

Cursed

- Doomed to Destruction -

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Scripture is from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

This word study came out of a forum debate concerning the extent of destruction at the end of this age. I believe this entire planet will be left deserted and lifeless after the last plagues of Revelation. (See study: "[7 Trumpets - 7 Bowls](#).") Others believe that only "the land" promised to Abraham's seed - the land of Israel, will be completely destroyed. They believe that only Israel was under "the covenant" with Yahweh, therefore only Israel would come under "the curse" of that covenant.

I contend that Adam was in covenant with his Creator, therefore all of Adam's descendants have come under "the curse" resulting from Adam's disobedience. That "curse" is death - complete destruction.

1 Corinthians 15:22 "As in Adam all die."

The Hebrew word '**erets** (#0776) translated as "**the earth**" or "**the land**," can mean the specific land area or "**territory**" occupied by a certain people. It can mean "**the land**" promised to Abraham's Seed. It can also mean simply "**dry land**," or the entire land area of the planet - as in Genesis Chapter One. The context of the passage determines the meaning.

I see Israel as the lesson book for the rest of mankind. What happened to Israel anciently, when she forsook her God and worshiped pagan gods, will happen to all of mankind in the last days. The prophecy of Israel's destruction, is also the prophecy of the world's destruction, for the same reason - rejection of God and His law.

1 Corinthians 10:11 "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

The account of Noah's flood, describes the destruction of all land dwelling creatures. Only those preserved with Noah in the ark, survived. Christ compared the final at the end of this age, to the destruction of Noah's day (*Matt 24:37*). The people of Noah's day said to God, "Depart from us!" (*Job 22:15-17*). So He did. What else could He do?

Let's review some of the warnings spoken to Ancient Israel.

Malachi 4:4-6 "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

The Lord, speaking to Malachi the prophet, is warning that Israel will be "cursed" - devoted to destruction, unless they heed the message of Elijah the prophet. Likewise, in the final days (3.5 years) of this age, the Lord will speak through the Two Witnesses of Revelation Chapter Eleven, one of whom will speak as Elijah spoke, to will warn the world of coming judgment and destruction. See our study: "[Two Witnesses](#)."

The word in this verse, translated as "curse," is the Hebrew word "**cherem**" (#02764) which means "**devoted to destruction**," "doomed to destruction," or simply "devoted," as animals were devoted to the LORD for sacrificial destruction.

At Mount Sinai, the newly formed nation of Israel entered into **a blood covenant** with Yahweh. That covenant contained **blessings and curses**. To forsake that covenant (without repentance) would bring the curses - not because the LORD would directly punish, but because **He would no longer protect or bless**.

Exodus 22:20 "He who sacrifices to any god, except to the LORD only, he shall be **utterly destroyed**" (cherem).

Here the LORD is speaking to Israel.

Leviticus 27:29 "No person under the ban, who may become **doomed to destruction** among men, shall be redeemed, but shall surely be put to death."

No person accused of a crime such as murder, could be ransomed for money, and no person in a town specifically identified by the LORD for total destruction, could be ransomed for money. The LORD commanded Israel to destroy the centers of Baal worship - which practiced human sacrifice and sex slavery.

Joshua 6:17 [Joshua speaking] “Now the city [Jericho] shall be **doomed by the LORD to destruction**, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.”

The LORD instructed Joshua to completely destroy or “devote to destruction,” some of the cities of the Canaanites, and their centers of Baal worship. The army of Joshua was to “kill everything living” - every man, woman, and child, and also every animal. The precious metals were to be melted down and given over to the LORD for service within the Tabernacle. Every idol was to be torn down and demolished.

We must remember the culture of those cities. The worship of Baal revolved around child sex slavery, child sacrifice and demonic rituals. The worship of Baal was a worship of demons, and involved demonic possession of both priests and worshipers. To bring into the camp of Israel, children or young women who had been devoted to the god Baal, could bring demon possession with them.

Numbers 21:3 “And the LORD listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they [Israel under Joshua] **utterly destroyed** them and their cities.”

The Canaanite cities were NOT in covenant with Yahweh, as were the Israelites. Yet the LORD pronounced them “cursed.” This is an example of “the curse” applied to non-Israelite peoples. They stood in the way of Israel, entering the land promised to “Abraham’s seed.” They posed a spiritual threat to Israel through proximity to pagan ways, and a physical threat through warfare.

Israelites who broke the covenant (without repentance), **AND non-Israelites** who opposed or persecuted God’s people, were “cursed” - that is, “devoted to destruction.” To break covenant (without repentance) was to render oneself “cut off” from Israel, and subject to the “curse” of Israel’s enemies. Eternal life is found only in God, through Christ.

