

Signs Of A Curse

'As many as are of the works of the Law (of Moses) are under a curse for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to obey all the things written in the Book of the Law." It is evident no one is justified by the Law before God for, 'The righteous will live by faith' ... Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the Law having become a curse for us as it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (the wooden cross)" (Galatians 3:10 to 13).

'The eyes of both of them (Adam and Eve) were opened and they knew they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. They heard the voice of God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of God among the trees of the garden. God called to Adam and said, "Where are you?"

Adam said, "I heard Your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked and I hid myself."

God said, "Who told you, you were naked? Have you eaten from the Tree I commanded you not to eat from?"

Adam said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the Tree and I ate."

God said to Eve, "What is this you have done?"

Eve said, "The serpent deceived me and I ate."

God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all creatures and above every animal of the field. On your belly you will go and you will eat dust all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring. He will bruise your head and you will bruise His heel."

To Eve, God said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth. In pain you will bring forth children. Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you."

To Adam, God said, "Because you have listened to your wife's voice and have eaten from the Tree of which I commanded you not to eat from, cursed is the ground because of your sin. In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles will it bring forth to you and you will eat the herb of the field. By the sweat of your face will you eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. You are dust and to dust you will return."

Adam named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all humans. God made coats of skins for Adam and Eve and clothed them. God said, "Behold, Adam has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil. If he puts forth his hand and takes of the Tree of Life and eats and lives forever ..." Therefore God sent Adam out from the Garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. God drove out Adam and placed Cherubim at the east of the Garden of Eden and the flame of a sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the Tree of Life' (Genesis 3:7 to 24).

The serpent in the Garden of Eden was actually the lying, cheating, deceptive devil in the guise of some kind of snake-like creature. It would not have been the animal as we know it, but because the devil chose to take on the guise of a serpent, all snakes have been cursed. Rebellion against God has always brought a curse. When the devil, who was once the anointed cherub and head of heavenly worship (he was never an archangel), rebelled against God he was immediately eternally cursed and that happened before Adam and Eve were created. When the devil deceived Eve he acted alone.

Eve was deceived but Adam sinned by disobeying God's spoken word, which brought all humanity under the control of the devil. As soon as sin entered the human race God cursed everything He had just finished creating. The curses spoken by God will remain until this earth is burned up. If we study the curses line by line we will see there is more to those curses than we realise. Things humans are fully aware of now, did not exist before Adam sinned. Shame, embarrassment, sensing hot and cold, fear, blaming each other, pain, humiliation, toil, rejection and death were all instant results of Adam's disobedience. Firstly, Adam and Eve immediately became aware they were naked and the shame of that was new to them. To cover their embarrassment they made flimsy garments out of leaves. They became aware of temperature and heard God's voice in the cool of the evening. They felt afraid because God was near. Adam blamed God for giving him Eve then he blamed Eve for giving him the fruit. Eve blamed the 'serpent' for deceiving her. They suffered pain and humiliation for the first time ever. Adam had to work hard instead of being able to eat of whatever was in the garden. They were rejected by God and sent out of the Garden of Eden. That would have been a crushing blow. How terrible it would have been to experience God's rejection. They experienced grief for the first time ever when Cain murdered Abel. This is just the overall picture. These things were the outcome of the curse over all of the creation on earth but it goes much deeper. To make Adam and Eve's coats of skins (plural), God had to sacrifice animals. Those animals would have been the very first deaths on earth, even before Abel's death. Notice the flimsy clothes they sewed for themselves were not sufficient to keep them warm in the cool weather so God had to make them coats. Before sin came along, feeling cold, the shame of being naked before God or fear of being seen naked did not happen. They were all new negative emotions.

'God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all creatures and above every animal of the field. On your belly you will go and you will eat dust all the days of your life." The serpent was cursed more than any other creature on earth because it deceived Eve. From then on, all snakes would slither around on their bellies so one can assume before they were cursed, snakes had legs much like lizards do today. Eating 'dust' means they became carnivorous because all animals were created out of dust. 'Out of the ground God formed every animal and every bird' (Genesis 2:19), so by eating 'dust' we can assume before they were cursed, snakes were herbivorous.

