

CURSES

By Rodney W. Francis

Published by and for

“The Gospel Faith Messenger” Ministry

P. O. Box 57

Paraparaumu 5254

New Zealand

Telephone: (64 4) 904 0727

E-Mail: gfm@gospel.org.nz

Website: www.gospel.org.nz

First Printing: 2006

All Rights Reserved. No part of this manual may be reproduced in any form (except for brief quotations in reviews), without prior written permission from “The Gospel Faith Messenger” Ministry Head Office, Hamilton, New Zealand.

This manual is dedicated to all those who genuinely and sincerely want to discern truth from error, and develop the vision and purpose of God for their lives in the 21st century through a greater revelation and receptivity to the power and covenant of the Holy Spirit. You can do it!

Acknowledgements:

Unless stated otherwise, Scripture quotations are taken from the “New King James Version” (NKJV) of the Bible.

Scriptures marked (KJV) are taken from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version marked (NIV). Copyright (C) 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Hodder and Stoughton Limited, London, England.

Scripture Quotations marked (GNB) are taken from the Good News Bible.

Word meanings marked (Bullinger’s) are taken from “A Critical Lexicon and Concordance to the English and Greek New Testament” by E.W. Bullinger. Published by Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506, USA.

Word meanings marked (Strong’s) are taken from “The New Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible” by James Strong, LL.D., S.T.D. Copyright (C) 1984. Permission to use granted by Thomas Nelson Publisher, P O Box 141000, Nashville, Tennessee 37214-1000, USA.

Word meanings marked (Collins) are taken from “Collins English Dictionary.” Copyright (C) 1979 by William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd., P O Box 476, GPO, Sydney 2001, Australia.

Introduction

There is a growing recognition today that numbers of people are “suffering” from various ailments that, when we look closer and ask certain questions, we discover there is such a thing as a curse (or curses) that can be the contributing factor. These curses can be generational in that they have been passed on down through the family line from one generation to another; hence the experiences of many who have certain sicknesses, diseases or maladies that they recognize were also suffered by one of their parents, grandparents, etc., . . . each generation battling with the same problems.

Curses can also be spoken (or imparted) into the lives of unsuspecting people by others, who either do not like them, or who are involved in occult practices, whereby evil spirits are conjured up to work against the one cursed.

Curses also come upon us (or into us) when we Christians walk in direct disobedience to the revealed will of God for our lives. How does that happen? When we walk in willful disobedience we open our lives up for Satan and his evil hordes to take an advantage of us in some area of our life, which, over time, will cause us to “suffer” a loss of quality of life – not only spiritually, but also emotionally and physically. As time goes on these “bondages” can take deep root within us and lead us further away from the truth and righteousness of God found only in Jesus Christ.

May the contents of this manual help you to see what the Bible has to say on this subject, and so to be warned to guard against letting your “spiritual armour” slip out of place (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Love in Christ,
Rodney W. Francis.

CHAPTER ONE

Is It Right For Christians To Curse Their Enemies?

The Bible has quite a lot to say about curses, so we will look at some of

the things it has to declare to us:

Let us start by looking at how a Christian should respond to someone who may not like us and, in fact, actually says some nasty things about us, or seeks to do some nasty things against us. Do we Christians have the right to “strike back”? God’s Word (the Bible) tells us that we do not!

Jesus says:

“Love your enemies, do good to them who hate you, ble**ss** them that curse you, and pray for them who despitefully use you”

(Luke 6:27, 28; Matthew 5:44-48 and Romans 12:14).

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CURSE?

Before we go any further we should clarify what the word “curse” or “curses” actually means. It is important we understand the subject matter at hand:

- To “curse” someone is to “invoke or bring down evil upon them”; it is “an appeal to a supernatural power for harm to come to a specific person, group, etc.; something that brings or causes great trouble or harm; it is a saying, charm, effigy, etc., used to invoke a curse” - (Collins).
- To “curse” is “to wish or pray against anyone, i.e. to wish evil to, hence, to curse” (Bullinger’s).

An “effigy” is “a crude representation of someone, used as a focus for contempt or ridicule and often hung up or burnt in public.”

In witchcraft, for example, a doll is sometimes used to stick pins into as a means of invoking evil curses and desires toward people who do not submit to the wishes of those practicing witchcraft. (Some hard rock music groups do this, like the “Dead Kennedy’s”). Sometimes a photograph, hair, fingernail, blood, etc., of a particular person is obtained and used to pray against that person.

Cursing involves “supernatural powers” – and those powers are not from God! In this day of grace, God does not go around cursing people! And nor do His followers! But when we choose to live outside of the covenant of God, He is unable to protect us from the attacks of the enemy. We should even guard against praying negative prayers on others.

CHRISTIANS HAVE POWER OVER CURSES!

To the Christian who is born-again, filled with the Holy Spirit and in covenant relationship with God, these concentrations, prayers and attacks from the witchcraft and Satanic realms have no effect against or upon us – unless we are living in conscious sin, willful disobedience, or are afraid of the enemy (and FEAR is one of his chief weapons!). See Proverbs 26:2 .

- ***“The curse causeless shall not come”*** – (KJV).
- ***“. . . a curse without cause does not alight”*** – (NASB).
- ***“An undeserved curse does not come to rest”*** – (NIV).
- ***“An undeserved curse has no effect. Its intended victim will be no more harmed by it than by a sparrow or swallow flitting through the sky”*** – (TLB).

My personal testimony is that Proverbs 26:2 is so right. For several years my life was the target of all kinds of curses and threats from the Satanic and witchcraft realm (as well as three death contracts on my life) – not to mention the negative remarks from even the Christian community.

The Bible teaches that we who believe and obey God (through Jesus Christ His Son) have nothing to fear from curses, or those seeking to place them upon us. But to those walking and living outside the Holy Spirit-filled Christian life there can be some very serious consequences, especially if fear, disobedience and sin are not dealt with in their life. In most cases curses are spoken into or over people’s lives in an audible way. They are invoked by the use of the tongue! In James 3:8-10 we read:

“But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so” (NKJV).

These verses show us clearly that Christians should not be using their tongues to curse others – no matter how much others seek to harm or destroy us. All men are made in the likeness of God! When we curse them we are preventing them from coming to a place of repentance and into that place of relationship with God for which they were created.

CHAPTER TWO

The Biblical Usage Of The Word “Curse”

The word “curse” is translated from eleven Hebrew words in the **Old Testament**. They are:

1. **“alah”** – meaning “oath, execration, imprecation.”

An “oath” is: 1. “A solemn pronouncement to affirm the truth of a statement or to pledge a person to some course of action, often involving a sacred being or object as witness. 2. The form of such a pronouncement. 3. An irreverent or blasphemous expression, especially one involving the name of a deity; curse . . .” (Collins).

The word “execrate” means “1. To loathe; detest; abhor. 2. To profess great abhorrence; denounce; deplore. 3. To curse (a person or thing); to damn; a sacred curse” (Collins).

The meaning of “imprecation” is “1. Swearing, cursing or blaspheming. 2. Invoking or bringing down (evil or a curse, etc.); bringing down a curse upon, to pray a curse” (Collins).

2. **“cherem”**– meaning “a devoted thing”.

“Devoted” in Scriptural terminology regarding witchcraft refers to something that has been cursed or doomed.

3. **“meerah”** – meaning “curse, execration”.
4. **“qelalah”** – meaning “a reviling, thing lightly esteemed”.
5. **“shebuah”** – meaning “swearing, oath”.
6. **“taalah”** – meaning “oath, imprecation, execration”.
7. **“arar”** – meaning “to curse”; also meaning “a prayer (as lifted to Heaven), i.e. by implication, imprecation: curse”.

8. **“naqab”** – meaning “to pierce, execrate”.
9. **“qabab”** – meaning “to pierce, execrate”.
10. **“qalal”** – meaning “to lightly esteem, vilify, revile”.
11. **“barak”**– meaning “to bless (bid farewell to?)”. “Vilify” is “to revile with abusive or defamatory language; malign; debase, degrade” (Collins).

In the **New Testament** the word “curse” is translated from the following Greek words:

1. **“katara”**– meaning “a thorough curse” (Matthew 25:41; Galatians 3:10-13).
2. **“anathematizo”** – meaning “to anathematize”.

“Anathema” is: 1. “A detested person or thing; a formal ecclesiastical curse of excommunication or a formal denunciation of a doctrine; the person or thing so cursed; a strong curse” (Collins). 2. “Anything ‘put up’ in the temple of a god, set apart or separated, consecrated, devoted”: (Bullinger’s). (Mark 14:71; Acts 23:12, 14; 1 Corinthians 16:22).

3. **“kakologeō”** – meaning “a curse, cursing” (Matthew 15:4; Mark 7:10).

The word “cursed” is translated from: 1. “epikataratos” – meaning “imprecated, i.e. execrable; accursed.” 2. “kataraomai” – meaning “to execrate; to doom: curse”.

CURSING IS THE WAY OF THE WORLD:

Outside of Jesus Christ, the people of the world are vulnerable to curses. Witchcraft practices are commonplace today as society seeks to manipulate and dominate for their own selfish ends. Business people use them to try to outdo their opposition. So do many sports teams – some even having their own witch doctors! Good luck charms are commonly worn and, around the world, there is a stirring-up of the old ancestral/cultural spirits that are influencing leaders and politicians everywhere. The Bible says there is a curse on those who pervert the path of justice (Deuteronomy 27:19; 2 Peter 2:9-17).

CHAPTER THREE

Disobedience To God's Word Takes Away God's Protection Against Curses

This manual is to help Christians to know what God has to say about curses. When we walk in obedience to God, we have a heavenly protection over us, around us, and in us against ***“the wiles of the devil”*** (Ephesians 6:10-20). We can put on the whole armour of God! But when we go into disobedience, we move outside that realm of protection. God Himself is unable to keep us free from attack. Disobedience to God's Word is the main area where Christians fall prey to curses and hexes (“to bewitch; an evil spell or symbol of bad luck”). It is interesting to note that the word “hex” has a connection with the word “hag” which originally meant “a witch or female demon.” (Today it means “an unpleasant or ugly old woman”). Halloween, seances, etc., and similar kinds of involvement can bring people under curses. One of the huge tragedies of our modern world is that it sees things like Halloween, witchcraft and the occult as “fun” and harmless. It is anything but that! (The strongest day on the satanic calendar each year is Halloween – something that society and many schools participate in! It is no wonder that Christianity is under attack from these quarters, and mock at the truth of Christianity!)

The following Scriptures bring out how disobedience to God's Word opened up the people of God to a curse under the **Old Testament Law**:

“I am giving you the choice today between God's blessing or God's curse (“qelalah”)! There will be blessing if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I am giving you today, and a curse (“qelalah”) if you refuse them and worship the gods of these other nations. When the Lord your God brings you into the land to possess it, a blessing shall be proclaimed from Mount Gerizim (meaning “waste places” or “the cutters off”), and a curse (“qelalah”) from Mount Ebal (meaning “bare” or “heaps of nothing: heaps of confusion”)! Gerizim and Ebal are mountains west of the Jordan River, where the Canaanites (“trafficker, trader” or “low, flat”) live, in the wasteland near Gilgal (“rolling: a wheel” or “circle”), where the oaks of Moreh (“teacher: former rain”) are” (Deuteronomy 11:26-29, TLB).

“Cursed (“arar”) be he who does not support and give assent to the words of this law to do them [as the rule of his life]. All the people shall say, Amen” (Deuteronomy 27:26, AMP).

Perhaps the most well known chapter in the Bible on the subject of curses is **Deuteronomy 28:14-68**. In each of the curses mentioned, it is **God Who is warning us against ending up under the power of them!** The message is to His people: those who had entered into covenant relationship with Him. But, tragically, they failed to take heed to His instructions (which were for their good and not in any way to restrict or harm them).

Disobedience to God takes us out and away from the many blessings He wants us to live in. Let us read again some excerpts of what God has declared, and take heed!

- ***“Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.***
- ***However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all His commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses (“qelalah”) will come upon you and overtake you:***
- ***You will be cursed (“arar”) in the city and cursed (“arar”) in the country.***
- ***Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed (“arar”).***
- ***The fruit of your womb will be cursed (“arar”), and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.***
- ***You will be cursed (“arar”) when you come in and cursed (“arar”) when you go out.***
- ***The Lord will send on you curses (“meerah”), confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking Him.***
- ***The Lord will plague you with diseases until He has destroyed you from the land you are entering to possess.***
- ***The Lord will strike you with wasting diseases with fever and***

inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, with blight and mildew, which will plague you until you perish.

