

## Jesus Did Not Automatically Break Every Curse Over Mankind

'God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. God planted a garden in Eden and there He put Adam whom He had formed ... Out of the ground God made every tree to grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The Tree of Life was in the middle of the garden plus the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil ... God commanded Adam saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat but of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you will not eat of it, for in the day you eat of it you will surely die" ... Out of the ground God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the sky' (Genesis 2:7 to 9, 16, 17 & 19).

'God said to the serpent (an incarnate of the devil), "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all (domestic) livestock and above every (wild) animal of the field. On your belly you will go and you will eat dust all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her Offspring. He will bruise your head and you will bruise his heel." To Eve God said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth. In spasms of pain you will bring forth children. Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you." To Adam God said, "Because you have listened to your wife's voice and have eaten of the Tree of which I commanded you not to saying, 'You will not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you. In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles will it bring forth to you and you will eat the herb of the field. By the sweat of your face will you eat bread until you return to the ground for out of it you were taken. You are dust and to dust you will return" (Genesis 3:14 to 19).

The curses over mankind spoken by God after Adam sinned were not automatically broken at the cross of Jesus. If Jesus had instantly broken every curse over mankind and the entire earth at the cross, the earth would have reverted to the perfect state it had initially been in the Garden of Eden but that did not happen. God collectively cursed Adam, Eve, all of humanity, all animals, all plants, the ground, the earth, the skies and everything in between because when Adam disobeyed the vocal commands spoken out by God, he broke an eternal covenant God had made with him. 'The earth is polluted under its inhabitants because they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant, therefore the curse has devoured the earth and those who dwell on it are found guilty' (Isaiah 24:5 & 6). 'Like Adam, they (mankind) have broken the covenant' (Hosea 6:7).

As we can read in the above verses, God rebuked Adam for listening to Eve who had been deceived. Eve, who was deceived, was cursed more severely than Adam who was openly disobedient. The only two curses placed on Adam were death and hard work. Although it was Adam who sinned by disobeying God's spoken Word, it was poor Eve who bore the brunt of God's fury when she was tricked and deceived. We will look at these curses one by one. (1) All animals were instantly cursed but the serpent was cursed more than any other animal. (2) Enmity was created between all women and the devil when previously they seemed to get along. (3) Enmity was created between Jesus (the Offspring of a woman) and demonic forces when the offspring of evil would 'bruise' Jesus, so salvation by the sacrifice of Jesus was already in place. (4) Women were cursed with painful pregnancy and spasms of pure agony during childbirth. This verse tells us childbirth was initially not intended to be painful. (5) The Lord put all women under the subjection of men after Eve enticed Adam to sin and he listened to her. (6) The ground was cursed and thorny plants appeared forcing Adam to work hard for food to eat. (7) All mankind were sentenced to physical and eternal spiritual death.

The curses may have been ancient but they were eternal. Old Testament ancient curses indicated in Genesis are many but that was not the end of curses spoken over mankind by God. In the New Testament for example, if anyone preaches a false Gospel they incur a curse upon themselves. 'There is not another Gospel. There are some who trouble you and want to pervert the Gospel message of Jesus. If we or an angel from heaven should preach to you any gospel other than what we preached to you, let them be cursed. As we have said before so I say again, if anyone preaches to you any gospel other than what you received let them be cursed' (Galatians 1:7 to 9). Anyone who dies by hanging on a tree (wooden cross) is cursed. 'Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law (of spiritual death) having become a curse for us. It is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"' (Galatians 3:13). Anyone who refuses to obey the general laws of God are cursed (Deuteronomy 11:28; Galatians 3:10). There are many more curses over humanity written in Deuteronomy 27:15 to 26 then 28:15 to 68.

