

Curses and Blessings

Deuteronomy 30:19,1

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore choose life, that both you and thy seed may live.

And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shall call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath driven thee.

Background Scripture: *And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.*

He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him saying, behold there is a people come out of Egypt: behold they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me.

Come now therefore, I pray thee, curses me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessed is blessed, and he whom thou curses is cursed. [Numbers 22:4-6].

Note: Balaam was not an Israelite but an internationally known priest-diviner. Balak believed that this man could place curses upon others (**vs.6**) by influencing the will of gods and spirits through his secret knowledge of sorcery, incantations and mysterious manipulations. Balaam may at one time have been a true follower of God (**vs.18**) who later departed from the faith and became a sorcerer. Like all false prophets he had no genuine concern for the honor of God or the holiness of God's people, Balaam led them into sin and immorality (**25:1-6; 31:16; Revelation 2:14**). For this he was killed (**31:8; 25:2**).

[Jeremiah 17:5-6]

Thus says the Lord; cursed is the man that trusts in man, and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert and shall not see when good comes; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

[Jeremiah 17:7-8]

Blessed is the man that trusts in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreads out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat comes, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of the drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Note: Those who trust centers in themselves and in human resources are destined for disappointment, spiritual poverty and ultimate loss. On the contrary, those who fully trust in the Lord will be blessed and ultimately rewarded with a godly inheritance. They will not be afraid or anxious in any of life's circumstances because their roots go down deep into God.

[Malachi 2:1-2]

And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory to My name says the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

Note: The priests had corrupted the ministry to which God had called them. They did not fear Him or revere His name in their ministry or in the exemplary, righteous life because of this, instead of receiving the blessings of **[Deuteronomy 28:15-68]**, they would experience the curse for disobedience mentioned there.

[Malachi 3:8-9]

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithe and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation.

Final Thought: *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangs from on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

And he took up this parable and said Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, come curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel.

How shall I curse, whom God has not cursed? Or how shall I defy, whom the Lord has not defied? [Galatians 3:13-14; Numbers 23:7-8].