

Deuteronomy 28

Verses 1 – 6

“Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I am commanding you today, that the Lord your God will put you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings will come to you and reach you if you obey the Lord your God:

³**“Blessed *will you be* in the city, and blessed *will you be* in the country.**

⁴**“Blessed *will be* the children of your womb, the produce of your ground, and the offspring of your animals: the newborn of your herd and the young of your flock.**

⁵**“Blessed *will be* your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶**“Blessed *will you be* when you come in, and blessed *will you be* when you go out.****

Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I am commanding you today, that the Lord your God will put you high above all the nations of the earth.

God promised to make Israel the greatest nation in the world.....**IF**

1. They diligently obey the Lord,
2. They were careful to do all His commandments

The blessings of the covenant were conditional.

³**“Blessed *will you be* in the city, and blessed *will you be* in the country.**

⁴**“Blessed *will be* the children of your womb, the produce of your ground, and the offspring of your animals: the newborn of your herd and the young of your flock.**

⁵**“Blessed *will be* your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶**“Blessed *will you be* when you come in, and blessed *will you be* when you go out.****

Almost all of these blessings were material; the produce of the ground, the offspring of their herds and flock, and the produce of their trees and vines.

It seems odd that most of Israel forsook the material blessing that God promised in order to worship false gods that promised the same thing.

After all, God brought them out of Egypt not the false gods they pursued.

Verses 7 - 14

⁷ “The Lord will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated by you; they will go out against you one way and will flee at your presence seven ways. ⁸ The Lord will command the blessing for you in your barns and in everything that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ⁹ The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways. ¹⁰ So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will be afraid of you. ¹¹ And the Lord will give you more than enough prosperity, in the children of your womb, in the offspring of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. ¹² The Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless every work of your hand; and you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow. ¹³ And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you will only be above, and not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God which I am commanding you today, to follow *them* carefully, ¹⁴ and do not turn aside from any of the words which I am commanding you today, to the right or the left, to pursue other gods to serve them.

⁷ “The Lord will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated by you;

¹⁰ So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will be afraid of you.

This was both a physical blessing and a material blessing.

If you listen to the commandments of the Lord

Again the conditional nature of these blessings was stated:

To follow *them* carefully

Do not turn aside to the right or the left,

Or pursue other gods to serve them

Then God would bless Israel in every conceivable way.

Verses 15 - 19

¹⁵ “But it shall come about, if you do not obey the Lord your God, to be careful to follow all His commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

¹⁶ “Cursed *will you be* in the city, and cursed *will you be* in the country.

¹⁷ “Cursed *will be* your basket and your kneading bowl. ¹⁸ “Cursed *will be* the children of your womb, the produce of your ground, the newborn of your herd, and the offspring of your flock. ¹⁹ “Cursed *will you be* when you come in, and cursed *will you be* when you go out.

But it shall come about, if you do not obey the Lord your God, to be careful to follow all His commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

Living in a land flowing with milk and honey did not guarantee a life filled with material & physical blessings.

This could only come about by staying in a covenant relationship with God.

Cursed *will be* your basket and your kneading bowl

The produce of your ground,

The newborn of your herd, and the offspring of your flock

This should have gotten their attention since no one wants their family to suffer from the kind of poverty that brings the lack of food, clothing and/or proper shelter.

Cursed *will be* the children of your womb

Poverty is one thing, but a child suffering or dying because of their parents actions is a terrible tragedy.

It should be noted here that all of the curses are the exact opposite of the blessing that were mentioned in the previous section.

Verses 20 - 26

²⁰ “The Lord will send against you curses, panic, and rebuke, in everything you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have abandoned Me. ²¹ The Lord will make the plague cling to you until He has eliminated you from the land where you are entering to take possession of it. ²² The Lord will strike you with consumption, inflammation, fever, feverish heat, and with the sword, with blight, and with mildew, and they will pursue you until you perish. ²³ The heaven which is over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you, iron. ²⁴ The Lord will make the rain of your land powder and dust; from heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed. ²⁵ “The Lord will cause you to be defeated by your enemies; you will go out one way against them, but you will flee seven ways from their presence, and you will be *an example of terror* to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶ Your dead bodies will serve as food for all birds of the sky and for the animals of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten *them away*.