Some people may think curses are solely for Jewish people from the Old Testament days but that is wrong. Anyone who curses or mistreats Jewish people are cursed even today. 'I (the Lord) will bless those who bless you (Abraham and his descendents) and I will curse those who curse you' (Genesis 12:3). This one verse applies very much to today and not only for Jewish people. When Gentiles accept Jesus our Jewish Messiah as our Lord and Saviour and humbly support the Jewish people inside and beyond Israel, those individuals are Spiritually adopted into the family of Abraham and become covenant people alongside our Jewish brothers and sisters. 'You received the Spirit of adoption by Whom we cry, "Abba! Father" (Romans

8:15). 'The blessing of Abraham came on the Gentiles through Jesus so we can receive the promise of the Holy Spirit through faith ... though it is only a man's covenant, when it has been confirmed no one can make it void or add to it' (Galatians 3:14 & 15). We must differentiate between Gentiles who claim to be Christians and people who live the lives of genuine disciples. Genuine disciples of Jesus know Him and embrace His blood family, the Jewish people as their own family, thus lovingly supporting them through their struggles against their enemies. When any person curses, abuses or persecutes a Jewish person or a genuine disciple of the Lord Jesus, God Himself curses and punishes them. If any person blesses a Jewish person or a genuine disciple of the Lord, God Himself will bless them as He promised Abraham. If someone claims to be a Christian but refuses to love the Jewish people and genuine Gentile disciples, the Bible says the love of God is not in them. When we do good things for Jewish people or Gentile disciples who are Spiritually adopted into the family of Jesus, we are doing those good things for Jesus Himself. If people act wickedly towards Jewish people or disciples, Jesus takes that personally. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, when you do good things for one of the least of these My brothers, you do it for Me ... Truly I tell you, when you do not do good things for one of the least of these, you do not do it for Me ... Depart from Me you cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his fallen angels" (Matthew 25:40, 41 & 45). These ancient curses are very real and apply to people today. It is God Himself who puts curses onto wicked people who continually do evil. If they repent God will forgive them no matter what they have done, but if they do not repent and they die in their sin, their eternal judgement will be so terrible and so severe, it cannot be described.

All unsaved people live under the law of physical and spiritual death. The curse of spiritual death, also called the second death remains on people who refuse to accept Jesus. 'Blessed and holy are those (believers) who have part in the first resurrection. Over those believers the second death has no power but they will be priests of God and of Jesus and will reign with Him one thousand years' (Revelation 20:6). 'But for the cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death' (Revelation 21:8). During the one thousand year reign of Jesus on earth, the curse of physical death will still occur but usually in old age, not because of illness or accident. Cot deaths that claim the lives of many babies will cease. If a person continues in their sin, they will still be cursed. 'No young infant will die, nor an old man who has not filled his days, for the child will die one hundred years old and the sinner being one hundred years old will be accursed' (Isaiah 65:20).

How do we deal with curses? The only way people can be free of the curses over mankind is to accept God's way of salvation through the blood of Jesus and only then we can claim freedom from the various curses as we grow in God. Curses are supernatural and invisible but are played out in our natural lives on earth. We cannot see a curse but we know the effects of the curses God placed over all humanity. It is true, Jesus became a curse for us and redeemed us but just as salvation does not come automatically, neither do freedom from curses. To be saved, we must choose to believe, accept Jesus and His redemptive sacrifice, we must be born-again and walk with Him all of our lives. Jesus has done His part but we must do our part by accepting His sacrifice. If people reject Him, they cannot be saved. The same applies to curses. To be free from curses, we must do our part by accepting Jesus' death and His shed blood on the cross. If people refuse to accept salvation, they cannot be freed from the curses He potentially removed. After receiving salvation we can then pray through each curse one by one over our lives. Curses can be broken after being prayed through but it does not happen automatically. Many curses have the potential of being overcome by the blood of Jesus but unless a person accepts Jesus into their lives, curses will remain over them.

God said, "You are dust and to dust you will return." Death for disobedience was the first curse mentioned. God warned Adam, if he disobeyed God's spoken Word he would die, so physical and spiritual death were the first curses God warned Adam about, who then told Eve (Genesis 2:16 & 17; 3:1 to 5). After Eve ate from the forbidden tree, nothing happened (Genesis 3:6) but the very second Adam disobeyed God and ate from the tree they were both immediately aware and became frightened of God so before sin, there was no fear. Physical death was part of the curse over mankind and was not automatically broken at the cross of Jesus. As long as mankind is on earth, there will be physical death. Jesus did not die to save our bodies, He died to save our souls (James 5:20). We all know physical death happens to everyone who has been conceived. Every conception will eventually end in physical death at some point. That was the curse of death spoken over Adam before Eve was created. Spiritual death is something else. God breathed the breath of life into Adam then immediately the Spirit of God also entered into Adam giving him physical, emotional and spiritual life. Adam became a 'living soul'. We are all made up of body, soul and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23). We can see, touch, feed and clothe the physical body. We cannot physically see the soul or the spirit of life but we know they are there. The soul is the emotional realm. Without the soul we would all be zombie-like creatures without any emotions like love, fear or sorrow. We must love the Lord with all our heart and soul (Deuteronomy 6:5). Jesus said, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful" (Matthew 26:38). 'My soul will be joyful in the Lord. It will rejoice in His salvation' (Psalm 35:9). The soul can also die along with the physical body. 'Do

