

Leviticus and the Sacrificial System

Lesson 12 – Blessings and Curses

Text

Leviticus 26:1-2; 26:3-13; 26:14-39; 40-46; Exodus 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 28; Joshua 8:33-35

Introduction

The Mosaic covenant was conditional, based upon Israel's obedience (Ex 19:5-6). In Lev 26, after giving instructions to the people, God presented the blessings of obedience, and the curses for disobedience. Lev 26 can be broken down into four sections:

1. 26:1-2, Introduction
2. 26:3-13, Blessings
3. 26:14-39, Curses
4. 26:40-46, God's promise to remember His people

The blessings are promised in total for obedience. In general, the curses seem to be given in five stages of increasing severity based upon Israel's response.

1. Lev 26:14-17
2. Lev 26:18-20
3. Lev 26:21-22
4. Lev 26:23-26
5. Lev 26:27-33

Many prophets referred to these curses in their writings, and there is evidence of their fulfilment in the history of Israel and Judah. Many believe the blessings foreshadow those to be found in Christ.

Fulfillment of the Curses

Select passages showing possible fulfillment of the curses

Lev 26:17 , <i>I will set My face against you so that you will be struck down before your enemies...</i>	1 Sam 4:10 , <i>So the Philistines fought and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent; and the slaughter was very great...</i>
Lev 26:20 , <i>Your strength will be spent uselessly, for your land will not yield its produce and the trees of the land will not yield their fruit.</i>	1 Kings 18:2 , <i>Now the famine was severe in Samaria.</i>
Lev 26:22 , <i>I will let loose among you the beasts of the field...</i>	2 Kings 17:25 , <i>...they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them which killed some of them.</i>
Lev 26:26 , <i>When I break your staff of bread, ten women will bake your bread in one oven, and they will bring back your bread in rationed amounts, so that you will eat and not be satisfied.</i>	2 Kings 6:25 , <i>There was a great famine in Samaria; and behold, they besieged it, until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and a fourth of a kab of dove's dung for five shekels of silver.</i>
Lev 26:29 , <i>...you will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters you will eat.</i>	Lam 4:10 , <i>The hands of compassionate women Boiled their own children; They became food for them...</i>
Lev 26:33 , <i>You, however, I will scatter among the nations...</i>	2 Kings 17:6 , <i>...the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.</i>

Leviticus and the Sacrificial System

Lesson 12 – Blessings and Curses

Messianic Implications of Leviticus 26:3-13

Similarities between Leviticus 26:3-13 and Messianic promises in Ezekiel 34-37

Leviticus 26	Ezekiel 34-37
26:4 , then I shall give you rains in their season...	34:26 , ...And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing.
26:4 , ...the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field will bear their fruit.	34:27 , Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase...
26:5 , Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full...	34:29 , I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land...
26:5 , You will ... live securely in your land.	34:27-28 , ...they will be secure on their land ... they will live securely, and no one will make them afraid.
26:6 , I shall also grant peace in the land, so that you may lie down with no one making you tremble. I shall also eliminate harmful beasts from the land, and no sword will pass through your land.	34:25 , I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods... 34:28 , They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make them afraid.
26:9 , So I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you...	36:9-11 , ...behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you ... I will multiply men on you, all the house of Israel... I will multiply on you man and beast; and they will increase and be fruitful... 37:26 , ...And I will place them and multiply them...
26:9 , ...and I will confirm My covenant with you.	34:25 , I will make a covenant of peace with them... 37:26 , I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them...
26:10 , You will eat the old supply and clear out the old because of the new.	34:29 , ...they will not again be victims of famine in the land...
26:11 , Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you.	37:27 , My dwelling place also will be with them...
26:12 , I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.	34:30 , Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people... 37:23 , they will be My people, and I will be their God... 37:27 , ...I will be their God, and they will be My people.
26:13 , I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that you would not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.	34:27 , Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them.

Source: Blackmore, Evan and Marie; *Truth Commentaries, The Book of Leviticus*; Guardian of Truth Foundation, Athens, AL; 2012 (pg 679)

Leviticus and the Sacrificial System

Lesson 12 – Blessings and Curses

Questions

1. What are the four types of false gods mentioned in Lev 26:1?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
2. In Lev 26:2, “*sabbaths*” is plural. What besides the weekly observance might be in view?
3. What does it mean to “*reverence My [the LORD’s] sanctuary*” in Lev 26:2?
4. In Lev 26:3, what does the word “*walk*” imply? (See 1 John 1:7)
5. Is Lev 26:5 meant to be understood literally?
6. List three areas of prosperity promised in Lev 26:3-13. (Consider 3-5; 6-8; 9-13)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
7. List eight specific things God promised for obedience
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.
8. List four acts of disobedience in Lev 26:14-15.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
9. What is the key thought of Lev 16:14-15? (Consider Ex 19:5-6)
10. What are four curses listed in Lev 26:16-17?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

Leviticus and the Sacrificial System

Lesson 12 – Blessings and Curses

11. From Lev 26:18, What does God want from the people?

12. Using Lev 26:14, 18, 21, 23, 27 show the progressive steps of rejection and God’s response.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

13. Who does “*those of you who may be left*” in Lev 26:39 refer to? What will be their fate?

14. List four things God wants from His people in Lev 26:40-41

1.

2.

3.

4.

15. In Lev 26:42-45 what covenant will God remember?