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Curses and Blessings

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Curses and Blessings.

Topics.

- The meaning of cursed and accursed.
- Blessing and curses (Deuteronomy chapter 28).
- Israel, God's special and unique nation.
- Christ's blood flows back to the foundations of the earth.
- A curse that devours the earth.
- Curse of Jeconiah and the Virgin birth.
- Overview of Deuteronomy 28.
- From before birth, Israel was called a rebel.

THE MEANING OF CURSED AND ACCURSED

Cursed: embraces trouble, torment, affliction, misfortune and frequently denotes intense opposition and division.

Accursed comes from the Greek word (*katanathema and anathema*). *Katanathema*, literally means an imprecation of a curse. It refers to an anathema being placed upon a person, (especially one who blasphemes God). It carries the idea, of a religious ban being placed upon a thing, or upon a person being excommunicated, meaning they would be utterly cast out of their tribes, their families, and the nation of Israel, and would not receive any of the benefits of being one of its citizens.

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BLESSING AND CURSES (DEUTERONOMY CHAPTER 28)

At Mount Sinai in the wilderness Israel entered-into a covenant of blessing and cursing of life and death with the LORD, sadly they broke the covenant. Judah and Israel's woes expressed by the writer of Lamentations are a result of God's people forsaking their covenant with the LORD.

If Israel kept the covenant they would be blessed in the following ways:

- Their children would be blessed.
- Their land, fields, farms, cities, and towns would prosper.
- Their cattle and flocks would multiply in abundance.
- Fruit would be abundant on the trees of their orchards.
- The land would produce crops and grain in abundance.
- When they travelled out of the city and returned to it, they would be blessed.
- Their barns would be full and everything they did would prosper.
- They would be the head of all nations and not the tail.

- Their enemies would flee in terror and be defeated by them.
- They would be a holy people for the LORD.
- God would call them by His Name and all nations would see it.
- Prosperity would be so abundant they would lend and not borrow.

(All these are found in Deut. 28:1-13).

If Israel broke the covenant they would be cursed in the following ways:

- Trouble would come when they travelled out of the city and returned to the city.
- The woman would have difficulties in the birth of their children.
- Famine would be so great that they would eat the fruit of the womb to survive.
- Certain people would suffer madness, blindness, and confusion of mind.
- Frustration in all that they did would bring them to ruin.
- Disease, fever, boils, tumours, and scabs would be amongst their nation.
- The population would be reduced in number by all kinds of sickness and death.
- Birds and wild beasts would eat their bodies because no-one would bury them.
- Their land would suffer lack of rain and extreme drought.
- Locust, worms, and crickets would eat the fruit of their trees and their crops.
- Pestilence and disease would consume their flocks and their grain.
- They would be the tail and not the head of all nations.
- Their enemies would slaughter their cattle and sheep and rape their wives.
- Their sons and daughters would be taken into captivity and shown no mercy.
- They would live in poverty, be oppressed, and continually robbed.
- They would be defeated in battle, and their towns and cities invaded.
- Their enemies would lead them away to a foreign nation.
- Many would be scattered amongst the surrounding towns, cities, and villages.
- They would become a mockery and disgrace before all nations.
- Cries of sorrow fear and trembling would come upon them.
- Their enemies would take them captive and oppress them.
- They would be sold as male and female slaves and serve their pagan gods.

- Foreigners and strangers would possess their houses and eat their crops. (All these are found in Deut. 28:16-68).

Israel did break the covenant and God used Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon as his servant to bring all these plagues upon Israel. The armies of Babylon destroyed the city of Jerusalem, plundered the temple of God, and took all the sacred treasures of the temple and the people of Israel into captivity for seventy-years. During this seventy-years Israel's enemies occupied their houses and their farmlands. After Israel's seventy-year captivity in Babylon they never again turned to other gods, but sadly they did deny their Messiah the Christ when he came, but there is a glorious day coming when this will all change.

NOTE: the principle that applied to Israel does not apply to New Testament Christians. Those who belong to Christ are not under the Old Testament law and neither have they entered-into a legally binding covenant of blessing and cursing. New Testament Christians are saved by grace and their salvation is not earned by law or self-effort, but is a free-gift from God through faith in the lord Jesus Christ.

