



# The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 16.06.21

## BIBLE STUDY - LEVITICUS - 19.THE MANUAL OF HOLINESS - Leviticus 17-26

### Part 9 - GOD'S WORD ON FUTURE PROSPERITY- Blessings or Curses - Ch.26

#### INTRODUCTION

- In the world we are required to accept or refuse terms of agreements. Here God confronts the Children of Israel with the choice: to obey or disobey His Covenant.
- He lays out the consequences of obedience or disobedience - blessings or curses.
- The general message of this chapter:  
We are not subject merely to the circumstances of life. Obedience will bring blessing and Disobedience will bring curses. Our lives are not the result of "random happenings" - *Jeremiah 29:11*
- God has a right to lay these options before them. He rescued them (from slavery in Egypt) and has a claim on their lives.
- In the New Testament God still has a right to obedience from His people - we have been rescued from sin - he has "purchased us with His own blood."  
(*Rev.5:9; 1Peter 1:18-19; Acts 20:28; Romans 12:1;*)  
Paul states this twice in *1 Corinthians*.. "*You were bought at a price.*"  
We have been set free from sin to be slaves to righteousness. (*Rom.6:15-18*)
- Great parallel between Leviticus Chapter 26 and the Gospels:
  1. The blessings of obedience;
  2. The curses/consequences of disobedience; and
  3. The offer of forgiveness and restoration through repentance.

#### 1. THE BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE (vv 3-13) - "If you follow..."

5 Blessings of Obedience:

- A) The Blessing of Plenty (vv3-5)** - Man's basic need is food - 2 rainfalls a year were needed for the crops (heavy autumn and light spring rains). God promised to meet that need in abundance.
- B) The Blessing of Peace (v6)** - Heb. implies deeper meaning of word peace - security of the land within their boundaries - free from wild animals etc.
- C) The Blessing of Victory (vv7-8)**  
They will know victory over enemies who attack outside of their borders. Victories will be miraculous. They will be a victorious minority.
- D) The Blessing of Prosperity (vv9-10)**  
They will be blessed for their obedience as they were in Egypt. They will be blessed in growth of population and provision of food for that growing number of people. A continuation of the promise to Abraham concerning the number of his descendants.

### **E) The Blessing of His Presence (vv11-13)**

The ultimate blessing - to know God's presence. The presence of God was symbolised in the Temple, but God was not restricted to that and He would walk among His people if they were obedient.

God wants to display Israel as a shining example of Obedience. .... HOWEVER!  
If His Covenant is broken or ignored - there will be consequences.

## **2. THE CURSES/CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE (vv 14-39) - "If you will not listen..."**

- If they will not listen to God's word and obey it, they will not enjoy the Blessings of Obedience.
- God is not being vindictive, but treating them with respect in allowing them to choose good rather than evil.
- Whenever Moses delivered God's word it was the responsibility of the people to listen.

The consequences of not heeding God's voice:

**A) They will be cursed with defeat (vv14-17)** - They will be defeated and have a defeated spirit. No peace - no security of heart or mind.

[N.B. *vv18 "If after this you will not listen ..."* is repeated in *vv21,23 and 27*. These curses are progressive - God puts one curse on top of another..etc. but between them there is always room for repentance before the final curse - total destruction in *v38*.

The curses say with growing intensity : "Don't go this way!"]

**B) They will be cursed with drought (vv18-20)** - The land will not produce the food they need - God will break their pride.

**C) They will be cursed with wild beasts (vv21-22)** - They will not just be savaged by nations outside their borders, but by wild animals within.

**D) They will be cursed by Devastation (vv23-26)** - A picture of the nation dwelling behind its city walls, frightened, hungry and sick.

**E) They will suffer Total Destruction (vv27-39)** - A picture of a city experiencing the horrors of a siege: starvation, plagues, cannibalism, defeat and captivity. The temple and the city will lie in ruins and the dead will lie unburied. Any remnant left will live in terror and fear.

Sadly, we see both the blessings and mostly the curses in the History of Israel in the Old Testament, culminating in the besieging of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar and the people being taken into captivity.

**N.B. - verses 34-35 - between the Curses and Restoration:**

- The land enjoyed its 70 Sabbath years. (Sabbath Year was 1 in every 7 years)
- Therefore this means that in the 490 years between Saul and the people being taken captive, the Sabbaths had not been observed - so God gave the land the rest it was due whilst they were in captivity.
- You cannot break the laws of God's creation without suffering the consequences.

**3. THE POSSIBILITY OF RESTORATION (vv40-46)**

- No matter how disloyal they are, God is still their "Covenant God", who will remember His covenant with their ancestors;
- Their sin is serious and must be confessed and paid for; but
- God longs to be merciful and gracious, to forgive and to restore. (v44)

**2 Chronicles 36:15-21** - The Fall of Israel and its Captivity for 70 years until the Persian Empire defeat Babylon and King Cyrus of Persia reigns.

**BUT 2 Chron.36:22-23** - GOD'S FINAL WORD is not of judgment, but of love, mercy and restoration.

- Cyrus builds a temple again in Jerusalem and allows the Children of God to return there to worship once more. **God's promise of Restoration is fulfilled.**
- The Old Testament finishes on this hopeful note - *Malachi 4:1-5*

**APPLICATION**

**A) We can enjoy the Blessings of Obedience "through Christ"**

The Blessing of Plenty	<i>Matthew 6:33</i>
The Blessing of Peace	<i>John 14:27, 16:33; Romans 8:39</i>
The blessing of Victory	<i>1 Cor.15:57; Romans 8:37</i>
The Blessing of Prosperity	<i>Acts 2:42-47</i>
The Blessing of God's Presence	<i>John 1:14; Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:18</i>

**B) We can't suffer the curses because Jesus has borne the penalty for all our sin.**

We can still be disciplined by God - still a painful experience. *Hebrews 12:7-13*

**C) God offers restoration today!**

Men still disobey God's will today - the ultimate result - eternity without Him.

**But for those who hear His voice, respond to it and obey it,  
There is great Joy and Blessing**