At the end of this age, Yeshua Messiah will be given “dominion” over the whole earth (*Daniel 7:9-14*). He is the Creator and He is the Redeemer. When He comes to take possession of His kingdom, Satan and those inspired or controlled by him, will oppose Christ, just as the pagan Canaanites opposed Joshua (the TYPE). The last plagues, the fire of Gog/Magog and finally the “lake of fire,” will destroy the enemies of God, just as the LORD, through Joshua, destroyed the Baal worshipping Canaanites.

Deuteronomy 2:34 [Moses speaking, concerning the Amorites] “We took all his cities at that time, and we **utterly destroyed** the men, women, and little ones of every city; we left none remaining.”

Deuteronomy 3:6 [Moses speaking concerning Og of Bashan, the other Amorite king] “And we **utterly destroyed** them, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon, **utterly destroying** the men, women, and children of every city.”

Joshua 6:21 & 24 “And they **utterly destroyed** all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword. . . . they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.”

Centers of Baal worship were destroyed. The populace of other cities were given the option of relocating (outside “the territory of Israel”). If they refused, they would face Israel in battle. Israel was to make “no covenant” or treaty with any Canaanites, and Israelites were not to marry Canaanite women.

I am drawing a parallel. As Joshua destroyed the centers of Baal worship, Christ will destroyed this earth completely. Baal was “the Beast” of that ancient land. The Book of Revelation describes another Beast, who will rule the entire world. Every nation, kindred, tongue and people will worship (serve) the coming Beast, except those with the “Seal of God.” As Rahab was spared, and Noah was spared, and Lot was spared, so those with the Seal of God, will be spared. No one else.

KEEPING THE ACCURSED THING

Deuteronomy 7:26 [Moses speaking to Israel] “Nor shall you bring an abomination [an accursed thing] into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.”

Look through the list of those acts or practices which the LORD called “abominations.” How many are today accepted in modern cultures around the globe? How many are government sanctioned? Anciently, those who continued to do such things without repentance, were “doomed to destruction.” Will the LORD judge today’s generation differently? Forgiveness and protection, is found only through Jesus Christ.

Joshua 6:18 “And you, by all means abstain from **the accursed things**, lest you become **accursed** when you take of the **accursed things**, and make the camp of Israel **a curse**, and trouble it.

Joshua was a TYPE, a living symbol of Jesus. What Joshua does to the accursed Canaanites, Jesus will do to those who are accursed on “the Great Day of the LORD.”

We must remember that the Canaanites were worshiping demons at their Temples. Satan held dominion over these people because of their idolatrous, mystical practices. A young female captive, saved from a battle with Canaanites and then taken into an Israelite household for marriage, could have brought demonic influence with her.

The LORD did not want Israel to be infected with Canaanite idolatry. Sadly, the Israelites were changed by marriage with pagan Canaanite women. King Solomon allowed his foreign wives and concubines to bring images of their gods into the very heart of Jerusalem. He corrupted the nation. He will be judged accordingly. In the end the LORD devoted both Israel and Judah to destruction.

Isaiah 43:28 “Therefore I will profane the princes (priests) of the sanctuary; I will give Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches.”

Israel was “devoted to destruction” because of idolatrous practices. The 10 Northern tribes were conquered by Assyria and any survivors were dispersed throughout that empire.

Daniel 9:11 “Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore **the curse and the oath** written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him.”

THE EXAMPLE OF ACHAN

*After the battle of Jericho, the Israelite **Achan** took valuables from the city and hid them under his tent. Because the forbidden “accursed thing” was taken into Israel, **“the curse” came upon all of Israel**. The LORD could not protect them, or empower them in battle against their enemies. They were defeated at Ai. When the crime of Achan was discovered, the stolen things were burned. Achan was executed along with his entire family.*

Joshua 7:12 [The Lord speaking to Joshua] “Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies (retreating), because they have become **doomed to destruction**. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy **the accursed** from among you.”

Joshua 7:13 “Get up, sanctify the people, and say, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: “There is **an accursed thing** in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away **the accursed thing** from among you.”’”

Joshua 22:20 “Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in **the accursed thing**, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? And that man did not perish alone in his iniquity.”

Now do you understand why the LORD later dealt so severely with King Saul?

After defeating the Amalakites at the LORD’s command, Saul kept alive the King of the Amalakites, as a trophy. He kept a man who was “devoted to destruction.” He also did not object when his men kept the best of the cattle and the sheep for themselves (*1Samuel Cpt 15*).