The Lord will send against you curses, panic, and rebuke, in everything you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have abandoned me

1. The Lord will make the plague cling to you
2. The Lord will strike you with consumption (wasting away of the body)
3. With blight (when plants wither from lack of moisture)
4. With mildew (when plants spoil due to too much moisture)
5. The Lord will cause you to be defeated by your enemies
6. Your dead bodies will serve as food for all birds and animals of the earth

The law of reaping and sowing is a prominent principle in the bible.

Follow God by obeying his law and you will be blessed. If you reject God and His law then you will suffer in numerous ways.

This has led some people to think that this means the rich are blessed because they are Godly and the poor are cursed because they are ungodly. If anyone has come to think this way please take another look at the Book of Job and the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Verses 27 – 37

²⁷ “The Lord will strike you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors, the festering rash, and with scabies, from which you cannot be healed. ²⁸ The Lord will strike you with insanity, blindness, and with confusion of mind; ²⁹ and you will be groping about at noon, just as a person who is blind gropes in the darkness, and you will not be successful in your ways; but you will only be oppressed and robbed all the time, with no one to save you. ³⁰ You will betroth a woman, but another man will violate her; you will build a house, but you will not live in it; you will plant a vineyard, but you will not make use of its fruit. ³¹ Your ox *will be* slaughtered before your eyes, but you will not eat of it; your donkey *will be* snatched away from you, and will not be restored to you; your sheep *will be* given to your enemies, and you will have no one to save you. ³² Your sons and your daughters *will be* given to another people, while your eyes look on and long for them constantly; but there will be nothing you can do. ³³ A people whom you do not know will eat the produce of your ground and every product of your labor, and you will never be anything but oppressed and mistreated continually. ³⁴ You will also be driven insane by the sight of what you see. ³⁵ The Lord will strike you on the knees and thighs with severe boils from which you cannot be healed, *and strike you* from the sole of your foot to the top of your head. ³⁶ The Lord will bring you and your king, whom you appoint over you, to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods, *made of wood and stone*. ³⁷ And you will become an *object of horror*, a song of mockery, and an object of taunting among all the peoples where the Lord drives you.

²⁷ “The Lord will strike you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors, the festering rash, and with scabies, from which you cannot be healed.

Scabies (skey-bees)

A contagious skin infection caused by the itch mite characterized by persistent itching and skin irritation.

²⁹ and you will be groping about at noon, just as a person who is blind gropes in the darkness, and you will not be successful in your ways; but you will only be oppressed and robbed all the time, with no one to save you.

Oppression was the most common punishment.

See Judges 6:3-6

There are three main types of punishments in verses 27 thru 37.

See chart 2805

Curses of Deut. 28

1. Incurable disease

27 The Lord will strike you with boils, tumors, rash, and (skey-bees)

2. Madness

28 The Lord will strike you with insanity, blindness, and with confusion of mind

3. Oppression

29 You will be oppressed and robbed all the time, with no one to save you

30 You will betroth a woman, but another man will violate her

30 You will build a house, but you will not live in it

30 You will plant a vineyard, but you will not make use of its fruit

31 Your ox *will be* slaughtered before your eyes, but you will not eat of it

31 Your donkey *will be* snatched away from you, and will not be restored to you

31 Your sheep *will be* given to your enemies, and you will have no one to save you.

32 Your sons and your daughters will be given to another people

33 A people whom you do not know will eat every product of your labor

2. Madness

34 You will also be driven insane by the sight of what you see

1. Incurable disease

35 The Lord will strike you with severe boils from which you cannot be healed

All of these curses came from rejecting God.