"I will put enmity (animosity) between you and the woman, between your offspring and her Offspring (Jesus). He (Jesus) will bruise your head and you (the devil) will bruise His heel (at the crucifixion)." Along with this curse the Lord cryptically proclaimed the coming of the future Messiah. The enmity between the two mentioned 'offspring's' meant there would always be trouble between humans and unseen evil forces. From that day onwards there has been spiritual enmity between the devil and women. But it got worse. To Eve, God said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth. In pain you will bring forth children. Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you." We only have to see the terrible oppression of some women around the world to understand this particular curse. The curse became personal when Eve was cursed for believing the lies of the serpent. 'The serpent deceived Eve in his craftiness' (2 Corinthians 11:3). By reading the verse in Genesis 3:16 we can assume God created childbirth to be painless. Pain was never felt before the fall. For all those women out there who have suffered excruciating agony during childbirth, the loss of personal dignity, experienced serious discomfort, tearing, prolapse and other complications, menstrual problems, barrenness, miscarriage, still birth or cot death of babies, ovarian cysts, hot flushes and other dreadful menopausal difficulties, we now know all these things are a direct result of the curse on Eve and all women. Many women feel they cannot get by without their husband and this is a result of the curse. Domineering men who rule over their wives are also a result of the curse. Eve was once equal with Adam but after the curses were laid on their lives, suddenly women became subservient to men. There are women who are forced to wear certain types of clothing, covering themselves from head to foot; some girls are forced to marry at a young age; some women are raped, which is a control tactic by men; some cultures force young girls to suffer horrendously by female genital mutilation, which is senseless cruel, barbaric and unnecessary. The girls are usually cut with a blade without any anaesthetic in a filthy room. Other little girls are forced to watch as the child being mutilated screams in terror and pure agony. Imagine what those little girls go through as they await their 'turn' to be cruelly sliced and then sewn up with thorns. Any father who orders his young daughter to suffer in this senselessly cruel way would have to be possessed by the devil because only the devil could inspire such a terrible, cruel act. Mothers who watch or participate in this would be evil. This is not what God wants for girls and women. If you know any man with a daughter who wants his little girl to be tortured in that cruel way, speak out, tell him not to do that to his child. No loving father would ever allow his daughter to suffer such pain and trauma that causes terrible suffering for the rest of her life. Imagine a woman going into early labour, trying to give birth while her genitals are sewn up. Many would die in utter agony during childbirth. Any other crime against females is because of this curse laid on Eve. Women's subservience is also due to the curse. 'Let a woman learn in quietness with all subjection. I do not permit a woman to teach nor to exercise authority over a man but to be quiet, for Adam was first created then Eve. Adam was not deceived but Eve and being deceived (mankind) have fallen into disobedience' (1 Timothy 2:11 to 14). All women on earth have borne the greater effects of God's curses on Eve. Women have always suffered far more than men, yet the Bible says Eve did not sin but was deceived. It was Adam who sinned. Being deceived is not sin but acting on the deception and disobeying what she had been told was where the sin came in and as a result, she helped lead all mankind into the sin of disobedience. Even so, the curse on women was far greater than the curse on men. Eve was cursed in four different ways; Adam was cursed only once. All of these situations are a result of the curse placed over women because of Eve. Once people accept Jesus as their Saviour, the curses are not automatically lifted. The curse of pain and stress in childbirth and other women's reproductive problems placed over women because of Eve, must be prayed through and claimed for each individual medical problem and for each unborn child a Christian woman is expecting. Even after prayer some women still suffer from the effects of the curse.