Claiming God's Old Testament promises and blessings today: If Christians today claim the blessings that God promised the children of Israel as a nation in a specific period of Gods history, they must also claim all the curses if they do not keep all the commandments God commanded the children of Israel to keep. Why would religious teachers of today who are under the New Testament Gospel of grace that has been purchased by the brutal, bloody, and cruel death of the Lord Jesus Christ tempt their congregations to believe in the Old Testament doctrine of tithing with such horrific curses attached to it if they fail to keep all the commandments of the LORD?

Perhaps one of the following three might answer this question:

1. They are driven by self, ego, pride and greed and the desire for financial gain.
2. Fear motivates these religious leaders rather than faith in the Spirit of God to move the heart of the people that they serve to give.
3. They have not bothered to question traditional religious thinking.

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There are today many students of religion who enter Bible Colleges with a mindset that is willing to accept everything that is taught simply because many of these teachers have spent years teaching the Bible and therefore, they never question what is being taught especially the doctrine of tithing. Perhaps this is because a religious leader with a congregation of hundreds tithing ten percent of all they earn supplies an excessive amount of income to those teaching the Old Testament commanded law of tithing. Religious teachers today who use the Old Testament commanded law of tithing to claim Gods' material blessings are doing God and the people they teach a great injustice since they never tell their followers that if Israel failed to keep all the commandments, they received all the above cursing's on their lives.

God's chosen people Israel could not keep all God's commandments what makes Christians today think they can? The law of tithing applied to a chosen people in a specific period in Gods history as a brilliant tax system for a unique nation. The people of Israel failed to keep all the LORD'S commandments and were scattered throughout every nation of the world. The death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ not only abolished every Old Testament ceremonial law including the law of tithing, but also introduced a totally new system of giving and a totally new way for God's people to gather-together. To discover these new ways, see the following title:

- Tithing (ON WEBSITE MENU) (esp. Tithing and Giving in the New Testament, in the index).

A summary of the blessing and curses: at the foot of Mount Sinai Israel entered-into a covenant of blessings and curses. If Israel did what was right before the LORD and obeyed the covenant God would bless their homes and their health, He would multiply their children and their livestock and bless their farms and prosper all that they put their hand to do, but if they broke the covenant and turned from God to worship idols and pagan gods their health would suffer, woman would be barren, their livestock would diminish, their farms would come to ruin and everything they put their hand to and had established would come to ruin and all their farms and land would be laid waste.

Israel were God's chosen people from the beginning all they had to do to be saved was to remain faithful to the covenant they had entered-into with the LORD at Mount Sinai and by faith believe in God's promise to Abraham.

ISRAEL, GOD'S SPECIAL AND UNIQUE NATION

The following verses show that the United Kingdom of Israel has always been God's special and unique nation unlike any other nation. God said:

- Israel was his son who he called out of Egypt and he loved them when they were a child (Hosea 11:1).
- He gave birth to Israel and carried them from the womb even to their old age. (Isaiah 46:3-4).
- Israel is his allotted heritage (Deut. 32:9) and the apple of his eye (Deut. 32:10).
- Israel is a people holy to him (Deut. 7:6) and his treasured possession (Deut. 14:2).

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The LORD has not spoken this way with any other nation, but God has not only spoken of Israel differently, but always dealt with them differently to any other nation:

- To Israel God gave the Ten Commandments and showed his great power. (Exodus 20:1-17).
- To Israel God declared his word, statutes, and his rules. (Rom. 9:4).
- To Israel God gave the prophets, the worship, and the promises. (Romans 3:4).
- To Israel belonged the covenant, the adoption, the patriarchs, and the glory. (Rom. 3:5).
- To Israel the oracles of God were entrusted. (Rom. 3:2).
- The people of Israel are the offspring of Abraham the father of faith. (Romans 9:7).
- From Israel's race came the Christ the Saviour of the world (Rom. 9:5).

Added to these God said:

- Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine. (Exod. 19:5).
- The LORD has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments. (Deut. 26:18).

The Psalmist wrote:

- God declared his word to Jacob, his statutes, and rules to Israel. He has not dealt this way with any other nation; they do not know his rules. Praise the LORD! (Psalm 147:19-20).

The LORD has not given any other nations such great privileges. These are the many reasons the Jews (especially the religious leaders of Jesus generation) considered themselves to be the holy race with God, and the Gentile nations to be the unclean race without God.