not be afraid of people who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul. Rather, fear God Who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna' (Matthew 10:28).

Death of the physical body, death of the soul and spiritual death is the only combined curse laid on Adam and Eve. Jesus did not break the curse of physical death because as we all know, everyone dies but if a person accepts Jesus as their Saviour, their physical, mortal body will still die but the soul and the spirit will live forever in a new heavenly, immortal, incorruptible body. Our new heavenly immortal body will resemble our mortal body but will be imperishable, sinless and healthy. We know this because when Jesus was resurrected and had received His immortal body He looked exactly like He did on earth. The one and only way to receive or 'put on' an immortal body is to accept Jesus and walk with God for our human lifetime and only then can we have victory over the second death and escape the lake of fire. 'When this corruptible (body) has put on incorruption and this mortal (body) has put on immortality then what is written will happen. "Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your sting? Hades/hell where is your victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:53 to 55). Death never means non-existence and is not the end of consciousness. Consciousness survives death for the righteous and the wicked. The only two men righteous enough to escape the curse of physical death and go straight to be with the Lord in heaven were Enoch (Genesis 5:24) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:11). Having a form of religion will not save our souls. The only thing that can save us is faith in the blood of Jesus.

All animals on earth were cursed because of Adam's disobedience. When the serpent was told it would eat 'dust' the Lord meant it would eat flesh because all animals and humans were created out of the dust of the ground. Before then, all animals ate only vegetation. There were no carnivores. When God created animals they all served their own purpose of creation. After Adam's sin, animals did not behave as they were supposed to when God had initially created them to behave. For example, the jewel wasp stings and paralyses a ground cockroach then lays its eggs inside the body. When the wasp grubs hatch and grow they eat the helpless cockroach alive. These creatures were initially created to live in harmony and they were all perfect but in this fallen world, even the animals are cursed and are without hope. They behave like the animals they are because they do not know any better. 'Creation was subjected to hopelessness, not of its own will but because of Him Who subjected it. Creation itself will be delivered from the bondage of decay into the liberty of the glory of the children of God. We know the whole of creation groans and travails in pain together' (Romans 8:20 to 22). Attacks on humans by animals are a result of the curse. 'I will send wild animals among you, which will rob you of your children, destroy your livestock and make you few in number' (Leviticus 26:22). 'Behold, a pale horse and he who sat on it, his name was Death ... Authority was given to him over one quarter of the earth to kill with the sword, with famine, with death and by the wild animals of the earth' (Revelation 6:8). The curse over animals was obviously not broken by Jesus because they still attack and kill, and they still behave differently than the way God originally intended. Only after Jesus comes back to rule the earth, will animals be delivered and behave properly again and they will be the gentle creatures they once were. Carnivores will never again eat meat. 'The wolf will live with the lamb and the leopard will lie down with the young goat. The calf, the young lion and the fattened calf together and a little child will lead them. The cow and the bear will graze. Their young ones will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den ... The wolf and the lamb will feed together and the lion will eat straw like the ox. They will not hurt or destroy' (Isaiah 11:6 to 8; 65:25).