To Adam God said, "Because you have listened to your wife's voice and have eaten of the Tree of which I commanded you saying, 'You will not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you. In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles will it bring forth to you and you will eat the herb of the field. By the sweat of your face will you eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken, for you are made of dust and to dust you will return." ... God sent Adam forth from the Garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken' (Genesis 3:14 to 23). Adam was cursed because he listened to Eve's deception instead of obeying what the Lord had told him before Eve was created. His sin was direct disobedience to the spoken Word of God. If only Adam had rejected what Eve said, the fall would never have happened. God cursed the ground because of Adam was taken from dust. Adam was cursed with hard work but that was all. Why women were cursed four times as much as men is difficult to understand, especially when Eve had not

sinned. What is ironic about the fall, is the first thing Adam was tempted with was food (Genesis 3:6). Jesus is the Second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45 to 47) and the first thing Jesus was tempted with was food (Matthew 4:3) but He was able to overcome the temptation. When Adam sinned, God cursed mankind to eternal damnation, He cursed the ground, animals, plants and we can see the result of those curses just by looking around. Before sin there were no thorns, thistles, barbs, hard spikes on cactus plants, prickles in the grass, stinging nettles, toxic leaves, poisonous fruit or even rotting fruit. The crown of thorns placed on Jesus' head removed the curse on the ground but believers must pray over their land and claim the promise of the broken curse. Likewise if we own a farm, we must claim the promise of blessing over our own land for the Lord to remove blight, mildew, locusts, drought and other results of the curse. Only through accepting Jesus, submitting to God and through much prayer, can we receive the blessings promised to us. If the blessings are not claimed, the curse remains. How many farmers who believe in Jesus realise mildew and blight on their fruit trees are a result of the curse placed on Adam? Locusts and drought are also the results of the curse. Farmers and other local people who attend church need to pray these things through and claim the blessings given to us when Jesus died on the 'tree' – the wooden cross soaked in His blood. Before sin came, food grew in abundance but after sin came, food became scarce and man had to work in gardens to grow food for themselves. Ancient gardens have been unearthed in Mesopotamia where Adam and Eve first began their post-sin lives. Earthquakes, volcanoes, storms, drought, floods and deserts are all a result of the ground being cursed. Deserts were once lush rainforests and archaeologists have found that to be true all over the world.

Because of Adam's sin, there are two death curses, one is personal death of our mortal body and the second is spiritual or eternal death. Our bodies will die, of that we all know, but the curse of the second death of damnation remains on every person, and the one and only way to save ourselves from eternal death or the second death is to accept Jesus as our Saviour and we must obey God's commands for our individual lives. Mankind is not automatically removed from the curse of damnation and other curses placed on us. Death came from the curse. Nothing had ever died before sin came. 'You will not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil for in the day you eat of it, you will surely die' (Genesis 2:17). The first animals to die were the ones slain to make clothes for Adam and Eve. The first person to die anywhere on earth was righteous Abel. Cain murdered Abel out of jealousy. 'Cain said to Abel, "Let us go into the field." When they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel and killed him' (Genesis 4:8). 'On you (the ungodly) may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zachariah' (Matthew 23:35). 'By faith, Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he had testimony given to him, he was righteous, God testifying with respect to his gifts and through it Abel, being dead, still speaks to us' (Hebrews 11:4).

With sin in the world, animals act differently than the way they were created to behave. 'Creation was subjected to weakness and decay, not of its own will but because of Him who subjected it, in hope the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of decay into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. The whole of creation groans and travails in pain together until now' (Romans 8:20 to 22). Sin brought about astonishing changes to animal behaviour. Wasps that lay their eggs inside the abdomen of a grub to slowly eat the grub alive from the inside, would never have done that before sin came. Wasps, bees and other stinging insects would never have hurt anyone. No animals would have been poisonous, like snakes, scorpions or spiders. Animals did not kill for food because no animals ate meat before Noah's flood. All animals were herbivores. Animals that are now carnivores would have eaten plants that produce protein. No person ate meat before Noah's flood but were given permission to eat meat after the flood so humans became omnivores. 'Every moving thing (animal, bird, fish) that lives will be food for you. I have given every green plant to you for food' (Genesis 9:3).