- *The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron.*
- *The Lord will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed.*
- *The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven, and you will become a thing of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.*
- *Your carcasses will be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away.*
- *The Lord will afflict you with the boils of Egypt (“double straits”) and with tumours, festering sores and the itch, from which you cannot be cured.*
- *The Lord will afflict you with madness, blindness and confusion of mind. At midday you will grope about like a blind man in the dark.*
- *You will be unsuccessful in everything you do; day after day you will be oppressed and robbed, with no one to rescue you.*
- *You will be pledged to be married to a woman, but another will take her and ravish her.*
- *You will build a house, but you will not live in it.*
- *You will plant a vineyard, but you will not even begin to enjoy its fruit.*
- *Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will eat none of it.*
- *Your donkey will be forcibly taken from you and will not be returned.*
- *Your sheep will be given to your enemies, and no one will rescue them.*

- *Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation, and you will wear out your eyes watching for them day after day, powerless to lift a hand.*
- *A people that you do not know will eat what your land and labour produce, and you will have nothing but cruel oppression all your days.*
- *The sights you see will drive you mad.*
- *The Lord will afflict your knees and legs with painful boils that cannot be cured, spreading from the soles of your feet to the top of your head.*
- *The Lord will drive you and the king you set over you to a nation unknown to you or your fathers. There you will worship other gods, gods of wood and stone.*
- *You will sow much seed in the field, but you will harvest little because locusts will devour it.*
- *You will become a thing of horror and an object of scorn and ridicule to all the nations where the Lord will drive you.*
- *You will plant vineyards and cultivate them but you will not drink the wine or gather the grapes, because worms will eat them.*
- *You will have olive trees throughout your country but you will not use the oil, because the olives will drop off.*
- *You will have sons and daughters, but you will not keep them, because they will go into captivity.*
- *Swarms of locusts will take over all your trees and the crops of your land.*
- *The alien who lives amongst you will rise above you higher and higher, but you will sink lower and lower.*
- *He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him.*
- *He will be the head, but you will be the tail.*
- *All these curses will come upon you. They will pursue and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey*

the Lord your God and observe the commands and decrees He gave you. They will be a sign and a wonder to you and your descendants forever.

- Because you did not serve the Lord your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the Lord sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you . . . If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere this glorious and awesome name - the Lord your God - the Lord will send fearful plagues on you and your descendants, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses. He will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you. The Lord will also bring on you every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in this Book of the Law, until you are destroyed.
- You who were as numerous as the stars in the sky will be left but few in number, because you did not obey the Lord your God. Just as it pleased the Lord to make you prosper and increase in number, so it will please Him to ruin and destroy you. You will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess.
- Then the Lord will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods - gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the Lord will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both day and night, never sure of your life . . .” (Deuteronomy 28:14-68, NIV).

I have included most of the verses of Deuteronomy 28:14-68 because it is more than likely that you would not take the extra time to look it up yourself, and it is very important that we know what the Scripture is saying about the seriousness of being cursed - especially cursed by disobedience to God! Of course God does not want to curse anyone; He wants only the very best for us. Unfortunately so many in this generation have no idea of the principles of God and therefore are in much ignorance as to the protection that is available to us when our life is yielded to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. **But this generation needs to know that there are principles to life - and very good reasons why God has given us His Word in the first place.** The more like Him we become through believing His promises, the more He is able to bless us

and flow through our lives with His principles that work. Likewise, the less we believe His Word, the more we depend upon our own ability and judgment, which in turn takes us further away from God Himself. On God's part He wants to bless us - on our part we want to do "our own thing" and live life our own way. And the two do not mix! **The way to God's blessings is our obedience to Him**, and the way out of a life of blessing (and which leads to a life of being afflicted with curses) is for us to **not take God's Word seriously**. Disobedience is the way to being robbed of blessings and becoming cursed of God, i.e. God cannot protect those who will not listen and obey Him; therefore the curses are free to come upon us.

Christianity is walking and living according to God's way! That means we have to turn from "our" way and yield ourselves over to His Lordship. If you doubt this, then just read Deuteronomy 28 right through again. **God is really the only One Who knows the right road for us to take, and He says it is the road of obedience!**

- ***"The day that any of you - man or woman, family or tribe of Israel - begins to turn away from the Lord our God and desires to worship these gods of other nations, that day a root will be planted that will grow bitter and poisonous fruit.***
- ***Let no one blithely think, when he hears the warnings of this curse ("alah"), 'I shall prosper even though I walk in my own stubborn way!' For the Lord will not pardon! His anger and jealousy will be hot against that man. And all the curses ("alah") written in this book shall lie heavily upon him, and the Lord will blot out his name from under heaven. The Lord will separate that man from all the tribes of Israel ("ruling with God"), to pour out upon him all the curses ("alah") (which are recorded in this book) that befall those who break this contract. Then your children and the generations to come and the foreigners that pass by from distant lands shall see the devastation of the land and the diseases the Lord will have sent upon it. They will see that the whole land is alkali ("a soluble mineral salt that occurs in arid soils and some natural waters" - Collins) and salt, a burned over wasteland, unsown, without crops, without a shred of vegetation - just like Sodom ("fettered" or "place of lime") and Gomorrah ("bondage" or "fissure, submersion") and Admah ("earthiness" or "earthwork, fortress") and Zeboiim ("gazelles, troops"), destroyed by the Lord in His anger.***
- ***"Why has the Lord done this to His land?' the nations will ask, 'Why was He so angry?'***

- **“And they will be told, ‘Because the people of the land broke the contract (disobedience!) made with them by Jehovah, the God of their ancestors, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt. For they worshipped other gods, violating His express command. That is why the anger of the Lord was hot against this land, so that all His curses (“qelalah”) (which are recorded in this book) broke forth upon them. In great anger the Lord rooted them out of their land, where they still live today!’ ”** (Deuteronomy 29:18-28 TLB).

In the Old Testament (Covenant), breaking God’s laws carried its consequences! It not only ruined the people from achieving the very best out of life, but the disobedience of the people made God angry! (Who can make progress when we’re up against an angry God??)

- **“The land and the earth also are defiled under their inhabitants: because they have transgressed (“to pass over the commandment of God, or of the king, a covenant, a law” – Wilson’s) the laws, disregarded the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. [Genesis 9:1-17; Deuteronomy 29:20].**
- **Therefore the curse (“alah”) has devoured (“consumed, eaten up” – Wilson’s) the land and the earth, and they who dwell in it suffer the punishment of its guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the land and the earth are scorched and parched [under the curse of God’s wrath], and few people are left.” [Romans 1:20.] (Isaiah 24:5-6, AMP).**

As I sit here meditating and taking-in what the aforementioned verses are saying, I am realizing how much more we need to consider – really consider – what God’s Word is saying. We seem to take it so lightly . . . take it for granted . . . or, it is always the other fellow who needs to take heed to what is being said! **One does not have to look too far today to realize that so many of today’s generation are reaping exactly what the Bible is saying. Curses and cursed people abound!** Yet no one needs to be living under the power of any curse, or the curse of separation from God either! **God has very clearly made a way for every one of us to come into freedom and joy of living through entering into – and keeping – a personal Covenant relationship with Him. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on a cruel cross, to break the power of the curse of sin. Jesus became our curse** (Galatians 3:13-14) so we could become His brothers and sisters. When we do what He asks us and yield our lives over to Him, He comes and breaks the power of cancelled sin . . . He delivers us from the power of every curse! **But when we walk away from the Covenant – sealed with the very blood of Jesus – we walk away from the protection that keeps us safe from every spoken (and unspoken) curse.** That is what

the Bible is telling us in these verses we have looked at. With God we are safe and secure, blessed and prosperous . . . **but without God's Covenant in our lives (and being kept!) we are open to receive all the negatives this old world can throw at us.** Plus, on top of that, God is not happy with those who break such an important contract either!

Do we need any more clarification from God's Word on this matter? We had better acknowledge God's Word and listen to what He further says:

- ***"Then the Lord spoke to Jeremiah* ("Jah is high" or "Jah is cast forth") *once again and said: Remind the men of Judah* ("he shall be praised") *and all the people of Jerusalem* ("possession of peace" or "dual peace shall be taught: lay (set) ye double peace") *that I made a contract with their fathers – and cursed* ("arar") *is the man who does not heed it!* *For I told them at the time I brought them out of slavery in Egypt that if they would obey Me and do whatever I commanded them, then they and all their children would be Mine and I would be their God. And now, Israel, obey Me, says the Lord, so that I can do for you the wonderful things I swore I would if you obeyed. I want to give you a land that "flows with milk and honey," as it is today. Then I replied, "So be it, Lord!"* (Jeremiah 11:1-5, TLB). (See also Jeremiah 26:1-6; Jeremiah 29:15-23, especially Verse 18; Daniel 9:10-11).**

Even the ministers of God and the Church have a very awesome task to make sure we fulfil our calling and duties to the glory of God. Otherwise we, too, can come under a curse!

- ***"And now this admonition* ("1. to reprove firmly but not harshly. 2. to advise to do or against doing something; warn; caution" – Collins) *is for you, O priests. If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honour My name," says the Lord Almighty, "I will send a curse* ("meerah") *upon you, and I will curse* ("arar") *your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed* ("arar") *them, because you have not set your heart to honour Me. Because of you I will rebuke your descendants; I will spread on your faces the offal from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it. And you will know that I have sent you this admonition so that My covenant with Levi* ("joined") *may continue," says the Lord Almighty. "My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered Me and stood in awe of My name. True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin. "For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his***

mouth men should seek instruction – because he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty. But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi,” says the Lord Almighty. “So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed My ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law” (Malachi 2:1-9, NIV).

What a challenge for those of us in ministry! One does not have to look very far around the ministry today to see that many have lost their way. They are no longer “alive” in the purposes of God and seeking to bring the people back to a closer walk with the Word of God. Instead of being on the “cutting edge” of what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church today, they are coasting along in “maintenance mode.” The calling has now become a vocation, a living. No wonder the people lose their way and come under a curse! It is a time to call the ministers back to the **“simplicity of the Gospel of Christ”** (2 Corinthians 11:3) . . . **to get a fresh revelation of Who Jesus is . . . and who we are in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit!** . . . instead of our merely “grinding along” “playing church” and sermonizing the people into a lost eternity! **We are called to carry the Word of the Lord to our generation!** People don’t read their Bibles . . . they read US! And so does God! He knows us through and through and has called us to demonstrate by our life-style what the power of Christianity is all about. The Church is like a sleeping Giant; look out world when She awakes! I believe this is a day for the Church to awake. Praise God, She is arising. From around the world come wonderful reports of the mighty works of God being done. According to the latest figures I’ve heard, there are something like 364,000 people being won to Christ every 24 hours! That’s 15,166 per hour or 252 every minute. That all adds up to something like 13,286,000 per year! That’s good reading, folks, and it can only get better. Why? Because the end-time harvest is being gathered in, and “the curtain is about to fall” on this old world. Anyone who has ever heard of Jesus and is not serving Him, is only a fool to himself. Wake up, friends! There’s freedom and victory in the All-Powerful Name of Jesus Christ when we walk in the New Covenant He made for us.

Do not be like Cain and Israel who God **cursed** for their disobedience:

- **Cain** was cursed because he disobeyed God and murdered his brother Abel (Genesis 4:1-16, especially verse 11). (Job 24:14-18).
- **Israel** was cursed when Achan (“trouble, troubler”) disobeyed and took of the accursed spoils of Jericho (Joshua 6:17-18; Joshua 7:1-26).

We must guard against hatred, greed and covetousness entering into our heart and robbing us of the blessedness of Covenant relationship with God.

THE MAN CALLED JOB:

Job was ***“a perfect and upright man who feared God”*** (Job 1:1). God’s testimony of him was that he was ***“the greatest of all the men of the east”*** and that ***“there is none like him in the earth”*** (Job 1:3, 8).

Satan contested this statement by telling God that Job would ***“curse Him to His face”*** if He afflicted his body (Job 2:5). Even Job’s wife could not handle the afflictions that God allowed Satan to put on Job. She told him to ***“curse God and die”*** (Job 2:9).

When Job was in the midst of his calamities and agonizing pain, he cursed (“qalal”) his day, his conception and his birth (Job 3:1-3, 8). (So did Jeremiah when he was in the pit of discouragement – Jeremiah 20:14-15). Yet, when it came to the matter of cursing others, Job made a very important statement. This is what he said in Job 31:29-30 . . .

“If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him: Neither have I suffered my mouth to sin by wishing a curse (“alah”) to his soul” (KJV).

“Have I rejoiced at the extinction of my enemy, or exulted when evil befell him? No, I have not allowed my mouth to sin by asking for his life in a curse” (NASB).

“If I rejoiced at my enemy’s misfortune or gloated over the trouble that came to him – I have not allowed my mouth to sin by invoking a curse against his life” (NIV).