God put enmity, hostility, hatred, antagonism, bad feelings between women and the devil. 'I will put enmity between you (the devil) and the woman (all women), and between your offspring (wicked people) and her Offspring (Jesus); He (Jesus) will bruise your head and you (the devil's wicked people) will bruise His (Jesus') heel.' Salvation through Jesus was planned from the beginning. The enmity between the devil and women continues to this day. To Eve God said, "I will greatly multiply your grief and your suffering in pregnancy and the pangs of childbearing, with spasms of distress you will bring forth children." By this verse we can see originally, childbirth was not intended to be painful but after the curse, for some women it can be pure agony for many hours and some women die in childbirth like Rachel did (Genesis 35:16 to 18). God went on to say, "Your desire will be for your husband and he will rule over you." The rule and control some men have over women is so extreme it could only be demonic. In Arab and Muslim societies, women and girls are sexually mutilated, they have no rights, no say, no voice and no choices. They are treated and sometimes considered lesser than animals. Little girls are forced into marriage and if several men rape a woman or girl, the girl is charged for the crime and is often executed while the rapists go free. Even in Western countries, working women are paid less than men, often work full time and they raise the children. Domestic violence against women is rampant and many men are very sexist and controlling. As believers, both Jewish and Christian, we can pray for a comfortable pregnancy and an easy childbirth or safe delivery. Older women can pray for a symptom free menopause. The curses placed over all women were definitely not automatically broken at the cross but have to be prayed through for each individual woman.

If the curses of the ground were broken when Jesus died, thorns, thistles, stinging nettles, toxic plants, blight and mildew on crops would not exist. God made it clear, mildew on crops were a result of disobedience and a curse. 'If you will not listen to the voice of God, it will come to pass ... all these curses will come on you and overtake you. You will be cursed in the city (urban) and you will be cursed in the field (rural). Your basket and your kneading trough (food) will be cursed. The fruit of your body (children), the fruit of your ground (work), the increase of your livestock and the young of your flock (farming) will be cursed. You will be cursed when you come in and you will be cursed when you go out (everyday life). God will send on you cursing, confusion and rebuke in all that you put your hand to do until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly because of the evil of your doings by which you have forsaken Me. God will make the pestilence (sickness) cleave to you until He has consumed you (death) from off the land wherever you go in to possess it. God will strike you with consumption (lung diseases), with fever, with inflammation, with fiery heat, with the sword, with blight and with mildew and they will pursue you until you perish' (Deuteronomy 28:15 to 22). That is the result of God cursing the ground because of Adam's sin. We still have blight, mildew and diseases on food crops so none of these curses were removed when Jesus died.

Jesus came to offer salvation to all who believe. Spiritual death was the only curse that was broken but only for those who want salvation. He said, "Whoever will, or whoever wants to or whoever desires to, let them come" (Revelation 22:17). Salvation cannot be forced on anyone. It is our free choice and God only wants people who want Him and those people are considered to be righteous and have their names written in the Book of Life. 'There will in no way enter into heaven anything profane ... but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life' (Revelation 21:27). Any person who desires to have curses over their lives broken, has to first accept Jesus and His sacrifice, then they need to walk with God faithfully and only then can believers claim deliverance from whatever curses are plaguing them. People who reject God, reject Jesus, and whoever rejects Jesus rejects His salvation message and His sacrifice (John 12:48 to 50), therefore anyone who rejects the sacrifice Jesus made for us cannot claim deliverance. It will only be after the final Judgement of mankind when the curses placed on Adam and Eve and thus all of mankind, all animals, birds, the earth, the ground and everything will be broken forever (Revelation 22:3). Until then we have no choice but to live with the consequences of the foolish actions of Adam and Eve and because of them, this earth is a fearful place for babies to be born into as we approach the end of this age.

People today are very fearful because of the mess the world is in but they refuse to turn to God and repent. Jesus is our only hope. Only Jesus can give us peace. Only the blood of Jesus can free us from curses. 'The law of the Spirit of Life in Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death' (Romans 8:2). Jesus made eternal life possible for anyone who wants to receive Him. Salvation for us was achieved at the cross as Jesus said as He was dying, "It is finished," or "It is done" (John 19:30; Revelation 21:6). Jesus has completed His task of redemption. He has done all He can to save mankind. It is now up to each individual to accept the sacrifice of Jesus. If people accept Jesus, curses over individuals and families can be broken. If people reject Jesus' sacrifice, the curses will remain over them. Once people are in heaven, God will live with the redeemed forever. 'Behold, God's dwelling is with His people. God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away from them (the redeemed) every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more. The first things (everything that ever has happened on earth since Adam sinned) have passed away' (Revelation 21:3 & 4).

Amen and God bless you.

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