Plants behave differently than the way they would have if there were no sin. For example, the carnivorous pitcher plant would never have devoured insects or small mammals as they do now. Coral reefs would not fight to the death to survive. Watching coral fight and jostle for position is quite eerie. Flowers would not die but would continue to bloom. Fruit trees would produce fruit all year round. 'By the river on its bank, on this side and on that side, will grow every tree for food, whose leaf will not wither, neither will its fruit fail. It will bring forth new fruit every month because its waters issue out of the sanctuary. Its fruit will be for food and its leaf for healing' (Ezekiel 47:12). 'On this side of the river and on that side was the Tree of Life, bearing twelve kinds of fruits, yielding its fruit every month' (Revelation 22:2). Weather patterns have also changed dramatically. There was once heavy dew at night that watered the entire earth (Genesis 2:6). The climate was perfect. There were no storms, tornados, hurricanes, cyclones, floods, monsoon rains, hail, snow, harsh winters or hot summers. That all came about because of the cursed ground.

All of mankind, all animals and all of the earth were changed for the worse because of sin. Shockingly, sin entered heaven after Adam's sin too. We know the devil fell into sin before creation about 6,000 years ago but until Adam sinned, the devil was the only sinner. Many Christians think the disobedient angels fell at the

same time as the devil but scripture says differently. The devil acted alone when he deceived Eve. In the New Testament, Peter and Jude put the time of the angels' sin a long time after creation and after the fall of Adam and Eve. In fact the angels left heaven and sinned with innocent women only a couple of hundred years before Noah's flood. 'When men began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God (fallen angels) saw the daughters of men were beautiful and they took for themselves of all that they chose ... The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and also after that when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them' (Genesis 6:1 to 4). The result of the fallen angels' sin brought forth half human/half angel evil giant Nephilim who were destroyed in Noah's flood. Hundreds of skeletons of people between eight and twelve feet tall have been unearthed all over the world. 'God did not spare fallen angels when they sinned, but cast them down to hell and committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for Judgment Day and He did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah with seven others, a preacher of righteousness, when God brought a flood on the world of the ungodly' (2 Peter 2:4 & 5). 'Angels who did not keep their first domain (of holiness) but deserted their own dwelling place (heaven). He has kept in everlasting bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day' (Jude 1:6).

What Adam did was absolutely terrible. When he disobeyed the spoken Word of God he brought down mankind, the whole animal world, plant life, the ground including mountains, rocks, the sea and sea creatures and because of those disobedient angels, the sin of mankind reached up as far as heaven so there are evil beings in heaven that cause offence. 'Principalities and powers in heavenly places ... We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, the world's rulers of the darkness of this age and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places' (Ephesians 3:10; 6:12). Evil spirits are not angels, they are the evil spirits of the Nephilim that were destroyed during Noah's flood. Their bodies died but their wicked spirits remained on earth to vex mankind. One day everything in the Kingdom of God that causes offence will be removed. 'The Son of Man will send forth His holy angels and they will gather out of the Kingdom of God all causes of offence and all who do wickedly and will cast them into the furnace of fire' (Matthew 13:41 & 42). One day there will be no place in heaven for wicked beings (Revelation 12:8).

'I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable things and have filled My inheritance with their abominations' (Jeremiah 16:18). The Lord is going to solve the problem of the cursed earth and defiled heaven by first shaking the earth then by burning it up. Read the following verses from Isaiah chapter 24:1. 'Behold, God will make the earth empty, will make it waste, will turn it upside down and scatter its inhabitants. 2. It will be with all people ... 3. The earth will be utterly emptied and utterly laid waste for God has spoken this word. 4. The earth will mourn and fade away. The world will languish and fade away. The lofty people of the earth languish. 5. The earth is polluted under its inhabitants because they have transgressed the Laws (of God), violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. 6. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth and those who dwell therein are found guilty. The inhabitants of the earth are burned and few men left ... 10. The confused city is broken down ... 11. All joy is darkened. The happiness of the land is gone. 12. The city is left in desolation and destruction. 13. It will be so in the midst of the earth among the peoples as the shaking of an olive tree as the gleanings when the vintage is done ... 17. Fear the pit (hell) and the snare (of the devil), you who inhabitant the earth. 18. It will happen, he who flees from the noise of the fear will fall into the pit and he who comes up out of the midst of the pit will be taken in the snare for the windows on high are opened and the foundations of the earth tremble. 19. The earth is utterly broken. The earth is torn apart. The earth is shaken violently. 20. The earth will stagger like a drunken man and will sway back and forth like a hammock. Its disobedience will be heavy on it and it will fall and not rise again. 21. It will happen in that day, God will punish the army of the high ones on high (evil spirits) and the kings of the earth on the earth. 22. They will be gathered together as prisoners are gathered in the pit and will be shut up in the (eternal) prison'.