In keeping the “accursed thing,” Saul brought “the curse” of the covenant upon himself, and upon all of Israel. Samuel understood this. That is why he acted so decisively. And that is why the LORD withdrew His spirit from King Saul (*1Sam 16:14*).

Samuel took a sword and hacked King Agag in pieces “before the LORD” - meaning inside the Courtyard of the Tabernacle (*1Sam 15:33*).

Isaiah 34:5 “For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; Indeed it shall come down on Edom, and on **the people of My curse**, for judgment.”

Here is a prophecy of judgment upon the descendants of Esau (Edom) and the descendants of Lot (Moab). Israel was originally told not to war with Edom or Moab because they gave Israel passage through their lands, and sold them water and provisions (Deut. Cpt 2). The descendants of Lot once worshiped Yahweh. Later they were they corrupted by idolatrous practices, and much later came to worship Allah, the God of Islam. Some from this culture will come to know Christ and the Father, but the rest - who worship gods other than Yahweh, are “doomed to destruction.” The prophecy of Isaiah concerning Edom and Moab, was fulfilled by the Babylonian conquest of those peoples. It will be fulfilled again, in the last days.

Here again, we see the LORD’s “curse” applied to non-Israelites.

Genesis 12:3 [The LORD speaking to Abraham] “I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Israel lived under the LORD’s covenant of blessing. Those who broke the Covenant - without repentance, were “cut off” from Israel. They would then come under “the curse” of Israel’s enemies - the curse of death, resulting from Adam’s sin. Non-Israelites who came to worship Yahweh, especially those who came to believe in Jesus Christ as God’s only Son, are “grafted in” to Israel, and enjoy the blessings of that Covenant.

THE WHOLE EARTH?

or only

THE ANCIENT LAND PROMISED TO ABRAHAM'S SEED?

The "curse" was known, and is repeated in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. After Adam sinned the LORD pronounced a curse upon the serpent, the earth, and upon the woman. The Serpent's head would be crushed. The ground (earth) would bring forth thorns and would take a lot of man's sweat in exchange for food (*Gen 3:17*). The woman would be ruled by her husband, and would give birth in sorrow (*Gen. 3:16*). All this would be the result of disobedience.

Thorns are found the world over, as was the subjugation of women until very recently in some Western cultures. Death is universal. No one escapes. "As in Adam, all die" (*1Cor 15:22*). The Serpent - Satan, is cursed, and those who serve him are cursed. He violated the Law of God in Heaven. Only "those in Christ" are protected. This curse is not limited to the land area promised to the Seed of Abraham.

Isaiah 24:6 "The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, And few men are left."

Isaiah 34:2 "For the indignation of the LORD is against all nations, And His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter."

The whole earth is "cursed," and will be destroyed. The redeemed people of Christ will be removed, before the last plagues are unleashed on the day that Christ returns in glory.

2 Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."

How in the world do you limit this destruction of "the heavens" to only those above the "land of Israel?"

Hebrews 1:10 "He also says, 'In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 11 **They will perish**, but you remain; **they will all wear out like a garment**. 12 You will roll them up like a robe; **like a garment they will be changed**. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.'" (NIV)

The “foundations of the earth” - laid in “the beginning,” were not just those of “the land” of Israel. This is the whole world. I believe this earth will be rendered lifeless by the last plagues. The redeemed will be removed from this planet, to spend the 7th millennium in the Father’s House, in the New Jerusalem, in the Heavenly realm.

NOAH’S FLOOD and THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM

Jericho was completely destroyed and burned. Sodom and Gomorrah were completely burned up. Jesus described the coming destruction at His glorious return, as “like” the destruction of Noah’s flood, and “like” the destruction of Sodom. Only Rahab and those in her house, survived the destruction of Jericho. Only Noah and those with him in the Ark, survived that universal flood. Only Lot and his two daughters survived the destruction of Sodom and the cities of the plain. The prophesied destruction is universal.

IN THE NEW EARTH

Zechariah 14:11 “The people shall dwell in it; And no longer shall there be utter destruction, But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.”

Revelation ends with the promise that “there will be no more curse” in the forever Kingdom of Messiah.

Isaiah 65:17 “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.”

Revelation 22:3 “And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.”

Let me suggest another study which explains that God’s “wrath” is not punishment directly inflicted by God Himself. Rather, the LORD’s “wrath” involves those things that happen when the LORD withdraws His protection from those who reject Him, leaving such persons without the spirit of God, and subject to control by Satan and his evil ones. What horrible plans will the Evil One push into the minds of those who control governments and armies and weapons of mass destruction or biological warfare? The last plagues do not seem farfetched.

See our study: “[The Wrath of God - A Different View.](#)”

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