“If I rejoiced at the destruction of him who hated me, or lifted myself up [in malicious triumph] when evil overtook him – No, I neither have let my mouth sin by cursing my enemy nor by praying that he might die” (AMP).

WE HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF CURSING OTHERS:

“And there is not a single man in all the earth who is always good

and never sins. Don't eavesdrop! You may hear your servant cursing ("qalal") you! For you know how often you yourself curse ("qalal") others! (Ecclesiastics 7:20-22, TLB).

It is sad, but true, that we all can get caught up in the trap of cursing other people. And we can feel quite justified about it too - especially when we have been wronged, hurt, let down, robbed financially by a friend or acquaintance, abused, raped, tortured, blackmailed, etc. I remember in the early days of our confrontations with the Satanists how I re-acted strongly against all their threats and tactics. I knew they were strategizing against us and trying to make us give up by their ongoing phone calls throughout every night over nearly a two year period. I knew they were praying against us and cursing us, because we were getting too close and discovering some of their tactics and operations. Our first line of defence was to "return the curses upon their own heads." I felt quite justified in doing that because they were an absolute pain and annoyance as they tried to physically wear us down. That line of "defence" only made us to become angrier and hate them further. Then the Holy Spirit showed us His way of dealing with them.

"Love them!"

"What?"

"Pray for their salvation!"

"What? Don't You know what they are doing to us?"

And so we began to change our attitude toward those people who operate very secretly here in New Zealand (and around the world), who destroy many lives through their rituals, manipulation and control, curses and activities! **The more we began to pray for them, the more we began to get a love for their souls. The more we got a love for their souls, the more we desired to see them saved!** (Some Christians gave us a hard time over this, as they did not believe it was God's will to save "people like them!"). **The more we desired to see them saved, the more fear lost its grip on us! Yes, we did not fear them anymore, and this was what caused them to not be able to get the advantage over us.**

- **Every kingdom that is outside of the Kingdom of God is controlled by the spirit of fear!**
- **The Kingdom of God is not controlled by fear, but by love!**
- **God wanted us to live by Kingdom principles and to let love overcome evil. The kingdom of darkness does not know how to win**

over people who are filled with love for their enemies. Their strategy is always built around manipulation and control through fear! **“Fear torments”** the Bible tells us (1 John 4:18). Listen to what it says:

“There is no fear in love – dread does not exist; but full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror! For fear brings with it the thought of punishment, and [so] he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love – is not yet grown into love’s complete perfection” (1 John 4:18, AMP).

If we have been in the habit of cursing others, we need to recognize what it is doing to us. The above experience I have just related is one of the reasons why we are still alive today! Yes, we have had death threats and death contracts out on our lives, been followed, watched, etc., but we are still alive today to serve God and live in the freedom He gives us! All Praise to the Lord!

We are likewise warned not to curse rulers, or the rich:

“Curse (“qalah”) not the king, no not in your thought, and curse (“qalal”) not the rich in your bedchamber: for a bird of the air will carry the voice, and a winged creature will tell the matter.” [Exodus 22:28] (Ecclesiastes 10:20, AMP).

“You shall not blaspheme God, nor curse (“arar”) government officials – your judges and your rulers” (Exodus 22:28, TLB). (See also 2 Peter 2:9-17).

CHAPTER FOUR

Sins That Carry Curses

The Bible tells us there are various sins that carry curses (because they take us away from God’s protection).

- There is a curse on those who steal, lie and swear:

“I looked up again and saw a scroll flying through the air. “What do you see?” he asked. “A flying scroll!” I replied. “It appears to be about thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide!”

“This scroll,” he told me, “represents the words of God’s curse (“alah”) going out over the entire land. It says that all who steal and lie have been judged and sentenced to death.” “I am sending this curse (“alah”) into the home of every thief and everyone who swears falsely by My name,” says the Lord of Hosts. “And My curse (“alah”) shall remain upon his home and completely destroy it” (Zechariah 5:1-4, TLB).

- There was a curse upon the Israelites who did not tithe:

“Will a man rob God? Surely not! And yet you have robbed Me. What do you mean? When did we ever rob You? You have robbed Me of the tithes and offerings due to Me. And so the awesome curse of God (“meerah”) is cursing (“meerah”) you, for your whole nation has been robbing Me” (Malachi 3:8-9, TLB).

In the Old Testament one tenth was required. Under the New Covenant God wants us to make everything of what we are and have available to Him . . . to give as He asks. It is amazing how many Christians are very defensive on the matter of the giving of their finances to God. In many parts of the world today there is a real “poverty spirit” or mentality that is robbing so many of the blessings of God. God wants to bless us and provide for us abundantly to the glory of His own name, to the end that we will release finances into the work of the Lord to see the harvest gathered in. Personally, I believe there is sufficient money in the pockets (and banks) of the Christians to get the whole job of reaching our generation for Christ done. It is getting it released that is the problem. **When Jesus becomes Lord of our finances we will definitely see an outpouring of God’s Word upon the face of the earth!** Everywhere today, there are more opportunities than we know what to do with, but every time there is this obstacle of “not enough money” to do the job. May God release us from being miserly and having a poverty mentality, and help us to see the principle that it is ***“more blessed to give than to receive”*** (Acts 20:35, KJV).

“And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19, AMP).

Let us break the curse over our pockets through becoming generous and joyful givers!

- There is a curse on **bribery and murder**:

“Cursed (“arah”) is the man who kills his neighbour secretly . . .

Cursed (“arah”) ***is the man who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person . . .***” (Deuteronomy 27:24-25, NIV).

Some people think they are really clever because they get away with things and do not get caught by the law of the land. But nobody gets away from the law of God! God sees everything! I have counseled criminals, rapists, homosexuals, murderers, abusers, etc., over the years . . . some of who had never been caught or brought to justice. However, as time goes by, the “weight” and conviction inwardly of what they had done had been building up over years, until they were living pitiful lives and finally glad to talk to someone about their sins. No one really gets away with sin and wrong: it all catches up with us in the end. **And if by chance it does not happen in this life, it certainly will when we stand before a holy, righteous and just God to give an account of the life we have lived and the works we have done . . . but worst of all, what we have done with the SON OF GOD – JESUS CHRIST – WHOSE LOVE AND CLAIMS WE HAVE SPURNED AND IGNORED!**

- There is a curse upon **the proud**:

“Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, who do err from Thy commandments” (Psalm 119:21, KJV).

- There is a curse **on adultery**:

“The eye also of the adulterer waits for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me: and disguises his face. In the dark they dig through houses, which they had marked for themselves in the daytime: they know not the light . . . their portion (“smoothness, flattery” – Strong’s) ***is cursed*** (“qalal”) ***in the earth . . .***” (Job 24:15-18, KJV).

- There is a curse on **sexual immorality**:

“Cursed (“arar”) ***is the man who sleeps with his father’s wife, for he dishonours his father’s bed . . . Cursed*** (“arar”) ***is the man who has sexual relations with any animal*** (bestiality) . . . ***Cursed*** (“arar”) ***is the man who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother*** (incest) . . . ***Cursed*** (“arar”) ***is the man who sleeps with his mother-in-law . . .***” (Deuteronomy 27:20-23, NIV).

- There is a curse on **incest**: (Deuteronomy 27:20-23).
- There is a curse on **bestiality** (sex with animals): (Deuteronomy 27:21).

- There is a curse on those who secretly kill their neighbour: (Deuteronomy 27:24).

- Sin leads to a curse:

“But the sinner . . . shall be accursed” (Isaiah 65:20, KJV).

- Those who serve, or are of the works of the law, are cursed:

“And all who depend on the Law – who are seeking to be justified by obedience to the Law of rituals – are under a curse (“katara”) and doomed to disappointment and destruction; for it is written in the Scriptures, Cursed (“epikataratos”) (accursed, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment) be everyone who does not continue to abide (live and remain) by all the precepts and commands written in the book of the Law, and practice them [Deuteronomy 27:26].

“Now it is evident that no person is justified – declared righteous, and brought into right standing with God – through the Law; for the Scripture says, The man in right standing with God (the just, the righteous) shall live by and out of faith, and he who through and by faith is declared righteous and in right standing with God shall live.” [Habakkuk 2:4].

But the Law does not rest on faith – does not require faith, has nothing to do with faith – for it itself says, He who does them (the things prescribed by the Law) shall live by them, [not by faith]. [Leviticus 18:5].

Christ purchased our freedom (redeeming us) from the curse (“katara”) (doom) of the Law’s (condemnation), by [Himself] becoming a curse (“katara”) for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed (“epikataratos”) is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified); [Deuteronomy 21:23].” (Galatians 3:10-13, AMP).

- Flattery can bring a curse:

“For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, my defense and my fortress; I shall not be greatly moved. How long will you set upon a man that you may slay him, all of you, like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence? They only consult to cast him down from his height [to dishonour him]; they delight in lies; they bless with their mouth, but they curse (“qalal”) inwardly. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!” (Psalm 62:1-4,

AMP).

“Whoever says to the guilty, You are innocent – peoples will curse (“naqab”) him and nations denounce him” (Proverbs 24:24, NIV).

- There is a curse for those who “turn a blind eye” to the poor:

“He who gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes [from their want] will have many a curse (“meerah”). [Proverbs 19:17; 22:9; Deuteronomy 15:7.]” (Proverbs 28:27, AMP).

- Idolatry brings a curse:

“The curse (“arar”) of God be upon anyone who makes and worships an idol, even in secret, whether carved of wood or made from molten metal – for these handmade gods are hated by the Lord . . .” (Deuteronomy 27:15, TLB).

“And now the Lord, the God of Hosts, the God of Israel, asks you: Why are you destroying yourselves? For not one of you shall live – not a man, woman or child among you who has come here from Judah, not even the babies in arms. For you are rousing My anger with the idols you have made and worshipped here in Egypt, burning incense to them, and causing Me to destroy you completely and to make you a curse (“qelalah”) and a stench in the nostrils of all the nations of the earth . . . Therefore the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: There is fury in My face and I will destroy every one of you! I will take this remnant of Judah that insisted on coming here to Egypt and I will consume them . . . They shall be despised and loathed, cursed (“qelalah”) and hated . . . Do you think the Lord didn’t know that you and your fathers and your kings and princes and all the people were burning incense to idols in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? It was because He could no longer bear all the evil things you were doing that He made your land desolate, an incredible ruin, cursed (“qelalah”), without an inhabitant, as it is today. The very reason all these terrible things have befallen you is because you have burned incense and sinned against the Lord and refused to obey Him . . .” (Jeremiah 44, but especially verses 7-8, 11-12, 21-23, TLB).

- There is a curse in removing a neighbour’s landmark:

“Cursed (“arar”) be he that removes his neighbour’s landmark . . .”
(Deuteronomy 27:17, KJV).

- The Gibeonites were cursed because of their deceit:

“Then Joshua (“Jehovah is salvation”) summoned the Gibeonites (“little hill: hilly” or “height”) and said, “Why did you deceive us by saying, ‘We live a long way from you,’ while actually you live near us? You are now under a curse (“arar”): You will never cease to serve as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God” (Joshua 9:3-27, especially verses 22-23, NIV).

- There is a curse upon those who do the work of the Lord deceitfully:

“Cursed (“arar”) be he who does the work of the Lord negligently (“1. habitually neglecting duties, responsibilities, etc.; lacking attention, care or concern; neglectful. 2. careless or nonchalant” – Collins) – with slackness, deceitfully . . .” (Jeremiah 48:10, AMP).

The Living Bible puts it like this:

“Cursed be those . . . refusing to do the work that God has given them!” (Jeremiah 48:10).

“It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the Word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to public disgrace.

Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed (“katara”). In the end it will be burned. Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case – things that accompany salvation. God is not unjust: He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become

lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised (Hebrews 6:4-12, NIV).

- There is a curse upon those who trust in man (humanism) rather than God:

“The Lord says: Cursed (“arar”) is the man who puts his trust in mortal man and turns his heart away from God. He is like a stunted shrub in the desert, with no hope for the future; he lives on the salt-encrusted plains in the barren wilderness; good times pass him by forever” (Jeremiah 17:5-6, TLB).

The Amplified Bible uses strong language as well:

“Thus says the Lord: Cursed [with great evil] is the strong man who trusts and relies on frail man, making weak [human] flesh his arm, and whose mind and heart turn aside from the Lord. For he shall be like a shrub or a person naked and destitute in the desert, and shall not see any good come; but shall dwell in the parched places in the wilderness, in uninhabited salt land.”

- **False preachers and teachers** bring a curse upon themselves:

“I am amazed that you are turning away so soon from God Who, in His love and mercy, invited you to share the eternal life He gives through Christ; you are already following a different “way to heaven,” which really doesn’t go to heaven at all. For there is no other way than the one we showed you; you are being fooled by those who twist and change the truth concerning Christ.

