

Blessings and Curses

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God's people have always been expected to obey His commands. In Leviticus 26 we read of some blessings that result from obedience as well as some curses that result from disobedience. Let us examine some of those blessings and curses.

Blessings

In Leviticus 26:3, God tells His people, "*If ye walk in my statutes and keep my commandments, and do them.*" This was the condition on which they would receive the blessings.

- 1.) **Rain** God promised them "*rain in due season*" and "*the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.*" Those who are familiar with agriculture know far too well how important rain in due season is. And we all have seen the results of a dry summer. How great to have the promise of rain!
- 2.) **Peace** God's people had the blessing of peace as long as they were obedient. They were able to lie down and not be afraid. God told them they would "*chase their enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.*" Five of them would chase an hundred, and a hundred would put ten thousand to flight. How great to have the promise of peace!
- 3.) **God's Presence** In addition to rain and peace in the land, God's people had the blessing of His presence, so long as they were obedient. He told them, "*I will have respect unto you...and establish my covenant with you.*" He would confirm His covenant with them and set his tabernacle among them, thus dwelling with the children of Israel. Furthermore He said, "*I will walk among you and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.*" He reminds His people that He is the LORD who delivered them from their bonds in Egypt.

What a comfort to have God on your side! "*If God is for us, who can be against us?*" (Romans 8:31). Remember Gideon's army against the Midianites in Judges 7? God told him that they were too many for Him to give the Midianites into their hands. Their army of 32,000 was already greatly outnumbered. God commanded Gideon to send those who were afraid away, leaving Gideon with 10,000 men to go up against the Midianites. God said, "*The people are yet too many.*" He then used lapping like a dog to cut the army down to 300 men, who went to battle with a trumpet, an empty pitcher, and a lamp (Judges 7:16). There was no doubt that their victory came as a result of God's presence! This is just one of many instances where God's people prospered due to the presence of God.

Curses

Just as there were rewards for obedience, disobedience did not go unpunished. God told His people *“But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments... I will also do this unto you”* (Leviticus 26:14-16). Let us examine some of these curses.

- 1.) **Terror** This included consumption, or a wasting disease, and “burning ague that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart” (Leviticus 26:16). Their enemies would consume of their seed that was sown.
- 2.) **Slain by Enemies** God’s people would no longer have His presence and He would *“set His face against”* them and *“walk contrary unto”* them (:17, 24). His soul even would abhor them. As a result, they would be slain by their enemies.
- 3.) **7X Punishment** We read in Leviticus 26:18, *“And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.”* And again in verse 28 He tells them he will *“chastise [them] seven times for [their] sins.”* Can you imagine being punished seven times for the sins that you commit? God promised also to bring seven times more plagues upon his people according to their sins (Leviticus 26:21).
- 4.) **Eat and Not be Satisfied** Leviticus 26:26 reads, *“And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.”*
- 5.) **Destruction** Total destruction would follow their disobedience. Their land would not produce crops, nor the trees produce fruit (:20). Wild beasts would rob them of their children and destroy their cattle, and make them few in number. Their high ways would become desolate (:22). God said he would *“cast [their] carcasses upon the carcasses of [their] idols.”* Their cities would be laid waste, and their sanctuaries brought unto desolation (:31). Those who were left alive would have faintness of heart and would flee though none pursueth them, God said the *“sound of a shaken leaf”* shall chase them.

Restoration

After they received the curses, there was still hope! God said, *“If they shall confess their iniquity”, “Then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and Isaac, and Abraham”* (Leviticus 26:40-42). They would receive back their land, and God would, once again be on their side.

Application

Let us remember today that there will be spiritual blessings and curses that we will receive based on our obedience to the will of God! If we obey, and remain faithful until death, we will receive that crown of life (Revelation 2:10). But if we fail to keep all of God’s commands we will suffer eternal damnation (Rom. 6:23).