

The Blessings and Curses

Deuteronomy 28:3-68

What blessings would the Israelites receive if they kept their covenant with God (obeyed)?

- They would be blessed in the city and in the country.
- Their offspring would be blessed.
- The crops of their land would be blessed.
- The young of their livestock—the calves of their herds and the lambs of their flocks would be blessed.
- Their basket and kneading bowl would be blessed (the basket was to hold their produce and the kneading bowl was to make their bread. So basically whatever their hands touched in the making of meals or food would be blessed).
- They would be blessed in their comings and goings.
- Their enemies would be defeated in amazing ways.
- The Lord would bless their storehouses and everything they put their hands to. He would even bless the land He was giving them.
- The Lord would establish them as a holy people, so that all the peoples on earth, who see that they call on the name of the Lord, would fear them.
- The Lord would give them abundant prosperity.
- The Lord would send rain in season and bless all the work of their hands.
- They would lend to nations but never have to borrow from anyone.
- They would always be the head, not the tail. Always at the top, not the bottom.

What curses would come to the Israelites if they broke their covenant with God (disobeyed Him)?

- They would be cursed in the city and in the country.
- Their basket and kneading bowl would be cursed.
- Their offspring would be cursed.
- The crops of their land would be cursed.
- The calves of their herds and the lambs of their flocks would be cursed.
- Their comings and goings would be cursed.
- The LORD would send on them curses, confusion and rebuke in everything they put their hands to, until they are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil they have done in forsaking Him.
- The Lord would plague them with diseases.

- The LORD would strike them with consumption, fever, inflammation, severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew, until they are dead.
- The Lord would stop the rain and there would be severe drought.
- They would be defeated by their enemies.
- They would become a thing of horror to all the kingdoms on the earth.
- Their carcasses would be food for all the birds and the wild animals, and there would be no one to frighten them away.
- The LORD would afflict them with the boils of Egypt and with tumors, festering sores and the itch, from which they cannot be cured.
- The LORD would afflict them with madness, blindness and confusion of mind.
- At midday they would grope about like a blind person in the dark.
- They would be unsuccessful in everything they did.
- Day after day they would be oppressed and robbed, with no one to rescue them.
- Their fiancée's would be raped.
- They would build a house, but not live in it.
- They would plant a vineyard, but not enjoy its fruit.
- Their oxen would be slaughtered before their eyes, but they would eat none of it.
- Their donkey would be forcibly taken from them and would not be returned.
- Their sheep would be given to their enemies, and no one would rescue them.
- Their sons and daughters would be given to another nation and they would wear out their eyes watching for them to come home (in other words they would never see them again).
- A people that they do not know would eat what their land and labor produce.
- They would have nothing but cruel oppression all their days.
- The sights they see would drive them mad.
- The LORD would afflict their knees and legs with painful boils that cannot be cured, spreading from the soles of their feet to the top of their heads.
- The LORD would drive them and the king they set over them to a nation unknown to them or their ancestors. There they would worship other gods, gods of wood and stone (this was fulfilled when King Nebuchadnezzar captured them and took them back to his land).
- They would become a thing of horror, a byword and an object of ridicule among all the peoples where the LORD would drive them.
- They would sow much seed in the field but would harvest little, because locusts would devour it.
- They would plant vineyards and cultivate them but they would not drink the wine or gather the grapes, because worms would eat them.
- They would have olive trees throughout their country but they would not use the oil, because the olives would drop off.
- They would have sons and daughters but not keep them, because they would go into captivity.
- Swarms of locusts would take over all their trees and the crops of their land.
- The foreigners who reside among them would rise above them higher and higher, but the Jews would sink lower and lower. The foreigners would lend to them, but the Jews would not lend to them. The foreigners would be the head, but the Israelites would be the tail.

- In hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, they would serve the enemies the LORD sends against them. He would put an iron yoke on their necks until God has destroyed them.
- The Lord would bring a nation against them from far away. A nation whose language they do not understand. They would devour the young of their livestock and the crops of their land until they are destroyed. They would leave them no grain, new wine or olive oil, nor any calves of their herds or lambs of their flocks, until they are ruined. They would lay siege to all the cities throughout the Jew's land until the high fortified walls in which they trust fall down. They would besiege all the cities throughout the land the LORD gave them.
- Because of the suffering this nation would bring, they would eat their own children because they are starving and they would not share them with anyone.
- The Lord would bring on the Israelites all the diseases of Egypt and they would cling to them.
- The LORD would also bring on them every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in the Book of the Law, until they are destroyed.
- The LORD would scatter them among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other.
- Among those nations they would find no repose, no resting place for the soles of their feet.
- The LORD would give them an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. They would live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of their life.
- The LORD would send them back in ships to Egypt on a journey He said they should never make again. There they would offer themselves for sale to their enemies as male and female slaves, but no one would buy them.