The Bible reveals to us, because of all the sin on earth and in heaven, this heaven is going to be utterly destroyed by fire along with the earth, sun, moon and stars. 'The heavens that are now and the earth ... have been stored up for fire ... The heavens will pass away with a great noise and the sun, moon and stars will be dissolved with fervent heat and the earth and the works in it will be burned up ... All these things will be destroyed like this ... The burning heavens will be dissolved and the sun, moon, stars and earth will melt with fervent heat' (2 Peter 3:7, 10 to 12). If Adam had not sinned, neither would the fallen angels have sinned because they did not leave heaven and sin until after sin had entered the world. That is how serious the disobedience of Adam was. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and every living thing in heaven and on earth. Adam was the first being ever, to be created in the likeness and image of God and when he sinned, he affected the whole of creation in heaven and on earth. Because this heaven and earth have been defiled by so much sin and death, the Lord promised to create a brand new heaven and earth for all His obedient people to dwell in and enjoy. Only people who have accepted Jesus and who live righteously will live on the newly created earth. 'According to His promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth in which only righteousness dwells' (2 Peter 3:13). 'Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth ... The new heavens and the new earth which I will make will remain before Me, says the Lord' (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22). 'I

(John) saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth have been destroyed and the sea is no more' (Revelation 21:1).

The Lord God cursed every person, animal, plant and even the ground but after Noah's flood, He promised not to put any more curses onto anything. 'The Lord smelled the pleasant aroma and said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake because the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike everything living as I have done"' (Genesis 8:21). From the time of Noah's flood, God no longer curses anything. Although our Saviour has come and redeemed many, the original curses put onto mankind will remain until this earth is destroyed. Although people can be born again, they still have to work hard for a living. Women still have uncomfortable and painful pregnancies and childbirth. The gift of eternal life, healings, a close walk with God and baptism in the Holy Spirit are all results of the cross and the blood of Jesus. The curses from God covered three areas; material, physical and spiritual. Our redemption covers these same three areas. 'I pray you may prosper and be healthy as your soul prospers' (3 John 1:2). If we walk with God we do not have to pursue blessings, they are bestowed on us and toiling does not increase them (Proverbs 10:22).

People who disobey God can bring curses down on themselves and their families by their words and their actions. If we are disobedient, we walk under the curse and under the control of evil. For example, 'Cursed is the man who vexes a woman' ... and 'cursed is the man who vexes his neighbour by night or in secret' (Deuteronomy 27:19 & 24). It is the actions of an individual that can bring down a curse on themselves. Disobeying God brings a curse. 'If you will not listen to the voice of God ... all these curses will come on you and overtake you' (Deuteronomy 28:15). Listening to God's voice is vitally important. Our whole destiny and wellbeing is determined by whose voice we listen to. Listening to the voice of the Lord will bring blessing. Refusing to listen to God brings a curse as Adam and Eve discovered to their regret. After reading these following verses, people may be shocked to discover, they just might be living under a curse that needs to be broken over them through prayer and sometimes fasting. People may also be shocked to discover some of the things they suffer are a direct result of a curse. Curses can be brought down by an individual's own actions, or by ignoring God or by the actions of their family or by getting involved in evil spiritual practices like idol worship. We only have to look at the tragic lives of some people to see these curses are active in their lives. Only the blood of Jesus can break the curses, but we first need to be made aware, curses are real and how they can impact someone's life before we can deal with them. For example, if we are not aware constant ill health, poverty, failure, drought, skin disorders, barrenness and a host of other vexing problems can be a result of a curse, then no matter how much we pray, nothing will improve. Curses need to be dealt with differently than other problems. Only Holy Spirit filled people who walk with God and have their names written in the Book of Life in heaven have the spiritual authority from God to break a curse over a fellow believer's life. The life of a cursed person is under the control of evil spirits that have to be cast out of their lives. 'Jesus called to Himself His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal every disease and every sickness' (Matthew 10:1). Jesus said, "Behold, I give you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions (evil spirits) and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will in any way hurt you. Do not rejoice the evil spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:19 & 20).