Let God’s curses (“anathema”) fall on anyone, including myself, who preaches any other way to be saved than the one we told you about; yes, if an angel comes from heaven and preaches any other message, let him be forever cursed. I will say it again: if anyone preaches any other Gospel than the one you welcomed, let God’s curse (“anathema”) fall upon him” (Galatians 1:6-9, TLB).

The moment any of us stop accepting God’s Word as the final authority for the way of life, at that moment we start to open ourselves up to believing false doctrines. One does not have to look very far today to realize that the variations in belief systems – even under the umbrella of Christianity – have developed that way because of the doubting of the Word of God. On this subject of curses alone, we are challenged to

decide whether or not we are going to believe what the Bible says . . . or to begin believing that the Scriptures given in this book “don’t really apply to us in these days.” Who ever thought we would see the day when orthodox, evangelical denominations would be ordaining homosexuals and lesbians into the ministry? Even though it is directly opposite to what the Word of God teaches (Romans 1) the decisions are still being made to allow such people into the ministry! Why? One reason is that somehow they do not have the revelation of the truth of the New Covenant, have come under the curse of God and are reaping what they have sown in former days. **How important it is that we preachers make sure we are preaching and teaching the Word of God! Otherwise we will be guilty of cursing the people from the pulpit as well! Not intentionally, mind you, but it happens over time by omitting the truth of God’s Word and/or supplementing it with the “fads of the day.” It is one thing for us to teach that we should “go with the flow,” but let us first make sure the “flow” is going God’s way rather than just another “latest and greatest” to come to our shores.**

This manual is not intended to be a “knocking” one. Yet the Scriptures are very clear and straight on the subject of how easy it is for us to come under curses – as Christians! Our disobedience to God breaks the Covenant relationship and, once that is broken, we are “open targets” for our enemy (Satan) to take advantage of us, which he is always seeking to do (2 Corinthians 2:11). He wants to keep us locked up in unforgiveness and other things, etc. Then the process of sin and decay, defeat and rebellion takes over and we become powerless to defend our territory from his negativities. **We must keep short accounts with God.** If and when we sin, we must quickly repent and turn back to the way of the Cross of Jesus Christ. Our only true freedom is found in a personal walk with Jesus Christ!

“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7, KJV).

Notice this verse is a present-tense verse. It is one that must be working in the now! It does not say, “If we once walked in the light . . .” or “If we are planning on walking in the light . . .” we’ll be okay. No! We must now – right now – have the light in us, so we can have true fellowship between us. As that happens in reality, the blood of Jesus Christ is there as an ever-present cleansing to keep us pure and right before an Awesome Holy God!

We need to be like the Bereans (“the pierced: the beyond”) of old who did not “swallow” everything that was preached to them; not even when the Apostle Paul was teaching:

“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians (“victory over falsity”), for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true” (Acts 17:10-11, NIV).

How is it with you, dear reader?

Do you daily spend time in your Bible?

Do you love God’s Word so much that you are prepared to sacrifice some time to search out the truth from its pages?

If you are not spending good time in your Bible, then how do you know if what you believe is the truth?

The Bereans took nothing for granted – not even with Paul – they had to know that what was being preached lined up with the Word of God. And so should we!

- There is a curse upon those **who will not be turned unto the Lord and unto their families:**

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. [Matthew 11:14; Matthew 17:10-13.] And he shall turn [and reconcile] the hearts of the [estranged] fathers to the [ungodly] children, and the hearts of the [rebellious] children to [the piety of] their fathers [a reconciliation produced by repentance of the ungodly]; lest I come and smite the land with a curse (“cherem”) [and a ban of utter destruction]. [Luke 1:17]” (Malachi 4:5-6, AMP).

Notice – the very last word of the Old Testament is **“curse”**.

One of the main reasons for the breakdown of marriages and families is because people have gone away from the principles of the Word of God. The toll our generation is paying for our rejection of God is enormous. That which God has ordained to be a tremendous strength, security and blessing, has become (to many) an absolute heartache that has left millions “bitter and twisted on the inside” because of the breakdown of their marriage and family life. If we will turn again to the Lord, God can break through and bring healing, restoration and life to those affected. It may not mean the restoration of the marriage (in some cases) but at least there will be a healing and releasing on the inside that enables us to rise and live again by the grace of God!

- The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked:

***“The Lord’s curse* (“meerah”) *is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the righteous”* (Proverbs 3:33, NIV). (See also Psalm 109:1-20, especially verses 17-18 and Hebrews 6:8).**

- He that hides his eyes from the needs of others shall have many a curse:

***“The people will curse* (“naqab”) *him who holds back grain [when the public needs it]; but a blessing [from God and man] is upon the head of him who sells it”* (Proverbs 11:26, AMP). (See also Proverbs 28:27).**

- There is a curse on those who cause the blind to wander out of the way:

***“Cursed* (“arar”) *be he that makes the blind to wander out of the way . . .”* (Deuteronomy 27:18, KJV).**

The spiritually unjust are ***“cursed children”***:

“But there were false prophets, too, in those days, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly tell their lies about God, turning against even their Master Who bought them; but theirs will be a swift and terrible end. Many will follow their evil teaching that there is nothing wrong with sexual sin. And because of them Christ and His way will be scoffed at. These teachers in their greed will tell you anything to get hold of your money. But God condemned them long ago and their destruction is on the way . . . He is especially hard on those who follow their own evil, lustful thoughts, and those who are proud and willful . . . But false teachers are fools – no better than animals. They do whatever they feel like; born only to be caught and killed, they laugh at the terrifying powers of the underworld (literally, “the things they do not understand”) which they know so little about; and they will be destroyed along with all the demons and powers of hell. That is the pay these teachers will have for their sin. For they live in evil pleasures day after day. They are a disgrace and a stain among you, deceiving you by living in foul sin on the side while they join your love feasts as though they were honest men. No woman can escape their sinful stare, and of adultery

they never have enough. They make a game of luring unstable women. They train themselves to be greedy; and are doomed and cursed (“katara”) . . .” (2 Peter 2:1-22, but especially verse 14, TLB).

- **Graven images are cursed:**

“The graven images (“carved idols” – Collins) ***of their*** (the Canaanites) ***gods you shall burn with fire; you shall not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourself, lest you be ensnared by it; for it is an abomination*** (“disgusting, an abhorrence” – Strong’s) ***to the Lord your God. Neither shall you bring an abomination (an idol) into your house, lest you become an accursed*** (“cherem”) ***thing like it; but you shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is an accursed*** (“cherem”) ***thing***” (Deuteronomy 7:25-26, AMP). (See also Deuteronomy 13:12-18, especially verse 17).

I find it extremely amazing how millions of people worldwide are bowing down to carved idols of wood, plastic and stone! Even some churches are loaded with idols! In many countries there are shops stocked with hundreds of various idols for the people to buy - and buy them they do! Scores are seeking spiritual answers to the problems of life; but so many are looking in the wrong places! We do not need idols, charms, emblems – or even crosses – to touch the risen Christ! **We only need genuine heart repentance and a belief in the truth of Jesus!**

The Scriptures make it quite clear what God thinks of graven images!

CURSES ARE OFTEN LINKED WITH DEATH:

- **Death** was the promise of God to those who cursed their father and mother:

“Whoever curses (“qalal”) ***his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in complete darkness***” (Proverbs 20:20, AMP.). See also Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9; Deuteronomy 27:16; Proverbs 30:10-11; Matthew 15:4, and Mark 7:10.

- A curse comes on those who **despise their parents:**

“Cursed (“arar”) ***is anyone who despises*** (“to look down on with contempt; scorn” - Collins) ***his father or mother . . .***” (Deuteronomy 27:16, TLB).

- **Blaspheming and cursing the name of God** brings death:

“Now the son of an Israelite woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the Israelites; and he and a man of Israel quarreled and strove together in the camp. The Israelite woman’s son blasphemed (“1. to show contempt or disrespect for God, especially in speech. 2. to utter profanities, curses, or impious expressions” – Collins) the name of the Lord, and cursed. They brought him to Moses . . . and they put him in custody until the will of the Lord might be declared to them. And the Lord said to Moses, Bring him who has cursed (“qalal”) out of the camp, and let all who heard him lay their hands upon his head; then let all the congregation stone him. And you will say to the Israelites, Whoever curses (“qalal”) his God shall bear his sin. And he who blasphemes the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him; the stranger as well as he who was born in the land shall be put to death when he blasphemes the name of the Lord . . . Moses spoke to the Israelites and they brought him who had cursed (“qalal”) out of the camp, and stoned him with stones. Thus the Israelites did as the Lord commanded Moses” (Leviticus 24:10-16, 23, AMP).

- Jezebel was a cursed woman – she died:

“Then Jehu (“Jah is He” or “he shall be (subsist)”) went to Jezreel (“it will be sown of God” or “God sows”). When Jezebel (“unchaste; without co-habitation”) heard about it, she painted her eyes, arranged her hair and looked out of a window . . . “Throw her down!” Jehu said. So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered the wall and the horses as they trampled her underfoot.

Jehu went in and ate and drank. “Take care of that cursed (“arar”) woman,” he said, “and bury her, for she was a king’s daughter.” But when they went out to bury her, they found nothing except her skull, her feet and her hands. They went back and told Jehu, who said, “This is the Word of the Lord that He spoke through His servant Elijah (“my God is Jah” or “Jah Himself”) the Tishbite (“captivity; you shall lead captive”): On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs will devour Jezebel’s flesh. Jezebel’s body will be like refuse on the ground in the plot at Jezreel, so that no one will be able to say, ‘This is Jezebel’” (2 Kings 9:30-37, NIV).

- Goliath cursed David in the name of his Philistine gods – he died:

“Then he (David) picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd’s bag and, armed only with his shepherd’s staff and sling, started across to Goliath (“stripped – as a captive; an exile or soothsayer one who uses divination”). Goliath walked out towards David (“beloved”) with his shield bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this nice little red-cheeked boy!

“Am I a dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?” And he cursed (“qalal”) David by the names of his gods. “Come over here and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals,” Goliath yelled.

David shouted in reply, “You come to me with a sword and a spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of the armies of heaven and of Israel – the very God whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you and I will kill you and cut off your head; and then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And Israel will learn that the Lord does not depend on weapons to fulfill His plans – He works without regard to human means! He will give you to us!” (1 Samuel 17:40-47, TLB).

What powerful truth David was talking in these verses. Logically speaking, David did not stand a chance against this seasoned warrior of the Philistines (“wallowing”). Not only did Goliath stand as a huge obstacle in the physical, he was one who gave himself over to the occult and so ***“cursed David by his gods.”*** But David was looking to God, not man. He was full of the Holy Spirit, not living in fear of the evil spirit realm. David knew a dimension of life Goliath had never known! All of Goliath’s cursing of David had no affect upon David at all. David knew Goliath was finished once he began cursing and defying God! And so Goliath paid the penalty of cursing with his life.

While we are on these verses, what a great statement David made for us Christians to take heed of: ***“And Israel will learn that the Lord does not depend on weapons to fulfill His plans – He works without regard to human means!”*** What a difference it makes when ***we really allow God to be God to us.*** Far too often we limit God to our own human efforts and mentality. How ridiculous! **Let GOD BE GOD!**

- **Shimei cursed King David – he died when Solomon began to reign:**

“As David and his party passed Bahurim (“choice youths” or “low

grounds”), *a man came out of the village cursing* (“qalal”) *them. It was Shim-e-i* (“Jah is fame” or “hearkeners: my report”), *the son of Gera* (“the cud: a grain: sojourning” or “enmity”), *a member of Saul’s* (“requested” or “asked (a grand title)”) *family. He threw stones at the king and the king’s officers and all the mighty warriors who surrounded them! “Get out of here, you murderer, you scoundrel!” he shouted at David. “The Lord is paying you back for murdering King Saul and his family; you stole his throne and now the Lord has given it to your son Absalom* (“father of peace”)! *At last you will taste some of your own medicine, you murderer!”*

“Why should this dead dog curse (“qalal”) *my lord the king?” Abishai* (“father of gift” or “source of wealth”) *demanded. “Let me go over and strike off his head!”*

“No!” the king said, “If the Lord has told him to curse (“qalal”) *me, who am I to say no? My own son is trying to kill me, and this Benjaminite* (“son of the right hand”) *is merely cursing* (“qalal”) *me. Let him alone, for no doubt the Lord has told him to do it. And perhaps the Lord will see that I am being wronged and will bless me because of these curses* (“qelalah”).

So David and his men continued on, and Shim-e-i kept pace with them on a nearby hillside, cursing (“qalal”) *as he went and throwing stones at David and tossing dust into the air”* (2 Samuel 16:5-13, TLB).

