



Progressive Revelation: Blessing and Curses Part II

Introduction: Part II of this study will focus on how God has blessed through the curses He has pronounced upon man. We will primarily be looking at Genesis chapters 3 and 4.

Instructions: Read through the judgment pronounced in Genesis 3:14-19 upon the Serpent, the Woman, and Adam.

Activity: Answer the following questions. Feel free to cross reference other parts of Scripture if they come to mind or if additional study is desired.

1. What was the judgment in Genesis 3:14? Who was it pronounced upon? How would you categorize the type of judgment? (**Hint:** use the language / grammar in verse 14 to answer the questions).

2. Genesis 3:15 contains additional judgments upon the serpent, but includes the woman. What was the judgment in Genesis 3:15? Upon who was the judgment pronounced? How would you categorize the judgment? (**Hint:** was the judgment a curse or a blessing?).

3. Genesis 3:16 is a judgment upon the woman. Describe the judgment? How would you categorize the judgment? Compare Genesis 3:16 to Genesis 3:14 and note if the same language is used with the woman as with the Serpent. Does every judgment fall under the category of curse?

4. Genesis 3:17-19 is a judgment upon the man. What was the reason behind man's sin (v. 17)? From where should man's knowledge come? Under what category does the judgment fall? What was the recipient of the curse? Was Adam cursed by God? What brought death into Adam's life? How would you categorize the breaking of God's commandments? Did Adam bring a curse upon himself? From where did the curse originate?

Instructions: Read through the judgment pronounced upon Cain in Genesis 4:9-16.

Activity: Answer the following questions. Feel free to cross reference other parts of Scripture if they come to mind or if additional study is desired.

1. How did Cain handle himself compared to Adam his father when God confronted him? See Genesis 3:9-13 to compare. Was Cain willing to confess his actions to God? Adam's sin was out of willful negligence/unintentionality. How does that compare to Cain's sin? For unintentional sins compared to high handed or defiant sins look up Numbers 15:22-31. Take time to read the passage in Numbers together as a group in order to understand the types of sin and how God regards them.

2. What type of judgment fell upon Cain in Genesis 4:11-12? Who was the recipient of the judgment? How did the judgment upon Cain differ from that of the judgment upon Adam?

3. Was God consistent with the judgment in Numbers 15 in how he judged Cain? Look again at Numbers 15:30, 31 and write down the penalty for the sin of defiance against the commandments of God. Now look back at Genesis 4:9-12 and compare the penalty of Numbers 15 with Cain's penalty. Are they the same or different? Does God change in how He handles defiant sin?

4. How did God bless Cain through the curse pronounced upon him? See Genesis 4:14-16. Was the curse of the mark a blessing (v. 15)? Why did God protect Cain? What was God slowing down by affording Cain protective rights through the mark? Was Cain the direct recipient of the blessing of God's protection or was it for the greater good of humanity? Was a fulfillment of a promise yet to come from God to the human race? So was the mark upon Cain a means to allow time to pass by so that the promise would be fulfilled? For more information read Genesis 4:16-26.