See Romans 1:18-32

God often used other nations to punish Israel because they refused to repent.

Many of the curses listed here under the category of oppression would be things that would take place when an enemy invades a country.

Some of the madness was also caused by the results of these wars. See vs 34.

Verses 38 - 48

³⁸ “You will bring out a great amount of seed to the field, but you will gather in little, because the locust will devour it. ³⁹ You will plant and cultivate vineyards, but you will neither drink of the wine nor bring in *the harvest*, because the worm will eat it. ⁴⁰ You will have olive trees throughout your territory but you will not anoint yourself with the oil, because your olives will drop off *prematurely*. ⁴¹ You will father sons and daughters but they will not remain yours, because they will go into captivity. ⁴² The cricket will take possession of all your trees and the produce of your ground. ⁴³ The stranger who is among you will rise above you higher and higher, and you will go down lower and lower. ⁴⁴ He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him; he will be the head, and you will be the tail.

⁴⁵ “So all these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the Lord your God by keeping His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. ⁴⁶ And they will become a sign and a wonder against you and your descendants forever.

⁴⁷ “Since you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a cheerful heart, *in gratitude* for the abundance of all *things*, ⁴⁸ you will serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, thirst, nakedness, and devoid of all *things*; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.

See chart 2810

Curses of Deut. 28	
Curses for disobedience	
38	You will bring out a great amount of seed to the field, but you will gather in little
39	You will plant and cultivate vineyards, but you will not bring in the harvest
40	You will have olive trees but you will not anoint yourself with the oil
41	You will father sons and daughters but they will not remain yours
42	The cricket will take possession of all your trees and the produce of your ground
43	The stranger who is among you will rise above you higher and higher
44	He will be the head, and you will be the tail
Reasons for the curses	
45	Because you would not obey the Lord your God
46	They will become a sign and a wonder against you
47	Since you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a cheerful heart
48	You will serve your enemies, in hunger, thirst, nakedness, and devoid of all things

God used carrots and sticks to motivate the Jews to do the right thing but neither one seemed to motivate the nation as a whole.

There were people of faith that kept the law but it was a small minority, so Israel as a nation suffered the consequences of these curses.

Verses 49 - 57

⁴⁹ “The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down; a nation whose language you will not understand, ⁵⁰ a nation with a defiant attitude, who will have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young. ⁵¹ Furthermore, it will eat the offspring of your herd and the produce of your ground until you are destroyed; a *nation* that will leave you no grain, new wine, or oil, nor the newborn of your cattle or the young of your flock, until they have eliminated you. ⁵² And it will besiege you in all your towns until your high and fortified walls in which you trusted come down throughout your land, and it will besiege you in all your towns throughout your land which the Lord your God has given you. ⁵³ Then you will eat the offspring of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters whom the Lord your God has given you, during the siege and the hardship by which your enemy will oppress you. ⁵⁴ The man who is refined and very delicate among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife he cherishes, and toward the rest of his children who are left, ⁵⁵ so that he will not give *even* one of them any of the flesh of his children which he will eat, since he has nothing *e/*se left, during the siege and the hardship by which your enemy will oppress you in all your towns. ⁵⁶ The refined and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and tenderness, will be hostile toward the husband she cherishes and toward her son and daughter, ⁵⁷ and toward her afterbirth that comes from between her legs, and toward her children to whom she gives birth, because she will eat them secretly for lack of anything *e/*se, during the siege and the hardship with which your enemy will oppress you in your towns.

This gruesome scene was fulfilled in the siege of Samaria

See 2 Kings 6:24 - 31

It took place about 850 BC, 557 years from the time Moses delivered this message.