The following curses are taken from Deuteronomy 28:16 to 66. Not all the curses are mentioned but there are enough to make people think about their lives. Verse 16: 'You will be cursed in the city (socially) and you will be cursed in the field (at work). 17: Your basket and your kneading trough (areas of food) will be cursed. 18: The fruit of your body (various problems with children), the fruit of your ground (your job), the increase of your livestock and the young of your flock (employment) will be cursed. 19: You will be cursed when you come in and you will be cursed when you go out (a troubled life). 20: The Lord will send on you cursing (foul language like the effects of Tourette's syndrome), confusion (mental illness) and rebuke (rejection) in all that you put your hand to do until you are destroyed because of the evil of your doings, by which you have forsaken Me (ignoring God). 21: God will make the pestilence (illnesses) cleave to you until He has consumed you from off the land, wherever you go. 22: God will strike you with consumption (tuberculosis, lung diseases, asthma, emphysema, breathing difficulties), with fever (meningitis and similar illnesses), with inflammation (arthritis), with fiery heat (stroke), with the sword (violence), with blight, with mildew (fungus infections) and they will pursue you until you perish. (Do people realise arthritis could be a sign of a curse? Do farmers realise blight and mildew on their crops could be a sign of a curse on their land or household?) 23: Your sky over your head will be brass and the earth under you will be iron (meaning God will not answer prayer). 24: God will make the rain of your land powder and dust (drought, dust storms, deserts) from the sky will it come down on you, until you are destroyed ... 26: Your dead body will be food to birds of the sky and to the animals of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away. (Do people realise being attacked by animals is a result of a curse?) 27: God will strike you with the boil of Egypt (abscesses), with tumours (cancer), with scurvy (lack of nourishment) and with the itch (rashes, psoriasis, eczema, dermatitis) of which you cannot be healed. 28: God will strike you with madness (insanity, mental illness, schizophrenia), with

blindness and with astonishment of heart (heart attacks). 29: You will not prosper in your ways (poverty) and you will be only oppressed and robbed always and there will be none to save you. 30: You will build a house but not dwell therein (modern equivalent: having your house taken back by your mortgage lender). You will plant a vineyard but not use its fruit (poverty). 31: Your ox will be slain before your eyes and you will not eat of it, your donkey will be violently taken away from before your face and will not be restored to you (modern equivalent; having the car stolen and wrecked or repossessed). 32: Your sons and your daughters will be given to another people (adopted, abducted). Your eyes will look and fail with longing for them all day and there will be nothing in the power of your hand (to get them back). (Verse 41: You will father children but they will not be yours (divorce and remarriage). They will go into prison.) 35: God will strike you in the knees and in the legs with a sore boil (leg ulcers) of which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head ... 38: You will sow much seed in the field and gather little in for the locust will consume it (crops will fail). 39: You will plant vineyards and dress them but you will neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes for the worm will eat them (crops fail). 40: You will have olive trees throughout your borders but you will not anoint yourself with the oil for your olive (and other fruits) will drop its fruit ... 43: The foreigner (immigrants) in the midst of you will mount up above you higher and higher but you will go down lower and lower. 44: He will lend to you but you will not lend to him. He will be the head and you will be the tail. 45: All these curses will come on you and will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed because you did not listen to the voice of the Lord your God ... 48: You will serve your enemies whom God will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, in want of all things and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck (slavery, low wages) ... 65: You will find no ease and there will be no rest for the sole of your foot. God will give you a trembling heart (heart problems), failing eyes and pining of soul (depression). Your life will hang in doubt. You will fear night and day and have no assurance of your life. 66. In the morning you will say, "Would it were evening!" And at evening you will say, "Would it were morning!" You will suffer the fear of your heart, which you will fear, and for the sight of your eyes which you will see'. If you or anyone you know is suffering from any of these conditions, seeking God is the only answer.