“As the king was crossing, Shim-e-i fell down before him, and pleaded, “My lord and king, please forgive me and forget the terrible thing I did when you left Jerusalem; for I know very well how much I sinned. That is why I have come here today, the very first person in all the tribe of Joseph (“let him add” or “increaser”) *to greet you.” Abishai asked, “Shall not Shim-e-i die, for he cursed* (“qalal”) *the Lord’s chosen king!”*

“Don’t talk to me like that!” David exclaimed. “This is not a day for execution but for celebration! I am once more king of Israel!” Then, turning to Shim-e-i, he vowed, “Your life is spared” (2 Samuel 19:18-23, TLB).

“As the time of King David’s death approached, he gave this charge to his son Solomon: . . . And do you remember Shim-e-i, the son of Gera the Benjaminite from Bahurim? He cursed (“qalal”) *me with a terrible curse* (“qelalah”) *as I was going to*

Mahanaim (“double” or “two camps”); ***but when he came down to meet me at the Jordan River I promised I wouldn’t kill him. But that promise doesn’t bind you! You are a wise man, and you will know how to arrange a bloody death for him.*** . . . ***The king now sent for Shim-e-i and told him, “Build a house here in Jerusalem, and don’t step outside the city on pain of death. The moment you go beyond Kidron*** (“turbid” or “the mourner: the black one”) ***Brook, you die; and it will be your own fault.”***

“All right,” Shim-e-i replied, “whatever you say.” So he lived in Jerusalem for a long time. But three years later two of Shim-e-i’s slaves escaped to King Achish (“serpent-charmer” or “I will blacken (or terrify),” or “only a man”) ***of Gath*** (“wine press; fortune”). ***When Shim-e-i learned where they were, he saddled a donkey and went to Gath to visit the king. And when he had found his slaves, he took them back to Jerusalem.***

When Solomon heard that Shim-e-i had left Jerusalem and had gone to Gath and returned, he sent for him and demanded, “Didn’t I command you in the name of God to stay in Jerusalem or die? You replied, ‘Very well, I will do as you say.’ Then why have you not kept your agreement and obeyed my commandment? And what about all the wicked things you did to my father, King David? May the Lord take revenge on you . . . Then, at the king’s command, Benaiah (“built of Jehovah” or “Jah is intelligent”) ***took Shim-e-i outside and killed him”*** (1 Kings 2:1, 8-9, 36-46, TLB).

Here is an interesting case of a man who went about cursing the king. The king in his mercy spared his life; then some time later Shim-e-i returned and asked David’s forgiveness, which was granted him. However, it was not a total forgiveness. Shim-e-i was forgiven yet not forgiven. Certain conditions were placed on him by Solomon after David gave instructions before he died. The moment those conditions were breached, Shim-e-i was brought before King Solomon and the death sentence passed upon him. He reaped what he sowed. He paid the penalty of death for his actions of cursing the king!

- **Those cursed of God shall be cut off:**

“. . . and they that be cursed (“qalal”) ***of him*** (God) ***shall be cut*** (“to cut off, to root out, to destroy; to strike, to smite; to punish with death” – Wilson’s) ***off”*** (Psalm 37:22, KJV).

- **Jesus even cursed a fig tree – and it died in one day!**

“The next day as they were leaving Bethany (“house of dates or figs”), Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to find out if it had any fruit. When He reached it, He found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season of figs. Then He said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And His disciples heard Him say it . . . In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi (“Master” or “a great man: teacher”), look! The fig tree You cursed (“kataraoimai”) has withered!” (Mark 11:12-14, 20-21, NIV).

In these verses, Jesus demonstrated the power of the spoken word over creation. He spoke a curse upon the fig tree and it withered and died by the very next day!

- God has set before us life and death, blessing and cursing. We have to choose which way we are going to go:

“See, I (God) have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil. [If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which] I command you today, to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.

But if your [mind and] heart turn away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish, and you shall not live long in the land which you pass over the Jordan (“their descent”) to enter and possess. I call Heaven and earth to witness this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse (“qelalah”); therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live; To love the Lord your God, to obey His voice, and to cling to Him; for He is your life, and the length of your days, that you may dwell in the land, which the Lord swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham (“father of a great multitude”), Isaac (“laughter”), and Jacob (“he will take by the heel” or “following after: supplanter”) (Deuteronomy 30:15-20, AMP).

“Then Joshua built an altar to the Lord God of Israel . . . Then the priests offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings to the Lord on the altar . . . Then all the people of Israel – including the elders, officers, judges, and the foreigners living among them – divided into two groups . . . Between them stood the priests with the Ark, ready to pronounce their blessing. (This was all done in accordance with the instructions given long before by Moses.) Joshua then read to them

all of the statements of blessing and curses (“qelalah”) ***that Moses had written in the book of God’s laws. Every commandment Moses had ever given was read before the entire assembly, including the women and the children and the foreigners who lived among the Israelis***” (Joshua 8:30-35, TLB).

The aforementioned Scripture passages make it clear that there are really only two ways in life: the way of blessing or the way of cursing. God says we have the choice as to which way we will go. The way of blessing is the way of heeding and obeying God’s Word; the way of cursing is to ignore or disobey God’s Word and the cursing life-style will follow. We cannot afford to live outside of the presence of the Lord! God wants to bless us and give us a life of ongoing blessings (Ephesians 1:3), but we have to choose that way. To ignore God’s Word and way is to open ourselves up “to whatever may come our way.” We will be defenceless to stand against the devices of the enemy of our soul.

Therefore choose life!

Let us not forget that there is a day of reckoning coming, when we all have to give account of the life we’ve lived and the choices we’ve made, and what place we have given to Jesus Christ, God’s Son in our lives!

- In the parable of the sheep and goats, Jesus called the sheep ***“blessed”*** and the goats ***“cursed”***:

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.’

“Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see

You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?’

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.’

“Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed (“katara”), into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help You?’ “He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life” (Matthew 25:31-46, NIV).

Here Jesus makes very clear distinctions between the life of blessing and cursing. He also tells us the difference of life-styles. Those who live in the blessing of God are observant, caring and helping to minister to others in need. Jesus said we do that as unto Him. But those who don't see needs, or care, or help our fellow human beings are missing out on what life is about; missing out on serving Jesus in a very real way. Jesus said there is a curse on those who don't get involved in what is dear to His heart. As we consider what the Bible is saying, we need to ask ourselves whether we are fulfilling the life-style of a “sheep” or a “goat”? Jesus wants us all to be sheep, but obviously many choose to want to live the life of a goat.

- God promised Abram that He would bless those who blessed him and curse those who cursed him:

“After the death of Abram’s (“father of height”) father, God told him, “Leave your own country behind you, and your own people, and go to the land I will guide you to. If you do, I will cause you to become the father of a great nation; I will bless you and make your name famous, and you will be a blessing to many others. I will bless those who bless you and curse (“arar”)

those who curse (“qalal”) you; and the entire world will be blessed because of you” (Genesis 12:1-3, TLB).

What a promise! To think that God would stand by a man with such a statement like that is tremendous! God’s desire is to bless us with all the blessings of Christ Jesus! (Ephesians 1:3). He so wants His hand of approval to be seen on our lives that He would even curse those who try and curse the Covenant-keeping servants of God. Again we see that it is God Who will do the cursing of our enemies, not us. We do not have to defend ourselves in the Kingdom of God. The Lord Himself is able to do that quite adequately, thank you!

When the Ammonites and the Moabites hired Balaam to curse the children of Israel, God intervened and turned the curse into a blessing! (Nehemiah 13:1-2). God sure knows how to frustrate the enemy! He is an expert at turning their curses back upon their own heads (if you want to read all about that, just keep reading your Bible! – Joshua 24 for example).

- **Isaac spoke that same promise of blessing and cursing over Jacob’s life (thinking he was Esau):**

***“ . . . May God give you of heaven’s dew and of earth’s richness – an abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse (“arar”) you be cursed (“arar”) and those who bless you be blessed”* (Genesis 27:18-29, NIV).**

As we walk in harmony with God today through His Son, Jesus Christ, we can expect the blessing of God to flow in our lives. We can also expect that those who oppose and curse us (because we belong to God) will also be dealt with by God Himself. The promise given by God to Abram was a principle that was carried on by Isaac. They knew God stood by those who served Him faithfully.

And so can we!

CHAPTER FIVE

Other Examples Of Cursing

The words “curse, cursed and cursing” appear at least 181 times in the Old Testament and 23 times in the New Testament. They cover a large area of life, but we can mention only a few in this chapter. Let us learn from the Scriptures the importance of living in the blessing of God, thus avoiding the area of cursing, which the Bible shows comes to those who do not trust God and His Word to be their Guide for living (in the here and now).

Listed below are some other examples of cursing:

- **The serpent (Satan) has been – and is – cursed above all cattle and every beast of the field:**

“ . . . And the Lord God said to the woman, What is this you have done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled (cheated, outwitted, and deceived) me, and I ate. And the Lord God said to the serpent, Because you have done this, you are cursed (“arar”) above all [domestic] animals, and above every [wild] living thing of the field; upon your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust [and what it contains] all the days of your life” (Genesis 3:1-15, especially verses 14-15, AMP).

- **Jacob cursed the anger of two of his sons, Simeon and Levi:**

“Simeon and Levi are brothers – their swords are weapons of violence. Let me not enter their council, let me not join their assembly, for they have killed men in their anger and hamstrung oxen as they pleased. Cursed (“arar”) be their anger, so fierce, and their fury, so cruel! I will scatter them in Jacob and disperse them in Israel” (Genesis 49:5-7, NIV).

What a terrible testimony for a father to have to give of his sons. Of all the things Simeon and Levi could have been known for, it was their violent anger problem that came to the fore. **It was so bad that Jacob cursed their anger! Let us not degenerate into such a low state that we become known for anger!** So much of what is happening in the

world today is born out of anger. Because life is not producing the desired results for so many, even though they feel they have the freedom to “do what they like,” it results in frustration and anger. Scores of homes each day are filled with misery because the husband or wife, or grown-up children, are ruling them with the fist and threats of violence, etc. Besides all these things, we are daily hearing of tribal disputes and wars (national and international), ethnic cleansings, abuse of positions of authority, and on and on it goes endlessly. It is a shameful state for people to have to live that way. **The peace of God is needed to rule in the hearts of all! That does make the difference!**

- **Meroz (“waxing lean: enduring: cedar worker”) was cursed because they did not come to God’s help:**

“Curse (“arar”) Meroz,’ said the angel of the Lord. ‘Curse (“arar”) its people bitterly, because they did not come to help the Lord, to help the Lord against the mighty’ ” (Judges 5:23, NIV).

Meroz was “a place North of Mount Tabor, near the lake of Merom” (Young’s). “It would seem as if its people might have helped in the campaign against Sisera, but failed to do so” (Unger’s Bible Dictionary). The people had been “let down,” it appears, through broken promises. How often that happens today!

Far too often there is a carelessness about our words and the keeping of promises. As far as God is concerned, He holds us to our word! It is very interesting to observe at times how the Holy Spirit convicts Christians of broken promises and calls them to deliver their promises, even though they may have been made a number of years previously. I have seen this take place, especially in the area of finances. We Christians are sometimes guilty of not delivering in that area of life. **If we have promised – whatever we have promised – we need to make it good! Otherwise our word becomes suspect.** If we are unable to keep our promise, then we need to talk to the person concerned and get a release from it. **But until either takes place – we deliver the promise or get released from it – we open ourselves up to a curse.**

- **The disciple Peter, when he denied the Lord, cursed and swore with an oath (he was later forgiven):**

“Meanwhile, as Peter was sitting in the courtyard a girl came over and said to him, ‘You were with Jesus, for both of you are from Galilee (“a circuit (as enclosed or rolled around)” or “a circle”).’ But Peter (“a stone”) denied it loudly. ‘I don’t even know what you are talking about,’ he angrily declared. Later, out by

the gate, another girl noticed him and said to those standing around, ‘This man was with Jesus – from Nazareth’ (“a branch: preservation”). *Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath* (“the object by which one swears, the witness of an oath . . . to shut in, restrain, and so, strictly, it denotes, that which restrains from doing a thing” – Bullinger’s). *‘I don’t even know the man,’ he said.*

But after a while the men who had been standing there came over to him and said, “We know you are one of His disciples, for we can tell by your Galilean accent.” Peter began to curse (“katanathematizo”) *and swear. ‘I don’t even know the man,’ he said. And immediately the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said, ‘Before the cock crows, you will deny Me three times.’ And he went away crying bitterly”* (Matthew 26:69-75, TLB). (See also Mark 14:71).