The thermometer of God's prophecy: it is true that Israel has been and still is a special nation to God, but since Christ death and resurrection salvation for both Jews and Gentiles is in the Lord Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, Israel remains a clear sign of where we are in prophecy concerning Christ's return. It could be said that they are the thermometer of God's prophecy much like the mercury on a natural thermometer measures the heat of the day and moves up the vertical red line warning us of impending danger when the heat of the sun is reaching temperatures that are dangerous for the good health of the skin and our well-being. Likewise, Israel can be seen as the mercury of Bible prophecy in the sense that world events that come upon the nation of Israel (especially Jerusalem) are signs that give us some insight as to how close we are to that glorious breathtaking and world changing day when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory. But God's focus during our present age for eternal salvation is upon creating a new nation in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles. This new nation is also called a new creation in Christ, the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the church, and the Kingdom of God.

For further information concerning this new nation God is building in Christ see the title:

- The Commonwealth of Israel, at the end of this chapter.

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CHRIST'S BLOOD FLOWS BACK TO THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH

Israel was God's chosen people from the beginning all they had to do to be saved was to remain faithful to the covenant they had entered-into with the LORD at Mount Sinai, and by faith believe in God's promise to Abraham. Peter in his letter and the book of Revelation show that the cleansing power of Christ's blood flows back to the foundation of the earth which means the faithful of the Old and New Testament are saved by the same Saviour and Redeemer. In the book of Revelations, it is written:

- All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8).

And Peter wrote:

- You were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot foreordained before the foundation of the world and manifest in these last times for you. (1 Peter 1:18-20).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus was not only the central focus of God's eternal mind and of His eternal plans and purposes for mankind's salvation and for eternity, but also the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The cleansing power of Jesus blood shed on the cross of Calvary does not just cover and cleanse only those who have come to the Lord after his death and resurrection, but flows all the way back to the foundations of the earth to Adam and Eve like a spiritual invisible river cleansing all the faithful of the Old Testament from the fall of Adam onward who obeyed the covenant and by faith looked to the appearing of the promised Messiah the Christ.

The faithful of the Old Testament were saved by their faith:

- In the truth the blood of their sin sacrifices (shadows of Christ) covered their sin.
- In the promised seed of the woman spoken of in (Genesis 3:15).
- In the prophet Moses said was to come like him.
- In God's promise to Abraham that from his seed a deliver would come.
- In the promised seed of David, the Messiah and Saviour.

The faithful of the New Testament are saved by their faith in looking back to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and by looking forward to the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. This shines a glorious spotlight on the truth, whether a man or woman is of the Old or New Testament we are all saved by the same cleansing power, the same cleansing blood, and the same Deliverer, King, and Saviour. This is because God in his eternal mind planned and purposed before time began that His Son the Lord Jesus Christ would be the Saviour of all mankind for all eternity.

- **Hebrew 9:22:** Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

A CURSE THAT DEVOURS THE EARTH

- **Isaiah 24:6:** A curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.

Earth: comes from the Hebrew word (*'erets*) it literally means to be firm and can refer to the earth at large, to land, a country or field, the ground, to nations, the wilderness, and the world.

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When reading these verses, it should be kept in mind that that the Hebrew word earth (*'erets*) can refer to the entire globe of the earth or to an area of land, a country or nation. Because of this the language of these verses allows the principal taught concerning the curse taught in these verses to apply to Israel, Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the entire world. The earth is seen as having a progressive curse upon it which causes the inhabitants of the earth to suffer. This curse is devouring the earth's inhabitants and escalating in strength as each generation passes and time goes on. This curse is manifested in the following troubles that bring grief and sorrow to the inhabitants of the earth:

- The earth is scorched with excessive heat bringing fruitful land to waste.
- The earth is rampant with wars, murder, crime, and death.
- The earth is covered with natural disasters, pestilence and diseases that bring suffering and death to its inhabitants from all nations.
- The earth is filled with troubles that cause great anxiety, fear and suffering so that those who used to be happy are brought to mourning.
- The earth is filled with great nations and cities that were once prospering and rich in trade that have come to ruin (mostly by greed and debt).
- The earth is filled with men, women and families that suffer daily under corrupt governments and oppression.