Verses 58 - 62

⁵⁸ “If you are not careful to follow all the words of this Law that are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, the Lord your God, ⁵⁹ then the Lord will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses. ⁶⁰ And He will bring back on you every disease of Egypt of which you were afraid, and they will cling to you. ⁶¹ Also every sickness and every plague, which are not written in the book of this Law, the Lord will bring on you until you are destroyed. ⁶² Then you will be left few in number, whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, because you did not obey the Lord your God.

If you are not careful to follow all the words of this Law, then the Lord will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses

Sickness and plague were mentioned in verses 21, 27 and 35.

But here it is indicated that they will be extraordinary and chronic

⁶¹ Also every sickness and every plague, which are not written in the book of this Law, the Lord will bring on you until you are destroyed.

If the Jews were not faithful to God they would suffer everything mentioned so far plus all the other sicknesses and plagues that have not been mentioned.

⁶² Then you will be left few in number, whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, because you did not obey the Lord your God.

There is no doubt that war can cause a huge decrease in the population of a nation but sickness and plague is the greater enemy by far.

In America the following number of people died from:

Heart disease	695,000	2023
Cancer	609,820	2023
WW1 & WW2	516,516	10 years of war

Verses 63- 68

⁶³ And it will come about that, just as the Lord rejoiced over you to be good to you, and make you numerous, so will the Lord rejoice over you to wipe you out and destroy you; and you will be torn away from the land which you are entering to possess. ⁶⁴ Furthermore, the Lord will scatter you among all the peoples, from *one* end of the earth to the other; and there you will serve other gods, *made of* wood and stone, which you and your fathers have not known. ⁶⁵ Among those nations you will find no peace, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul. ⁶⁶ So your lives will be hanging in doubt before you; and you will be terrified night and day, and have no assurance of your life. ⁶⁷ In the morning you will say, 'If only it were evening!' And at evening you will say, 'If only it were morning!' because of the terror of your heart which you fear, and the sight of your eyes which you will see. ⁶⁸ And the Lord will bring you back to Egypt in ships, by the way about which I said to you, 'You will never see it again!' And there you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer."

And it will come about that, just as the Lord rejoiced over you to be good to you, and make you numerous, so will the Lord rejoice over you to wipe you out and destroy you;

God does not delight in the death of any sinner.

See Ezekiel 18:23

Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? Declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

The God of love is also the God of justice.

People who reject God, do not keep his law, and therefore will suffer the wrath of God.

For those who say that God has no right to judge mankind (His creation), they must have missed the class Parenting 101.

Furthermore, the Lord will scatter you among all the peoples, from *one* end of the earth to the other; and there you will serve other gods, *made of* wood and stone, which you and your fathers have not known.

This was fulfilled when the king of Assyria carried the ten tribes into captivity.

This took place in 722 BC, 685 years after this was written.

The king of Babylon carried away the two southern tribes in 586 BC

This took place 820 years after this was written.

Only about 50,000 Jews returned after the Babylonian captivity.

It is amazing how long God waited to punish the Jewish nation for all those years of rebellion. He is very patient with sinners but there comes a time for judgment for every individual and nation.

And the Lord will bring you back to Egypt in ships, by the way about which I said to you, 'You will never see it again!' And there you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer.'

Many scholars believe this is a reference to Rome in 70 AD

In the last siege of Jerusalem, it is estimated that 1.1 million Jews perished.

According to Josephus, the captives were sent to Egypt but the markets were overstocked, and there were few purchasers.

The roman emperor, Adrian, had 985 of their most populous towns burned down.

It was said that all of Judea was laid waste, and left as a desert.

He then published an edict in 135 AD, forbidding them to set foot in Jerusalem.

And we learn from St. Jerome, "that after their last overthrow by Adrian, many thousands of them were sold, and those who could not be sold were transported into Egypt, and perished by shipwreck or famine, or were massacred by the inhabitants."

Hegesipus also says, "There were many captives offered for sale, but few buyers, because the Romans disdained to take the Jews for slaves; and there were not Jews remaining to redeem their countrymen."