I always feel a bit sorry for Peter; for he was in a very difficult environment. The crowd had been stirred into “mob rule” over the Man, Jesus. The scene was anything but friendly towards Christianity, and Peter chose the path of denial “to save his own skin,” even going to the depths of cursing and swearing an oath! Once that rooster crowed, Peter was jolted back into the reality of what Jesus had said to him about denying his Lord that very day. Peter had earlier in the day felt he could handle anything that came his way, but how dramatically the events changed. Then he found himself in a situation where he was denying he even knew Jesus! Yes, this was the same man who walked on the water, and who saw the miraculous catch of fish, etc. How rotten he would have felt with himself, over what happened, over his own weakness in denying, and so on.

But it wasn’t over yet . . . Before Peter could get to Jesus to ask His forgiveness, Jesus was cruelly yanked up on a crude Cross and crucified in front of the mocking crowd. Jesus died! Peter was so full of remorse and confusion and anger and emotions all mixed up; but he didn’t know what to do. Jesus was now dead and he did not get the opportunity to say “Sorry” before He was taken. How the next three days of Peter’s life must have been heartbreak. What would Jesus think of him now?

But Jesus knew Peter’s heart, much better than Peter knew it himself. Three days later, on resurrection morning, the angel of the Lord gave a personal message to the three women at the tomb: *“You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth Who was crucified. He is risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.* [Psalm 16:10.] *But be going; tell the disciples and Peter, He goes before you into Galilee; you will see Him there, [just] as He told you”* (Mark 16:6-7, AMP).

Jesus reached out to Peter to renew that wonderful fellowship and friendship that had begun prior to that fateful day in Peter's life.

“And tell Peter!”

What a message! So short, but oh, so meaningful!

“Jesus accepts me! He knows my heart! How I really didn't mean what I said!”

On that resurrection day Peter was able to get back into Covenant relationship with Jesus, start all over again . . . and even go on to greater things in the days ahead. Praise the Lord for the heart of Jesus that reaches out to us, even when we say and do stupid things.

- **When things were very low for Israel in Jeremiah's day, he asked God to place His curse upon the enemy:**

“But I called upon Your name, O Lord, from deep within the well, and You heard me! You listened to my pleading; You heard my weeping! Yes, You came at my despairing cry and told me not to fear. O Lord, You are my lawyer! Plead my case! For You have redeemed my life. You have seen the wrong they did to me; be my Judge, to prove me right. You have seen the plots my foes have laid against me. You have heard the vile names they have called me, and all they say about me, and their whispered plans. See how they laugh and sing with glee, preparing my doom.

“O Lord, repay them well for all the evil they have done. Harden their hearts and curse (“taalah”) them, Lord. Go after them in fierce pursuit and wipe them off the earth, beneath the heavens of the Lord” (Lamentations 3:55-66, TLB).

Jeremiah was not feeling very good about what had happened to his people, the way he was being persecuted as God's prophet, and the plans those evil plotters had against him. We are not told whether or not God answered Jeremiah's prayer, but in keeping with the rest of the Scriptures on cursing it would appear obvious that those evil plotters would have come under the curse of God.

- **In Jeremiah's vision of the good and bad figs, he saw the bad figs as being cursed:**

“After Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (“confusion: by mixing”), had captured and enslaved Jeconiah (“Jah is establishing” or “Jehovah will establish”) . . . king of Judah (“he shall be praised”), and exiled him to Babylon along with the princes of Judah and the skilled tradesmen . . . the Lord gave me this vision. I saw two baskets of figs placed in front of the Temple in Jerusalem. In one basket there were fresh, just-ripened figs, but in the other the figs were spoiled and mouldy – too rotten to eat. Then the Lord said to me, “What do you see, Jeremiah (“Jah is high” or “Jah is cast forth”)?”

I replied, “Figs, some very good and some very bad.”

Then the Lord said: “The good figs represent the exiles sent to Babylon. I have done it for their good. I will see that they are well treated and I will bring them back here again. I will help them and not hurt them; I will plant them and not pull them up. I will give them hearts that respond to Me. They shall be My people and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with great joy.

“But the rotten figs represent Zedekiah (“Jah is might” or “righteousness of Jehovah”), king of Judah, his officials and all the others of Jerusalem left here in this land; those too who live in Egypt (“double straits”). I will treat them like spoiled figs, too bad to use. I will make them repulsive to every nation of the earth, and they shall be mocked and taunted and cursed (“qelalah”) wherever I compel them to go. And I will send massacre and famine and disease among them until they are destroyed from the land of Israel (“ruling with God”), which I gave to them and to their fathers” (Jeremiah 24, TLB).

Again we see in these Scriptures how God is for those who obey Him and against those who willfully disobey Him. The disobedient come under a curse.

- **There was a time in Elisha’s (“my God is salvation” or “God is Saviour”) life when he was mocked (“scoffed at, scorned, derided” – Wilson’s) by children over his baldness!** Elisha re-acted to their scoffings by cursing them in the name of the Lord. It was a word of judgment, as two she bears came out of the woods and killed 42 of them! His cursing of those cheeky children brought about swift destruction:

“And he (Elisha) went up from there unto Bethel (“house of

God”): *and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up you bald head; go up, you bald head. And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed (“qalal”) them in the name of the Lord. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare (“to cleave, rend, rip up” – Young’s) **forty two children of them**” (2 Kings 2:23-24, KJV).*

Elisha knew the power of the curse. He knew how destructive they can be and he certainly knew what he was doing that day. (Can you imagine the repercussions of the above incident if that happened today from the mouth of a man or a woman of God??) Elisha commanded and demanded respect as a man of God – even from cheeky little children!

- **When Balaam was hired by Balak (“void, empty, waster”) to curse Israel, God overturned his intentions and turned the curse into a blessing:**

“The people of Israel now travelled to the plains of Moab (“from father: what father?” or “water of a father”) and camped east of the Jordan River opposite Jericho (“let him smell it” or “place of fragrance”). When King Balak of Moab (the son of Zippor – “a bird; especially a sparrow”) realized how many of them there were, and when he learned what they had done to the Amorites (“a sayer” or “mountaineer”), he and his people were terrified. They quickly consulted with the leaders of Midian (“contention: strife”).

“This mob will eat us like an ox eats grass,” they exclaimed. So King Balak sent messengers to Balaam (son of Beor – “a burning” or “shepherd”) who was living in his native land of Pethor (“extension” or “to interpret”), near the Euphrates (“bursting, sweet” or “fruitfulness”) River. He begged Balaam to come and help him. “A vast horde of people has arrived from Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth and are headed toward me,” he frantically explained. “Please come and curse (“arar”) them for me, so that I can drive them out of my land; for I know what fantastic blessings fall on those whom you bless, and I also know that those whom you curse (“arar”) are doomed (“arar”) . . .

“That night God came to Balaam and asked him, “Who are these men?” “They have come from King Balak of Moab,” he replied. “The king says that a vast horde of people from Egypt has arrived at his border, and he wants me to go at once and

curse (“qabab”) them, in the hope that he can battle them successfully. “Don’t do it!” God told him. “You are not to curse (“arar”) them, for I have blessed them!”

The next morning Balaam told the men, “Go on home! The Lord won’t let me do it.” “So King Balak’s ambassadors returned without him and reported his refusal. Balak tried again. This time he sent a larger number of even more distinguished ambassadors than the former group. They came to Balaam with this message: “King Balak pleads with you to come. He promises you great honour plus any payment you ask. Name your own figure! Only come and curse (“qabab”) these people for us.” But Balaam replied, “If he were to give me a palace filled with silver and gold, I could do nothing contrary to the command of the Lord my God. However, stay here tonight so that I can find out whether the Lord will add anything to what He said before . . .” (Numbers 22, TLB).

Then the Lord gave Balaam a message for King Balak . . . This was Balaam’s message: “King Balak, king of Moab, has brought me From the land of Aram, From the eastern mountains. ‘Come,’ he told me, ‘curse (“arar”) Jacob for me! Let your anger rise on Israel. But how can I curse (“naqab”) what God has not cursed (“qabab”)”? How can I denounce a people God has not denounced? I see them from the cliff tops, I watch them from the hills. They live alone, and prefer to remain distinct from every other nation. They are as numerous as dust! They are beyond numbering. If only I could die as happy as an Israelite! (He didn’t!) Oh, that my end might be like theirs!” (It wasn’t!) (See Numbers 31:8, 16; Joshua 13:22; 2 Peter 2:15-16; Jude 11; Revelation 2:14).

“What have you done to me?” demanded King Balak. “I told you to curse (“qabab”) my enemies, and now you have blessed them!” (Numbers 23, TLB).

Balaam obviously had a reputation in his day of being able to effectively bless and curse people. When a king is prepared to let a man “name his price” for his services he must be good at his work! The name “Balaam” means “swallower of the people: confounding the people” or “a pilgrim or lord of the people.” Joshua 13:22 records that he was *“a soothsayer”* (KJV), one who “practiced divination.”

The practice of cursing to control others is very strong in many parts of the world today. Anything we fear has the power to restrict and even control us. It is a fact that every kingdom that is outside of the

Kingdom of God is controlled by the spirit of fear. Fear keeps the hierarchies of evil in their place and also dictates what those under its clutches can or cannot do. **Fear is a curse!**

In the above sections of Scripture we see that God can and does over-rule those who seek to curse His people. Curses do have power and can affect us in different ways and to varying degrees of negativity, depression, confusion, sickness, disease, poverty, broken relationships, anger, hatred, unforgiveness and even death. **BUT! GOD IS BIGGER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY AND ALL CURSES!** That is why we need to get close to Him and allow His love and protection to be our source every day of our lives! **He is committed to protecting us from every power of every curse when we are committed to loving Him and keeping His Word . . . keeping our side of the Covenant He has entered into with us through the sacrificial death of His Son, JESUS CHRIST, on the Cross of Calvary.** That death was not simply an act of heroism, nor bravery; but it was the most important event in all history that will affect us like nothing else ever can! At Calvary God made a promise to the human race, sealed it with the blood of His only beloved Son, that He would be a Father to us if we would acknowledge JESUS CHRIST as His Son and believe His finished work on the cross was the only way to bring fallen man back to a personal relationship with God. He made a Covenant with us, and He is committed to keeping that Covenant with us. All He asks is that we believe on Him and demonstrate that belief by walking in the paths of righteousness with Him. When we do that, God delivers us and keeps us free from every curse that any man or devil would try to bring upon us!

Remember: ***“An undeserved curse** (“qelalah”) **has no effect.** *Its intended victim will be no more harmed by it than by a sparrow or swallow flitting through the sky”* (Proverbs 26:2, TLB).*

Whoever heard of anyone being afraid of a sparrow?

The Jerusalem Bible says:

“. . . the undeserved curse will never hit its mark.”

When we are right with God, having no conscious sin or rebellion in our heart, then we are in a position where a curse has nothing by which to “get its grip on” in our lives. We do not have to accept them. Nor do we need to live in fear of them! ***“Greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world”*** (1 John 4:4, KJV).

And God is committed to keeping those who walk in the Light with Him!

(1 John 1:7).

We would do far better to be afraid of the curse that God puts on people through their disobedience, rather than having a fear of what man or the devil can put on us! Too many Christians have an unhealthy emphasis upon what Satan can do in our lives, rather than seeing the power and All-mightiness of a Great God Who is devoted to keeping us safe *“in the hollow of His hand”* (Isaiah 40:12). I believe we Christians would make far more progress in our lives if we confessed and lived in the positives of God, rather than in the negatives of the devil! So, let us do that! Let us believe God’s side of the story!

THE LAW IS A CURSE:

Now that we are under the New Covenant of Jesus Christ’s shed blood, we are freed from the curse of the law. Seeking to please God under the old law brings a curse upon us. The Book of Galatians makes this clear:

“You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched (“1. to attract and fascinate; enchant. 2. to cast a spell over” – Collins) you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? Have you suffered so much for nothing – if it really was for nothing? Does God give you His Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? . . .

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse (“katara”) for it is written: “Cursed (“epikataratos”) is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”

Clearly no one is justified before God by the Law, because, “The righteous will live by faith.” The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, “The man who does these things will live by them.”

Christ redeemed us from the curse (“katara”) of the law by becoming a curse (“katara”) for us, for it is written: “Cursed

(“epikataratos”) is everyone who is hung on a tree: (Galatians 3:1-5, 10-13, NIV).

Jesus took our curse upon Himself!!

“If a man has committed a crime worthy of death, and is executed and then hanged on a tree, his body shall not remain on the tree overnight. You must bury him the same day, for anyone hanging on a tree is cursed (“qelalah”) of God. Don’t defile the land the Lord your God has given you” (Deuteronomy 21:22-23, TLB).