According to these scriptures, lack of prosperity, mental disorders, emotional breakdown, despair, depression, inner agony, and many illnesses are a direct result of curses brought on by disobedience to God. The opposite of these conditions is peace. The chastisement for our peace was on Jesus (Isaiah 53:5; Romans 5:1). 'The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus' (Philippians 4:7). People usually endure these curses probably because they do not realise they are curses or because they do not realise Jesus has already delivered us from them and we need to claim them. Sadly, some people refuse to accept they can suffer from a curse, sometimes passed down from generation to generation, so they do not seek healing God's way but prefer to go to numerous doctors instead. Even God wonders why people suffer unnecessarily. 'Why should you be beaten more so you react more and more? Your whole head is sick and the whole heart faint. From the sole of your foot to the head there is no soundness in it. Wounds, welts and open sores. They have not been closed, bandaged or soothed with oil' (Isaiah 1:5 & 6). Jesus became a curse for us so we could go free (Galatians 3:13). He was beaten, He had thorns pressed down on His head, His entire body was afflicted but none of Jesus' wounds were cleansed or bandaged. By Jesus' wounds, healing was obtained for us (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24) – but we must seek healing. Having faith in Jesus can bring healing to every part of the physical human body, the mind, the emotions, the soul and severe poverty. It is the faith in the name of Jesus that heals and delivers.

Poverty does not belong to God's people. Extreme poverty is a result of a curse that is a direct result of disobedience to the voice of the Lord or because of involvement in witchcraft of any type. We need to understand the difference between being poor and real poverty. Jesus said we would always have the poor with us and whenever we want to we can help them (Mark 14:7). Real poverty is when people never have enough food, water, clothing or shelter. In this material world, some people think they are poverty stricken when they cannot afford a brand new expensive car. Genuine poverty is when there is nothing to eat, drink, wear or anywhere to sleep. Jesus had nothing before He died. He said, "Foxes have holes, birds have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to live" (Luke 9:58). In the hours before He died He experienced severe poverty. He was hungry because He had not eaten for about 24 hours; He cried out in thirst; He was cold because His clothing had been removed. He had a lack of all things material. He was buried in a borrowed tomb in a borrowed burial robe. Jesus suffered the poverty curse on our behalf so we could have abundance. 'You know the grace of our Lord Jesus, though He was rich (in His relationship with God), yet for your sakes He became poor so you, through His poverty might become (spiritually) rich' (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Rebellion brings the curses but so does stubbornness. Another sin God utterly hates is the sin of idolatry, which is akin to witchcraft. 'Rebellion is the same as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is the same as idolatry and having household idols' (1 Samuel 15:23). Any form of witchcraft, idolatry or occultic involvement brings down a curse on the person involved and their descendents. Freemasonry, fabianism, skull and bones, religious cults, fortune telling, taoism, tarot cards, ouija boards, horoscopes, superstition, witchcraft, wicca, iridology, reiki, keeping idols like buddha or hindu gods, hard rock music, thrash metal music, some

science fiction, illegal drugs, ornamental idols, some souvenirs, sorcery, divination, mediums, wizardry, worshipping the solstice and any other forms of the occult are all evil in the sight of God and will put you under a curse, and you may need deliverance from it. We are not to bring idols into our homes because if we do, we bring the curse with it. We can assure you, idols do not bring 'good luck' – they bring a curse. If you have an idol – such as a buddha at your front door, burn them or smash them to pieces and toss them in the rubbish. Utterly destroy them. Do not give them away because you will only curse another person with it (Deuteronomy 7:25 & 26). It is very important to realise, God has an intense hatred of all kinds of idolatry. It is an abomination to Him and provokes Him to anger (Deuteronomy 18:9 to 12; 32:16). All who do these things are an abomination to the Lord. The people who make the idols are cursed as are their children and grandchildren down to the fourth generation (Exodus 20:4 & 5; Deuteronomy 27:15). We are not to take part in any of these evil practices because it is sin and a snare.

