

THE BIBLE VIEW

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When God's Hand of Blessing Was Removed

Bill Brinkworth

The Bible has recorded that when men disobeyed or disregarded God's commandments, their sin would cost them much. It is very clear, by the countless examples in the Word of God, that no person or country gets away with sin. Here are a few examples from the Bible of what a people did to lose God's blessing and to be cursed by the Almighty:

- God cursed Adam and Eve, all their future generations, and the earth (Gen. 3:14-19) because of Adam's and Eve's sin.
- God cursed Canaan with slavery (Gen. 9:25), because of Ham's sexual sin (Gen. 9:22).
- God destroyed Sodom, Gomorrah, and two other cities (Deut. 29:23) because of their wickedness (Gen. 13:13).
- God removed qualified, honorable, experienced God-approved leadership (Isaiah 3:1-3), and allowed inexperienced, youthful men (Isaiah 3:4-5) and those whose leadership would harm their country (Isa. 3:12) to rule.

- God allowed foreigners to invade Israel (Judges 6:1-6) and to take away Israel's freedoms, belongings, and peace.
- God allowed Israel's place of worship, Jerusalem, to be destroyed (Neh. 1:3) because the people did not keep God's commandments (Neh. 1:7). God also allowed the people to be scattered away from the land He had given them because of their sin (Neh. 1:8).

God also promised, usually to His people, that He would allow them to learn from the consequences of their sin, when they violated His laws. Here are some other reasons God promised to curse people and nations, when they broke His commandments:

- God promised to curse those that cursed the offspring of Abram (Israel): Gen. 12:3.
- God will curse those that curse their parents: Pro. 20:20.
- God will curse those that do not obey the Lord's commandments, including going "after other gods": Deut. 11:28, Jer. 44:8.
- God will curse the wicked: Pro. 3:33.
- God will allow a people to go through wars, captivity, famines, pestilences, and be disliked by other countries, because they did not obey God's words: Jer. 29:1-19.
- God would allow His people to also face wars, and famines, if they insisted on going back into the world that the Lord delivered them from: Jer. 44:12.

- God will curse those that do not give glory to His name: Mal. 2:2.
- God cursed those that would not give Him their tithes (at least 10% of what God allowed them to earn): Mal. 3:9.

Many of the consequences of sin to an earlier people are also occurring today. Also, many of the sins that were promised God's wrath are also occurring today. Since God never changes (Mal. 3:6, Heb. 13:8), sins He would not tolerate then He certainly will not tolerate them today. No one gets away with sin. The people of Israel did not get away with sin, and neither will we.

Many say that if we do not turn from our current wicked sins, we may suffer the curse of God. According to the biblical examples, we may already be facing the after-effects of God's curse to a rebellious people. His hand, that often blessed this nation, may have been removed, and we may be suffering the same "lessons" that an earlier people faced.

The curse of God is always intended to halt the violations against God. It is the intent of God that the hardships He allowed to happen will stop the sin, and that people will turn to God.

There is always hope for those that turn from their wickedness. It is usually when a people face hard times that they realize they cannot handle them without God and turn towards Him in obedience. It is possible to be blessed

by God because of obedience to His commandments, rather than be cursed. Hopefully, people as individuals, and eventually as a nation, will see their wickedness and turn from it.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” II Chron. 7:14

“The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.” *Prov. 3:33*

Wrath of God

Jonathan Edwards

The wrath of God is like great waters that are dammed for the present. They increase more and more, and rise higher and higher, till an outlet is given; and the higher the stream is stopped, the more rapid and mighty will be its course, when once it is let loose. If God should only withdraw His hand from the flood-gate, it would immediately fly open, and the fiery floods of the fierceness and wrath of God would rush forth with inconceivable fury, and would come upon you with omnipotent power. If your strength were ten thousand times greater than it is, yea, ten thousand times greater than the strength of the stoutest, sturdiest devil in Hell, it would be nothing to withstand or endure it.

“No one gets away with any sin!”

God's Restraint

Jonathan Edwards

The bow of God's wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string. His justice bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow. It is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood.

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” *Proverbs 28:3*

Curse of Sin

Dr. J. Parker

Oh sin! How hast thou curst us! Thou hast thrown up a barrier between ourselves and God; with thy chilling breath thou hast extinguished the light of our household joys. Thou hast unstrung our harp, and filled the air with discordant cries. Thou hast unsheathed the sword, and bathed it in human blood. Thou hast dug every grave in the bosom of the fair earth; but for thee we should not have known the name of widow or orphan, tear and sigh, sorrow and death; but for thee our hearts would not have known pain.

A Free Pardon

C. H. Spurgeon

A prisoner was taken out to die, and as he rode along in the death cart his heart was heavy at the thought of death, and

none could cheer him of all the throng. The gallows-tree was in sight, and this blotted out the sun for him. But lo, his prince came riding up in hot haste, bearing a free pardon.

Then the man opened his eyes, and, as if he had risen from the dead; he returned to happy consciousness. The sight of his prince had chased all gloom away. He declared that he had never seen a fairer countenance in all his days; and when he read his pardon he vowed that no poetry should ever be dearer to his heart than those few lines of sovereign grace.

Friends, I remember well when I was in that death-cart, and Jesus came to me with pardon. Death and Hell were before me; but I rejoiced exceedingly when I saw the nailprints in his hands and feet, and the wound in his side. When he said, "Thy sins, which are many, are all forgiven thee," I thought I never saw such loveliness before, and never heard such music in all my days. Nay, it was not mere thought, I am sure my judgment was right. Eternity itself shall never disclose anything to me more sweet. My pardoning Lord hath no peer nor rival. Oh, what a Christ is he who appeared to me, a guilty, condemned sinner, on the way to Hell! Blessed be His name. He bore on the tree my curse, and shame, and death, and I am free.

"Life has taught me to forgive much, but to seek forgiveness still more." — Bismarck