***“Christ purchased our freedom (redeeming us) from the curse (doom) of the Law’s (condemnation), by [Himself] becoming a curse for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified); [Deuteronomy 21:23.]”* (Galatians 3:13, AMP).**

Jesus came to break us free from every curse! He became a curse for us cursed people in order to free us from the power of the curse of sin and all its ramifications and power!

IN JESUS WE ARE FREE!

NOW!

HE DID IT!

HE WON!

WE ARE FREE!

NOW!

The Pharisees (“the separated” or “expounders”) certainly did not know this glorious New Testament truth. They actively rejected Jesus and went about to physically silence Him.

“The Temple police who had been sent to arrest Him (Jesus) returned to the chief priests and Pharisees. “Why didn’t you bring Him in?” they demanded. “He says such wonderful things!” they mumbled. “We’ve never heard anything like it.” “So you also have been led astray?” the Pharisees mocked. “Is there a single one of us Jewish rulers or Pharisees who believes He is the Messiah? These stupid crowds do, yes; but what do

they know about it? A curse (“epikataratos”) upon them anyway!” (John 7:45-49, TLB).

What real characters the Pharisees were. They were the ones under the curse of the law, yet they were cursing those who were not religiously living under the curse of the law! What religious ignorance abounded! Praise God for **THE VICTORY OF THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST OUR MIGHTY REDEEMER THAT WE NOW ENJOY!**

He came and took every curse away! That becomes a blessed reality when we make **HIM LORD OF ALL OUR LIFE AND WALK IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD AND HOLY SPIRIT.** Hallelujah!

- There is no curse in the New Jerusalem:

“Then he showed me the river whose waters give life, sparkling like crystal, flowing out from the throne of God and of the Lamb. Through the middle of the broad way of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve varieties of fruit, yielding each month its fresh crop; and the leaves of the trees were for the healing and the restoration of the nations [Genesis 2:9].

There shall no longer exist there anything that is accursed (“katanathema”) – detestable, foul, offensive, impure, hateful or horrible. But the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall worship Him – pay divine honours to Him and do Him holy service. [Zechariah 14:21.] They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. [Psalm 17:15.] And there shall be no more night; they have no need for lamplight or sunlight, for the Lord God will illuminate them and be their light, and they shall reign (as kings) forever and ever – through the eternities of the eternities” (Revelation 22:1-5, AMP).

The day is soon coming when we will know what it is to see every one in the Kingdom of Heaven totally free from even a concentration against us by Satan, his hordes and ungodly people. What a great day that will be!

But in the meantime: **To be free of the power of curses being activated in our life it is imperative that we walk the Christian life in obedience to God’s will as revealed through His Son, Jesus Christ.**

Be not afraid! If we are “worth our salt” as a Christian we will be attacked,

concentrated on and cursed by the enemies of the Gospel. But these attacks do not need to be feared, for in Jesus Christ we overcome the world, the flesh and the devil!

If Christians do happen to find themselves under a curse of any kind (because of sin and disobedience), then honest repentance and confession is needed. The sin and the curse need to be renounced in the Name of Jesus Christ. True repentance closes the door through which the curse was able to enter and turns one again to coming under the Lordship of Jesus. When that genuinely happens, a Holy Spirit-filled believer can pray in the Name of Jesus and break every “spiritual umbilical cord” that keeps the affected person in bondage. Remove the “openings” and causes, and freedom is assured.

CHAPTER SIX

The Keeping Of A Covenant Relationship

I feel this manual would not be complete if I did not share something of the other side of curses. It seems to me that curses in the Bible are connected with the breaking of God’s Covenant. Wherever there is a breach of Covenant the door is opened for the curse to come and take effect. In the same way, when we walk in the Covenant God has made with us – and we with Him – then curses have no power at all against us. Therefore, we need to look a bit more closely at what it means to be a true follower of Jesus. We can choose to stay just inside “Salvation’s door” or we can go on to become disciples of Jesus. We can choose to live with “our own hands on the controls” or we can enter into a Covenant relationship with God where He is in control. The Bible is about discipleship and Covenant relationship. The promises of God are for His disciples; not for those who “paddle around in the shallows” of Christianity . . . or should I say “Churchianity” . . . who use the Scriptures to their own ends.

So, let us look a little at Covenant:

The Bible is a Covenant between God and man. It is made up of two Testaments (or Covenants) – the Old and the New. Yes, the Bible is a Covenant Book.

Let us break down the meaning of the word “**Covenant**”:

The Old Testament Hebrew word is “**berith**” or “**beriyth**” meaning:

- “covenant, league” (Young’s);
- “(in the sense of) cutting; a compact (because made by passing between pieces of flesh):- confederacy (“a union or combination ...; alliance; league” – Collins), covenant, league” (Strong’s);
- “1. a binding agreement; contract ... 4. Bible. God’s promise to the Israelites and their commitment to worship Him alone. 5. to agree to a covenant (concerning)” (Collins).

The New Testament Greek word is “**diatheke**” meaning:

- “arrangement, covenant” (Young’s);
- “a disposition (“manner of placing or arranging” – Collins), i.e., specifically a contract: covenant, testament” (Strong’s).

We need to stop a moment and reflect on these meanings. A Covenant is a binding contract, a commitment, an agreement. In a spiritual sense it is far more powerful in its affects than a legal contract (and they can be very binding). We hear very little of Covenant preaching these days. The result has seen the Church often drifting into a semi-conscious state of “easy believe-ism.” If you attend church sometimes and pay your tithes sometimes, all should be well. Unfortunately (for some) that idea did not come out of the Bible. The Bible calls us to give all for the cause of Christ.

“**To covenant**” means “to cut (make) a covenant” (Young’s). The Old Testament Hebrew word is “**karath berith**,” while the New Testament Greek word is “**suntithemi**.” It seems that covenants were sealed by either eating, drinking, mixing of blood or the cutting of flesh (between the two parties entering into a covenant): solemn occasions.

Covenants are binding agreements between God and man, between man and man, tribes, cultures, governments, nations, etc. Some people

foolishly enter into covenants with evil spirits and even Satan himself. In each case they become a binding agreement or contract between the parties concerned. They must be kept until such time as the contract is fulfilled or annulled (by agreement of those bound to it).

At the betrayal of Jesus the chief priests and captains covenanted (“suntithemi”) with Judas Iscariot **“to give him money”** (Luke 22:5). They entered into an agreement with him that was binding. Matthew’s version uses the Greek word **“histemi”** meaning “to set, establish, appoint” (Young’s) (Matthew 26:15).

However, in this chapter we are looking at the Covenants between God and man, especially God and His people, the disciples of Jesus.

SEVERAL BIBLICAL COVENANTS:

In Scripture we read of several Covenants God made with mankind:

THE RAINBOW COVENANT:

“Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “I now establish My covenant with you and your descendants after you . . . I establish My covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set My rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between Me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between Me and all life on the earth” (Genesis 9:8-16, NIV).

The rainbow covenant is a sign to mankind that God even makes a Covenant to bind Himself to His promises. The rainbow tells us that earth will never again be destroyed by flood. In the almost 6,000 years since the flood the earth has never been totally covered by water. God said it would not happen – and it has not. The rainbow is a reminder that

God is a keeper of Covenant.

THE COVENANT OF CIRCUMCISION:

“Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. This is My covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised . . . My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant”
(Genesis 17:9-14, NIV).

The covenant of circumcision was a covenant between God and every Jewish male. “Circumcision” is:

- “the cutting off, away, around” (Young’s) of the foreskin;
- “1. a surgical removal of the foreskin of males. 2. the act of circumcision, performed as a religious rite by Jews and Muslims” (Collins).

Circumcision was a painful process, especially if left until a person was older (see Genesis 34 and Joshua 5:2-9). This rite was in force up until the time of the New Covenant, when circumcision became a spiritual “inward” rather than a physical “outward” cutting of the flesh:

“A man is not a Jew if he is only one outward, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man’s praise is not from men, but from God” (Romans 2:28-29, NIV).

The AMP. Bible says this:

“. . . and [true] circumcision is of the heart, a spiritual and not a literal [matter] . . .”

Colossians 2:11 further confirms that New Testament circumcision is a spiritual rather than a physical experience:

“In Whom (Christ) also you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ” (KJV).

No man, or the actions of men in “helping” God’s will to be done in us, is involved in New Testament circumcision.

I find it an interesting thing that Christians around the world carried on the rite of Old Covenant circumcision for hundreds of years after the New Covenant was ushered in on the day of Pentecost. What started out as a Covenant between God, Abraham and his descendants in the Old Testament has turned into a religious ritual as a means of pleasing God, but it is not a requirement of the New and present Covenant. Circumcision is of the heart – not the foreskin – in the kingdom of God!

THE BREAD COVENANT:

“ . . . This bread is to be set out before the Lord regularly, Sabbath after Sabbath, on behalf of the Israelites, as a lasting covenant . . .” (Leviticus 24:5-9, NIV).

The bread mentioned here is the showbread. It is a type of Jesus Christ as the Bread of Life (see John 6:30-59), the Sustainer of each individual believer/priest in the Body of Christ. Just as natural bread sustains our physical life, so does our Spiritual Bread, Jesus Christ, give us life-sustaining food and strength.

New Testament Christians partake of the bread covenant each time we partake of the Holy Communion. Jesus said: ***“Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me”*** (1 Corinthians 11:23-24, KJV). See also Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:7-20 and John 6:53-58. Partaking of Holy Communion is very important for the Christian believer. According to 1 Corinthians 11:23-33 communion is a time of remembering Jesus and a ***“showing forth of the Lord’s death till He comes”*** (v.26, KJV).

The AMP. states verse 26 as follows:

“For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are representing and signifying and proclaiming the fact of the Lord’s death until He comes [again].”

The Scripture then goes on to tell us we should ***“examine*** (“to prove” – Young’s; “to prove by test, put to the proof, examine; especially metals, etc., by fire, and of other things by use; to examine, judge of, estimate;

hence, approve by trial” – Bullinger’s) ***ourselves***” before we partake of Holy Communion. It is a time of soul-searching, of making sure we are right with God, of having nothing between us, and God. The reason for this is that if we do not partake of the Holy Communion with the right heart approach and attitude, then we are unworthy partakers! “Unworthy” here meaning “irreverently” (Strong’s); “1. not deserving or worthy. 2. beneath the level considered befitting” (Collins).

An unworthy partaker causes real damage to himself:

1. He is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord;
2. He eats and drinks judgment on himself;
3. This produces weakness of body;
4. Sickness in body; and
5. Causes Christians to die before their time! (See 1 Corinthians 11:26-31, NIV).

For a Christian to eat and drink unworthily means that somehow, somewhere, there has come a breach of Covenant relationship. The protective covering of the Lord Jesus has been broken and He is unable to stop us from coming under the power of the above five points just mentioned.

Those points all represent a type of curse!

Anything that produces guilt of sin, judgment, weakness, sickness and premature death is certainly not God’s will for us! It’s a curse! (There will be some sicknesses that do not come under this, e.g. John 9).

So, let us be certain that we are seeking to understand the significance of what happens when we partake of the Lord’s Table, Holy Communion. It is a Covenant and we must keep our side of it by partaking worthily.

THE SALT COVENANT:

“Whatever is set aside from the holy offerings the Israelites present to the Lord I give to you and your sons and daughters as your regular share. It is an everlasting covenant of salt before the Lord for both you and your off-spring” (Numbers 18:19, NIV).

“Don’t you know that the Lord, the God of Israel, has given the

“kingship of Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt?” (2 Chronicles 13:5, NIV).

According to Unger’s Bible Dictionary, “Covenanting parties were accustomed to partake of salt, to make the covenant a covenant of salt, i.e., inviolably sure. The meaning appears to have been that the salt, with its power to strengthen food and keep it from decay, symbolized the unbending truthfulness of that self-surrender to the Lord embodied in the sacrifice, by which all impurity and hypocrisy were repelled.”

The word “inviolable” means: “That which must not or cannot be transgressed, dishonoured or broken; to be kept sacred” (Collins).

A “covenant of salt” was unbreakable. Those who entered into it knew that and made a serious commitment to the keeping of that covenant.

THE BLOOD COVENANT:

“When Moses went and told the people all the Lord’s words and laws, they responded with one voice, “Everything the Lord has said we will do.” Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the Lord.

Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey.

Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words” (Exodus 24:3-8, NIV).

A brief comment in the NIV on Exodus 24:8 states: “This section (along with many others in the laws of sacrifices) indicates how frequently blood was used in the Old Testament to purify the people and the tabernacle. The author of the book of Hebrews interprets this Old Testament ceremony of the sprinkling of blood to be prophetic of the blood of Jesus Christ, which purifies us from sin and brings us salvation (Hebrews 9:11-28, see also 1 John 1:7).”