This curse brings grief, suffering and sorrow through the following four things:

1. Circumstances that are beyond mankind's control such as pestilence, diseases, and natural disasters (i.e., storms, earthquakes, and floods etc.).
2. Sickness, mental illnesses, disasters, pestilence, and diseases that bring suffering and death to its inhabitants in all countries and nations.
3. Mankind's greed, selfishness, and corrupt, wicked, and dishonest behaviour.
4. Oppressive and corrupt governments and the world's financial system of credit.

Sin has turned the earth upside down it has become horribly different to what it was when God first made it to be mankind's habitation. The world we live in is a world of hardships and troubles, sorrow and disappointment, a valley of tears and those born into it are but of a few days. Sin brings calamities that pollute the earth and therefore instead of attacking God's favour it brings His judgments.

The earth's inhabitants suffer for their guilt: ((Isaiah 24:6) most understand that any guilt that troubles their mind stems from their own personal wrong-doing (i.e., sin), but not everyone understands that from heavens perspective the sin of all earth's inhabitants is seen collectively as a dark cloud that pollutes the earth. The darker the cloud becomes the further away the hand of God's favour is removed from the planet, and because of this the populations of the world suffer troubles and hardships.

CURSE OF JECONIAH AND THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Jeconiah was a king of Judah who was deported as part of the Babylonian captivity (Esther 2:6) (1 Chron. 3:17) he is mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus, in Joseph's family line (Matt. 1:12). (In various translations Jeconiah is also called Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Jechonias). The LORD told the prophet Jeremiah to go to Jeconiah the king of Judah who was seated on the throne of David and tell him that the LORD will bring destroyers against him because under he has:

- Forsaken the LORD and worshiped other gods and served them.
- Perverted justice and oppressed the helpless.
- Robbed the poor from what is rightfully theirs.
- Acted violently against foreigners, orphans, and widows.
- Killed without justice those who were innocent.

Because of Jeconiah's blatant acts of rebellion toward the LORD and his violent acts of injustice upon those who were helpless, the LORD through the faithful prophet Jeremiah said to Jeconiah the king of Judah that he will not succeed in his days, and if his son Coniah was a signet ring on the LORD'S right hand, He would tear him off and give him into the hand of the destroyer (i.e., Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), and not one of his offspring would succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah. The curse of Jeconiah the king of Judah, was that not one of his bloodline (his offspring) would ever again sit on the throne of David. Clearly this creates a difficulty within the Scriptures and Bible prophecy since all the prophets not only proclaim that Christ will come from the tribe of Judah but also state that he will sit on David's throne. The Davidic Covenant promised that the Messiah, the "Son of David," would reign forever on Jerusalem's throne (1 Chron.17:11-14), but if Jesus is a descendant of Jeconiah, then how can He be the Messiah, since the curse

bars any of Jeconiah descendants from assuming David's throne? This curse of Jeconiah seems to invalidate Jesus' right to the throne of David. This curse appears to make it impossible for God to fulfil his promise to David, that the Messiah, the Son of David, would reign forever on David's throne. (1 Chron.17:11-14), so how can this curse and the truth that Jesus is of the bloodline of Jeconiah the king of Judah be harmonised with Scripture, prophecy, and God's eternal promise to David?

There are three possible solutions to this difficulty.

1. The offspring of Jeconiah mentioned in the curse may only apply to the king's own children (i.e., his immediate offspring) so the curse would only be in force while the king lived. Jeconiah was not successful as a king (he only reigned for three months before he surrendered to the armies of Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon) and not one of his sons (he had seven of them (1 Chron. 3:17) reigned over Judah.
2. Because of the virgin birth Mary was the only human parent of Jesus and she was of David's bloodline, but not through Jeconiah (Luke 3:31). Joseph was Jesus' legal father, but not His physical one. Thus, Jesus was of royal blood through Mary, but the curse of Jeconiah stopped with Joseph and was not passed on to Jesus.
3. God reversed the curse on Jeconiah family. This is hinted at by the prophet Haggai, who told Zerubbabel, Jeconiah's grandson, that God would make him a "signet ring" on God's hand (Haggai 2:23). Zerubbabel was blessed by God as the governor of Judea, and he prospered in that role when the Jewish exiles returned to Jerusalem. The "signet ring" (imagery of Jeconiah's curse) is repeated in Zerubbabel's blessing, which must be more than coincidence. Several rabbinic sources teach that Jeconiah repented in Babylon and that God forgave him and lifted the curse.