We are warned not to make a covenant with anyone but God Himself (Exodus 23:32). Freemasonry is a very evil covenant. They think they are secret but they are not. Nobody can keep secrets from God. The royal arch degree acknowledges a god whose name is jabulon. 'Ja' is short for Jehovah; 'bul' is short for baal and 'on' is short for osirus, and any religion that combines God the Father with wicked gods is an abomination in the sight of the Lord; an incredible evil. If you or any members of your family have ever been involved with any of the above-mentioned branches of the occult or idol worship, you will most certainly need deliverance from its curse and from its grip. Not only you but also your whole family are under the curse down to the fourth generation. If there is any one of these wicked practices in the family, first break away from it and renounce it then seek healing and deliverance. A list of common indications of an occultic curse over a person's life or family can be: Early death, barrenness and repeated miscarriages or female problems, a history of mental and emotional breakdown, violence and an uncontrolled bad temper, hereditary and chronic sicknesses. The mark of a curse is that it goes from generation to generation. For example, repeated breakdown of marriage, family alienation and feuding; poverty and constant insufficiency; accident prone, a family history of suicides or unnatural deaths.

Words spoken by others can bring a curse. Spoken words like, "Is your daughter your favourite child? She will be the child you will loose." This is true. A 'Christian' woman said those words to another woman in church who had jokingly referred to her daughter as the favourite. In fact what she actually said was, her only daughter was her favourite daughter and her only son was her favourite son. Loving words from a loving mother. However, the evil so-called 'Christian' twisted what was said and her words placed a curse on the daughter who later died. We need to be very careful what we say. Words can bring a curse down on oneself. Spoken words like, "Oh, I am so sick and tired of this." The person continually saying that will end up very sick and very tired. A woman who continually said that phrase did begin suffering from serious difficulties with her heart making her very ill indeed plus she suffered from chronic fatigue. We need to be very careful what words and phrases we use. We need to think before we speak.

Extreme rebellion against authorities is another sign of a curse on a person's life. One example of extreme rebellion are the various motorcycle gangs, snivelling cowards who never do anything without their 'brothers'. They have an evil covenant. Most of them murder, rape, pillage, steal, are hideously violent, they ride in packs taking up entire streets so nobody can drive through, they torture anyone they believe 'deserve' it, they deal in illegal activities like drug dealing and many other rebellious activities and when they are arrested they whinge like infants, plead not guilty and pay for the best lawyers to get them off the charges then continue to behave in the same horrendous ways. They are useless to society. Those are people under a curse. There is no possible way people who behave like that will ever enter the Kingdom of God unless they repent and turn their backs on their evil ways and wholly follow God.

A curse is like a dark shadow that has been hovering over your life and has followed you everywhere, tripping you up and stopping you from succeeding. It can be destroyed, freeing you to live a new carefree, curse-free life. The frustration can be halted. If you have been a person who has all the hallmarks of success, yet just as you are about to make it something strange goes wrong and your success fails over and over again, that is a curse. If we totally break with and renounce the above practices and serve God, then we can expect increase and good health. If you have ever been involved with the occult, cults, sects, idolatry, gangs or other aspects of evil and you have never dealt with it in your life, for your healing and spiritual growth, it needs to be dealt with. Renounce any involvement in the occult, cults or so-called secret societies. Take a little time to consider your life and have a look and see if you have the hallmarks of a curse. If you have a chronically sick child, have a look at the family, then seek healing for the child. Find out if there has been anyone in your family who has been involved with these accursed things, because the effects of a curse carry down to the fourth generation. Thank the Lord God He set Jesus to break the effects of any curses in people's lives.

This is an exciting description of a street on the newly created earth where only righteousness dwells and where no curses can exist. 'According to God's promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells' (2 Peter 3:13). 'He showed me (Apostle John) a river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street. On this side of the river and on that was the Tree of Life, bearing twelve kinds of fruits, yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the Tree were for the healing of the nations. There will be no curses any more. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it and His servants serve Him. They will see His face and His name will be on their foreheads' (Revelation 22:1 to 4).

Amen and God bless you.

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