I trust you will take the time to read Hebrews 9:11-28 and consider its impact. Here are a few verses for you:

“But [that appointed time came] when Christ, the Messiah, appeared as a High Priest of the better things that have come and are to come . . . He went once for all into the [Holy of] Holies [of heaven], not by virtue of the blood of goats and calves [by which to make reconciliation between God and man], but His own blood, having found and secured a complete redemption – an everlasting release [for us] . . .

How much more surely shall the blood of Christ, Who by virtue of [His] eternal Spirit [His own pre-existent divine personality] has offered Himself an unblemished sacrifice to God, purify our consciences from dead works and lifeless observances to serve the [ever-] living God? [Christ, the Messiah] is therefore the Negotiator and Mediator of an [entirely] new agreement (testament, covenant), so that those who are called and offered it, may receive the fulfillment of the promised everlasting inheritance, since a death has taken place which rescues and delivers and redeems them from the transgressions committed under the [old], first agreement . . .

So even the (old) first covenant [God’s will] was not inaugurated and ratified and put in force without the shedding of blood. For when every command of the Law had been read out by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of slain calves and goats . . . and . . . sprinkled both the Book [the roll of the Law and covenant] itself, and all the people, Saying these words: This is the blood that seals and ratifies the agreement (the testament, the covenant) which God commanded [me to deliver to] you. [Exodus 24:6-8.] And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and all the [sacred] vessels and appliances used in [divine] worship. [In fact], under the Law almost everything is purified by means of blood, and without the shedding of blood there is neither release from sin and its guilt nor the remission of the due and merited punishment for sins . . .” (Hebrews 9:11-28, AMP).

The greatest Covenant God has ever made with man is the Blood Covenant of His Son Jesus. Jesus came to this world to sacrifice His body, blood and life on Calvary’s Cross in order that mankind could have access to the throne-room and presence of God Himself. Jesus sealed God’s Covenant with His own blood. The only way we have access to God is through Jesus Christ (John 14:6; John 17:3) and our acknowledging His finished work at Calvary. To be free of our sin we must come to Jesus

and ***“be washed clean in His blood.”*** The blood of Jesus deals the “death-blow” to the power of sin (sin is anything that keeps us separated from fellowship and friendship with God).

Jesus’ Blood Covenant is an everlasting Covenant (Hebrews 13:20-21, KJV).

It is an ever-present Covenant.

His blood is ever-present to keep on cleansing us, providing we walk in right relationship with God and one another:

“But if we [really] are living and walking in the Light as He [Himself] is in the Light, we have [true, unbroken] fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt – keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations” (1 John 1:7, AMP).

How important is Covenant to God? Important enough for Him to send His only Son, Jesus, to seal it with His own blood! That is very important! So much so that there is no way to God but through the Blood Covenant way! Every other way is false and will never produce eternal life in the presence of Eternal God!

The greatest answer to any and every curse is the cleansing Blood of Jesus Christ!

Let us make very sure we are Blood Covenant believers!

For the record, God made personal covenants with individuals, as well as with His people (as a nation):

Abraham:

“ . . . O descendants of Israel His servant, O sons of Jacob, His chosen ones. He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth. He remembers His covenant forever, the word He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant He made with Abraham, the oath He swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree to Israel as an everlasting covenant: To you will I give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit . . .” (Psalm 105:6-15, NIV). See also Genesis 17:1-22 and Exodus 6:1-5.

David:

“Is not my house right with God? Has He not made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part?”

Will He not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire?" (2 Samuel 23:5, NIV). See also Isaiah 55:3; Jeremiah 33:19-21; Ezekiel 37:24-28; 2 Samuel 7:8-17 and Psalm 89:20-29, 34.

Israel:

"The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, I will never break My covenant with you, and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars. Yet you have disobeyed Me. Why have you done this? Now therefore I tell you that I will not drive them out before you; they will be thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you" (Judges 2:1-3, NIV). See also Isaiah 59:21.

- **Man has a commitment to keep God's Covenant.**

As has been stated earlier, a Covenant is an agreement between two parties. **For the Covenant to work, both parties have to abide by the agreed terms. So it is in Christianity. True Christianity is the entering into a Covenant with God Himself. He has made the terms for His provision to us via that Covenant. He has promised total freedom and protection as long as we live according to the laid-down terms in His contract (the Bible). If we do not live by the agreed terms God is unable to keep His promises to us. The contract becomes thwarted or broken, and a broken contract does not deliver. It cannot deliver because there has been a breach of faith, a coming out from under the terms of the contract. It then becomes null and void.**

A lot of problems in the lives of professing Christians – and churches too – are the result of breaking Covenant. It can be done ignorantly and it can be done willfully. **But when it is broken its power is lost.** Then the enemy can come in with all kinds of attacks and we become prone to suffer varying sorts of negative difficulties, including curses.

In Bible times the people knew the importance of commitment to a Covenant:

"Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. He went up to the temple of the Lord with the men of Judah, the people of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets – all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord. The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord –

to follow the Lord and keep His commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant” (2 Kings 23:1-3, NIV). See also Exodus 24:6-13; Joshua 24:19-27; 2 Kings 11:17; 2 Chronicles 15:8-15 and Nehemiah 10:28-29.

The people had to keep their side of the Covenant; otherwise they opened themselves up to a curse:

“The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt” (Isaiah 24:5-6, NIV).

The KJV uses the word “devoured” in place of “consume”:

- “to eat, consume, devour” (Young’s);
- “1. to swallow or eat up greedily or voraciously. 2. to waste or destroy; consume. 3. to consume greedily or avidly with the senses or mind. 4. to engulf or absorb” (Collins).

That’s what Isaiah says happens to those who disobey and break God’s Covenant; **a curse devours them!**

The good news is that the mercy of God is available to forgive, restore and renew us into Covenant relationship again. We do not have to continue living in broken relationship. Curses do not need to keep working their negativity in our lives.

God restores!

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will deal with you as you deserve, because you have despised My oath by breaking the covenant. Yet I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you. Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed . . . So I will establish My covenant with you, and you will know that I am the Lord. Then, when I make atonement for you for all you have done, you will remember and be ashamed and never again open your mouth because of your humiliation, declares the Sovereign Lord” (Ezekiel 16:59-62, NIV). See also Jeremiah 32:36-42.

God functioned through Covenant with His Old Testament people.

Today, God still works through Covenant relationship with His New Testament saints.

Covenant relationship keeps us free from curses.

If, and when, we break that Covenant, then curses will keep us from enjoying the provisions of Covenant relationship with God through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

God is a Covenant-keeping God! He has entered into a Covenant relationship with us through the blood of Jesus Christ and, as long as we sincerely and honestly endeavour to keep our side of that Covenant, He is personally committed to fulfilling all that He has promised. As we walk in Covenant relationship with Jesus, the blessings, the power, anointing - whatever we need - are available to us. But if we break that Covenant relationship, we come under the fate of God not being able to keep His side of the contract (He is bound to His Word) . . . and so we come under a curse.

The most important thing to God is the keeping of Covenant - the New Covenant written and sealed in the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son. **It should also be the most important thing to us as well.** We break the contract to our own peril!

Our Covenant with God must be: **GOD FIRST - TO WORSHIP HIM ALONE!**

IN CONCLUSION:

A lot has been said in this manual. My prayer is that you will see the positives of Covenant, rather than dwelling on the negatives of curses. To the Christian, **curses are not to be feared when Jesus is Lord . . . when we keep Covenant with Him.** It is only when we break that Covenant that curses can make any impact. The choice is ours.

If you are conscious of a curse over your life, then I encourage you to seek God in true heart confession, claim the cleansing blood of Jesus over every part of your life. Renounce all disobedience and dishonesty, and enter into the light of God's presence. Renew Covenant relationship with God and expect every curse to be broken over you (ask a committed Christian to pray with you if you desire that). It, the curse, has no authority over the blood-washed child of God. Be bold about your renouncing. Be bold about your confession of who you are as a

Covenant-keeping friend of God. Amen!

“So let us come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there to receive His mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need” (Hebrews 4:12-16, TLB).

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you . . .”
(James 4:7-8, NKJV).

“Therefore humble yourselves (demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation) under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you.

Casting the whole of your care – all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all – on Him; for He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully.
[Psalm 55:22.]

Be well-balanced – temperate, sober-minded; be vigilant and cautious at all times, for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour. Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset], – rooted, established, strong, immovable and determined – knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world” (1 Peter 5:6-9, AMP).

“Nor give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:27, NKJV).

“And do not give the devil a foothold” (Ephesians 4:27, NIV).

God bless you.

Rodney is the Founder/Director of The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry which ministers to thousands through literature, Bible Correspondence Courses, books, manuals, preaching/teaching, conducting Seminars, Schools Of The Holy Spirit, International Training Schools and the Equipping of Timothy's. He has authored more than 35 books and carries a heart to see this generation of believers equipped with leadership skills to do the job of fulfilling the purposes of God. He ministers out from Paraparaumu, New Zealand.

Other books, booklets and manuals by **Rodney W. Francis** and/or **The GFM Team Members**:

Books:

- **Developing Prophetic Ministry**
- **Voices, Worms and The Prophetic Ministry**
- **It's Time To Prophesy!!**
- **Divine Healing – A Key To The Growth Of The Christian Church!** (*English, Nepalese and Italian languages*)

- **You Can Measure Your Love For God** (*English, Telugu India, and Italian*)
- **The Prophetic In The Exodus** (*English and Italian*)
- **Equipping For Leadership**
- **God's Call Can Be Fulfilled!**
- **Unbelief – The Power That Needs To Be Broken!** (*English and Italian*)
- **An Encounter With God** (*English and Telugu India*)
- **Counselling And Deliverance** (*English, Urdu Pakistan and Korean*)
- **Flowing In The Holy Spirit**
- **Are You Called To The Ministry?**
- **The Evil Powers Of Canaan**
- **Discovering The God-Factor**
- **How To Handle Criticism**
- **Keys To Worship God**
- **Spiritual Warfare**
- **Blessed Are . . .** (Teaching on the Beatitudes)

Booklets:

- **God's Supernatural Call!**
- **God Wants To Set Your Future Up!**
- **The Power Of The Prophetic**
- **Do You Know And Understand The Prophetic Foundation Of Your Life And Your Church?**
- **Prophetic Acts And Declarations** (by Joan Emery)
- **Capture Your Vision!**
- **The Prophetic Double Anointing**
- **Discernment – A Key To Christian Maturity** (by Kathy Nunes-Vaz)
- **The “Dunamis” Power Of God!**

Manuals:

- **School Of The Holy Spirit** (*English and Italian*)
- **Counselling And Deliverance**
- **The Book Of James** (Verse by verse teaching)
- **Bible Basics** (Foundational teaching for newer Christians) (*English and Mandarin China*)
- **Kingdom Living** (Teaching on Matthew Chapters 5 to 7)
- **Curses** (What the Bible has to say)
- **Baal Worship**
- **Prophetic Music** (by Kerry Wright).

For further help and literature,
Or, to receive the first Lesson of our free
“St. John’s Gospel” Bible Correspondence Course
(in NIV or KJV – state your Bible preference),

Please contact us at:

“The Gospel Faith Messenger” Ministry
P. O. Box 57
Paraparaumu 5254
New Zealand

Telephone: (64 4) 904 0727

E-Mail: gfm@gospel.org.nz
Visit our Website: www.gospel.org.nz

To be placed on our E-Mailing List to receive our monthly “Prayer Support Letter,”
“Barnabas Bulletin” and “Faith Messages” Ministry,
Please send us your E-Mail address, your name, address, town/city
and country (clearly printed). Thank you.

Outside Back Cover:

Rodney W. Francis was converted in 1959 at 17 years of age, and sovereignly received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit in the midst of a herd of cows at 18 years of age. There he received the call of God to preach. Doors opened up for him to commence preaching a short time later, and he has been preaching ever since. He is the Founder/Director of The Gospel Faith Messenger, a many-faceted Christian Ministry that reaches out to multiplied thousands of people around the world through Gospel literature, books, manuals, E-Mail ministries, the World Wide Web, 3 Bible Correspondence Courses (free), Equipping Stations (Training of Prophetic Teams), International Training Schools, Prophetic Conferences, Personal Prophetic Ministry, Schools Of The Holy Spirit, Church Meetings, Counselling, etc. For more than 49 years (commenced April 1964) this Ministry has impacted multiplied thousands of people in over 110 nations. Today many are discovering their Spiritual Gifts and the joys of hearing and obeying the voice of God through the teachings of The GFM Teams.

Rodney and his wife, Jean, live by faith and the Ministry has a number of dedicated, voluntary workers that enable us to make the financial donations go almost 100% toward reaching people for Christ. Your ongoing prayer support of The GFM Ministry is greatly appreciated.