It is pointless to debate which of these three is correct since the major point is the truth that that Scriptures and prophetic biblical messages can be majestically and beautifully harmonised even though for a time, they may seem to us to be contradictory or even impossible to explain. It should always be kept in mind that the problem is never the Scriptures, but our lack of understanding and limited knowledge of Hebrew culture, prophetic understanding, and Bible knowledge.

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NOTE: in saying that everyone seeking God should know that the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is very easy to understand. Everything we learn outside of the Gospel should be counted as hidden treasure that we have the privilege to find, and though it is gold to those who have found it and know God's love and grace, this hidden treasure is not important to understand to be in a heartfelt union of love and grace with God the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ and saved to eternal life.

OVERVIEW OF DEUTERONOMY 28

While Israel was standing at the Jordan River, and about to cross it, Moses re-tells Israel's laws, and repeats the blessings, and the curses. If they kept the LORD'S commandments, He would bring the following blessings upon them.

Blessings regarding the city and the field: the LORD would bless the fruit of their womb, their ground, their cattle, their basket of food and their kneading bowl, and the increase of their herds and flock, their barns and in all that they undertook to do. He would open to Israel His good treasury to give rain to their land in its season and bless all the work of their hands, and make Israel abound abundantly in prosperity, in childbearing, and in all their livestock and everything that grows from the ground of their land.

Blessings regarding Israel's enemies: if Israel's enemies came out against them one way they would flee before Israel seven ways, and, whenever their enemies rose against them the LORD would cause them to be defeated

Blessings regarding nations: the LORD would establish Israel as a people holy to Himself, all the peoples of the earth would see that Israel was called by the name of the LORD, they would be blessed and all the nations would be afraid of them. They would lend to many nations and not borrow, because the LORD would make Israel the head and not the tail and they would only go up and not down. Israel would be set high above all the nations of the earth. But if Israel failed to obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and went astray from all his commandments all the following curses would come upon Israel and overtake them. If They rebelled the LORD would bring the following curses upon them.

Curses regarding Israel's land: the LORD would bring poverty to Israel's land, in their cities, their fields, their basket of food and their kneading bowl, in the fruit of their womb and the fruit of the ground and the increase of their herds and flock, pestilence (insects) would stick to them until it has consumed them off their Land. The LORD would strike them with fiery heat, drought, blight, and mildew until they perish, the heavens over their head would be bronze and the earth under them would be iron (meaning it would not rain). The LORD would make the rain of their land powder; dust would come down on them until they are destroyed, they would carry much seed into the field, but gather little because the locust would consume it. They would plant vineyards, but would not drink of the wine or gather the grapes, because the worm would eat them, and even though they would have olive trees throughout their territory they would not be able to anoint themselves with the oil because the olives would drop off. The cricket would eat all their trees and the fruit of their ground. In hunger, thirst, nakedness and lacking everything the LORD would destroy Israel.

Curses regarding Israel's enemies: the LORD would cause Israel to be defeated before their enemies, Israel would go out one way and flee seven ways before their enemies, their dead bodies would be food for all birds and the beasts of the earth, and there would be no one to frighten them away. They would serve their enemies whom the LORD would send against them and be oppressed and robbed continually and there would be no one to help them. They would betroth a wife but another man would ravish her, build a house but they would not dwell in it, plant a vineyard, but would not enjoy its fruit. Their ox would be slaughtered before their eyes and they would not eat any of it. Their donkey would be seized before their face and not be restored to them, and their sheep would be given to their enemies and there would be no one to help them. Their sons and daughters would be given to another people, while Israel was faint with longing for them, but they would be helpless. A nation that Israel had not known would eat up the fruit of their ground and all their labours, they would be oppressed and crushed continually so that they are driven mad by the sights that their eyes see. The LORD would bring Israel and their king into captivity to a nation that Israel had not known they would serve gods of wood and stone and become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the LORD would lead them away. They would father sons and daughters, but they would not be theirs because they would go into captivity.

