs 20:20 (NKJ) Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness.

❖ **Sex**

Proverbs 5:15-18 (NKJ) **15** Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. **16** Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? **17** Let them be only your own, and not for strangers with you. **18** Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth.

Deuteronomy 27:20-23 (NKJ) **20** 'Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' **21** 'Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' **22** 'Cursed is the one who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' **23** 'Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

Leviticus 18:22-26 (NKJ) **22** You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. **23** Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion. **24** 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. **25** For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants. **26** You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit *any* of these abominations, *either* any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you

❖ **Physical Objects**

1 Samuel 5:3-4 (NIV) 3 When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! They took Dagon and put him back in his place. **4** But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained.

2 Samuel 6:11 (NKJ) The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household.

Acts 19:11-12 (NKJ) 11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, **12** so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

Acts 19:19-20 (NKJ) 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned *them* in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and *it* totaled fifty thousand *pieces* of silver. **20** So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

2 Corinthians 6:17 (NIV) Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.

Leviticus 5:2 (NIV) Or if a person touches anything ceremonially unclean-- whether the carcasses of unclean wild animals or of unclean livestock or of unclean creatures that move along the ground-- even though he is unaware of it, he has become unclean and is guilty.

Numbers 16:26 (NIV) He warned the assembly, "Move back from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins.

Ezekiel 44:23 (NIV) They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.

Deuteronomy 7:25-26 (NIV) 25 The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the LORD your God. **26** Do not bring a detestable thing into your house or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. Utterly abhor and detest it, for it is set apart for destruction.

❖ **Attitude Towards God's Chosen People**

Genesis 12:1-3 (NKJ) 1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. **2** I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

The Land Can be Cursed Because of Sin

Leviticus 18:24-30 (NKJ) 24 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. **25** For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants. **26** You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit *any* of these abominations, *either* any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you **27** (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who *were* before you, and thus the land is defiled), **28** lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that *were* before you. **29** For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit *them* shall be cut off from among their people. **30** 'Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that *you* do not commit *any* of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I *am* the LORD your God.'"

Zephaniah 2:5 (NIV) Woe to you who live by the sea, O Kerethite people; the word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines. "I will destroy you, and none will be left."

Zephaniah 2:9 (NIV) Therefore, as surely as I live," declares the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, "surely Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah-- a place of weeds and salt pits, a wasteland forever. The remnant of my people will plunder them; the survivors of my nation will inherit their land."

Numbers 35:33 (NIV) 'Do not pollute the land where you are. Bloodshed pollutes the land, and atonement cannot be made for the land on which blood has been shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it.

Psalms 106:36-39 (NIV) **36** They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. **37** They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. **38** They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood. **39** They defiled themselves by what they did; by their deeds they prostituted themselves.

Ezekiel 9:9 (NIV) He answered me, "The sin of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great; the land is full of bloodshed and the city is full of injustice. They say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land; the LORD does not see.'

Isaiah 24:5 (NIV) The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant.

2 Samuel 21:1 (NIV) "During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of the LORD. The LORD said, "It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death." The king summoned the Gibeonites and spoke to them. (Now the Gibeonites were not a part of Israel but were survivors of the Amorites; the Israelites had sworn to them, but Saul in his zeal for Israel and Judah had tried to annihilate them.)

Ezekiel 14:13-20 (NIV) 13 "Son of man, if a country sins against me by being unfaithful and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its food supply and send famine upon it and kill its men and their animals, **14** even if these three men-- Noah, Daniel and Job-- were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign LORD. **15** "Or if I send wild beasts through that country and they leave it childless and it becomes desolate so that no one can pass through it because of the beasts, **16** as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if these three men were in it, they could not save their own sons or daughters. They alone would be saved, but the land would be desolate. **17** "Or if I bring a sword against that country and say, 'Let the sword pass throughout the land,' and I kill its men and their animals, **18** as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if these three men were in it, they could not save their own sons or daughters. They alone would be saved. **19** "Or if I send a plague into that land and pour out my wrath upon it through bloodshed, killing its men and their animals, **20** as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if Noah, Daniel and Job were in it, they could save neither son nor daughter. They would save only themselves by their righteousness.

Leviticus 26:4-10 (NIV) 4 I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit. **5** Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land. **6** "I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove savage beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country. **7** You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall by the sword before you. **8** Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you. **9** "I will look on you with favor and make you fruitful and increase your numbers, and I will keep my covenant with you. **10** You will still be eating last year's harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new.

Malachi 4:6 (NIV) He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

Habakkuk 2:16-17 (NAS) 16...And utter disgrace will come upon your glory. **17**"For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, and the devastation of its beasts by which you terrified them, because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land, to the town and all its inhabitants.

Final Words

❖ Is it possible that I would never need to suffer?

1 Peter 3:14 (NIV) But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."

1 Peter 4:14 (NIV) If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

James 1:12(NIV) Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

II Corinthians 10:4-6 (NKJ) 4 For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **5** casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, **6** and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJ) 19Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.