

Lesson Twenty-Two: *Blessings and Curses*
Leviticus 26

Theme:

Leviticus: God's people must be holy because He is holy.

Leviticus 11-27: The response to God's holiness is a holy life.

I. **Introduction**

- a. *I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.*
- b. The implications of God's grace:
 - i. The Lord's abundant favor toward Israel
 1. Obedience: the necessary response to grace
 - a. *Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?* (Rom 2:4).
 - i. The transforming power of God's grace
 2. Disobedience: a more heinous sin for those gifted with grace
 - a. WLC 151
 - b. Leviticus 24:10-16
 - c. Matthew 11:20-24
 - d. Hebrews 10:26-31
 - ii. The tension of covenant fulfillment:
 - i. An "unfulfilled" covenant
 - ii. How will the people of God respond to the Lord's demands?

II. (1-13) **The Blessings of Obedience**

- a. *I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.*
 - i. The Lord is *a rewarder of those who seek Him* (Heb 11:6b).
 - ii. The heart of the issue: God's *favorable* presence
 1. (4-5) The blessing of plenty:
 - a. Past: Exodus 3:17; Num 13:23
 - b. Present: Matthew 6:25-33
 - c. Future: Amos 9:13
 2. (6) The blessing of peace:
 - a. Past: the reigns of David and Solomon (II Sam 5:1- I Kin 10:29)
 - b. Present: John 14:27
 - c. Future: Isaiah 65:25
 3. (7-8) The blessing of victory:
 - a. Past: the reigns of David and Solomon (II Sam 5:1- I Kin 10:29)
 - b. Present: I Corinthians 15:55-57; Romans 8:37
 - c. Future: Revelation 19:11-21
 4. (9-10) The blessing of prosperity:
 - a. Past: the fulfillment of promise (Gen 1:28; 12:1-3)
 - b. Present: John 15:16; Gal 5:22-23
 - c. Future: Revelation 22:1-5
 5. (11-13) The blessing of presence:
 - a. Past: God's presence in the tabernacle (Ex 40:34)
 - b. Present: I Corinthians 3:16
 - c. Future: Revelation 21:3
 - i. The climax of the Lord's blessings

III. (14-39) **The Penalties of Disobedience**

- a. *Yet if in spite of this you do not obey Me, but act with hostility against Me, then I will act with wrathful hostility against you.*
 - i. The Lord *disciplines us for our good, so we may share His holiness*(Heb 12:10).
 - ii. Blessing and deprivation
 - iii. The rules of engagement
 - iv. The heart of the matter: God's *wrathful* presence
 1. (14-17) The curse of defeat:
 - a. (14-15) Its genesis: a refusal to listen and obey, a rejection and abhorrence of the law, a denial of the covenant
 - b. The loss of health (16), food (16), and freedom (17)
 - c. The destruction of the first blessing (plenty)
 2. (18-20) The curse of drought:
 - a. (18) Increasing severity
 - b. Futility: the destruction of man's pride
 - c. The destruction of the first blessing (plenty)
 3. (21-22) The curse of wild beasts:
 - a. Chaos and fear
 - b. The destruction of the second blessing (peace)
 4. (23-26) The curse of devastation:
 - a. Siege: plague and famine
 - b. The destruction of the third and fourth blessings (victory and prosperity)
 5. (27-39) The curse of destruction:
 - a. *Total* devastation
 - b. (31) The loss of favor: "righteousness" becomes an abomination.
 - c. (39) The loss of hope
 - i. *It is a righteous thing with God to leave those to despair of pardon that have presumed to sin; and it is owing to free grace if we are not abandoned to pine away in the iniquity we were born in and have lived in* (Henry).
 - v. The aim of discipline:
 1. Repentance and Holiness
 - a. Matthew 18:15 – winning your brother
 - b. Galatians 6:1 – restoration

IV. (40-45) **The Restoration of Repentance**

- a. *I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well.*
 - i. Despite Israel's sin, the Lord will not break His covenant.
 1. The Lord: faithful and just
 2. The Lord's justice is satisfied through the curses.
 - ii. The forerunners of restoration:
 1. (40) Confession and repentance:
 - a. A recognition of *willful* and *hostile* rebellion
 2. (41) Humility:
 - a. A recognition that their actions demanded that they be treated as those *outside* the covenant
 - b. A re-evaluation of themselves and God
 - iii. (44-45) Hope: in the Lord and the finished work of Christ

But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings (Mal 4:2).