Curses regarding the sojourner living amongst Israel: the sojourner who is among them would rise higher and higher above Israel, while Israel became lower and lower, so much so that the sojourner would lend to Israel and Israel would not be able to lend to them, the sojourner would become the head and Israel would become the tail.

Curses regarding nations: a nation from far away and that speak a language Israel did not understand and who would not respect the old or show mercy to the young would eat the offspring of Israel's cattle and the

fruit of their ground, until they are destroyed, they would not leave Israel any grain, wine, oil or the increase of their herds and flock, until they have caused Israel to perish. The nations armies would surround Israel in all their towns throughout all their land, and besiege Israel until their fortified walls, in which they trusted came down. Israel would eat the fruit of their womb, the flesh of their sons and daughters in the siege with which their enemies would distress them.

The most tender and refined man among Israel would begrudge food to his brother, the wife he embraces and his children, and would not give any of his family any flesh of his children who he is eating because he has nothing left. The most delicate and tender woman among Israel would begrudge the husband she embraces, the afterbirth of her son and her daughter she will eat her children secretly and deny them to her family because of the distress of their enemy

Curses regarding sickness: the LORD would strike them with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, boils, tumours, scabs madness, blindness and confusion of mind and an itch of Egypt of which they cannot be healed, until they perish. On their offspring the LORD would bring extraordinary afflictions and sicknesses that are severe grievous and lasting, all the diseases of Egypt, of which they were afraid would cling to them and every sickness and affliction that is not recorded in the book of the law until they are destroyed

Curses regarding Israel being scattered: The LORD would scatter Israel from one end of the earth to the other they would serve other gods of wood and stone and find no respite or resting-place among the nations that the LORD scatters them into. Their heart will tremble, their eyes will fail and their soul will languish, their life will hang in doubt before them, night, and day they will be in dread and have no assurance of their life. In the morning they will wish it was evening, and in the evening, they will wish it was morning because of the dread that their heart will feel and the sights they will see. The LORD would bring Israel back in ships to Egypt, a journey that Moses promised they would never make again, and in Egypt they would offer themselves for sale as male and female slaves to their enemies, but there would be no buyer.

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Curses regarding Israel confusion and frustration: when they came in and went out, all Israel undertook to do would fail because the LORD would send on them confusion and frustration, they will grope at noonday as the blind grope in darkness, and they will not prosper in their ways, but become a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth (because of their suffering, destruction, and poverty).

Curses regarding Israel's destruction: the LORD would take delight in bringing ruin upon Israel and destroying them instead of taking delight in doing good to Israel and multiplying them. They would be plucked off their land and be left few in number instead of being as numerous as the stars of heaven.

CONCLUSION: if Israel does all the words of the law that are written in this book so that they would fear the glorious and awesome name, the LORD their God and obey and serve Him with joyfulness and gladness of heart because of the abundance of all things all the blessing written in this book would come upon them and their offspring forever.

But, if Israel turns to the right hand or to the left from any of the words that the LORD through Moses has commanded, to go after other gods and serve them and forsakes the LORD, all these curses written in the book would be a sign and wonder against Israel, and to their offspring forever because of their evil deeds.

- **Isaiah 48:8 (ESV)** You have never heard, you have never known, from of old your ear has not been opened. For I knew that you would surely deal treacherously, and that from before birth you were called a rebel (a transgressor from the womb in the KJV).

This is why God knew His predictions that Israel would be utterly removed from their land would come to pass. The covenant they entered-into with the LORD at Mount Sinai contained some amazing and wonderful blessings that would have abundantly prospered and exalted their nation above all nations of the world had they remained faithful, but instead of remaining faithful, they grossly sinned, rebelled against the LORD'S prophets and His commandments, and worshipped other gods, and because of this rebellion and treachery all the curses came upon them.

Assyria and Babylon brought these curses to pass, Assyria overthrew the ten tribes of Israel and took them captive and Babylon invaded the land of Judah and Jerusalem and took the people of Judah into captivity for seventy years. Archaeologists have found that all the cities of Judah were completely-destroyed at this time, thus ended the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon. Observers would have said that the Hebrew nation was annihilated. Many of the other nations conquered by the Assyrians and Babylonians did cease to exist, but the prophets proclaimed a better hope for the chosen people. "A remnant shall return," Isaiah had said, and in time this remnant, purged and returned, became the basis on which a new Israel would be built.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.