



Progressive Revelation: Blessing and Curses Part I

Introduction: A dominant story line of Scripture is the theme of *blessing and curses*. In fact the blessing and curses in Scripture are a major mechanism by which the plot is furthered and revealed. Blessing and curses drive much of God's plan of the ages (salvation) as it flows out through fallen human history. We know from our study of the first three chapters of Genesis that God blessed all that He had made. Furthermore, God created a special Garden exuding with His blessings. But it was in the middle of the Garden of Eden that God planted two trees: the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Those two trees thickened the plot and moved the story forward.

This study will compare Genesis chapter 2 and 3 with Genesis 4 in order to understand the similarities and differences in how God works through blessings and curses to reveal Himself and His plan to save the elect out of the sea of fallen humanity. Part I will focus on listing the two categories of blessing and curses. Part II / Week II will focus on understanding how the story is moved along through the blessing and curses.

Instructions: Read Genesis 4:1-7 as a group.

Activity #1: Write down in your own words the blessings found in verses 1-7. Take into account the blessings previously studied in chapter 1 and 2 of Genesis. Fill in the blank "hints" have been provided to help you along the way.

1. Genesis 4:1 _____

(Hint) Be _____ and _____ (1:28)

2. Genesis 4:2-5 _____

(Hint) Prescribed manner of " _____ " (2:16-17)

3. Genesis 4:6-7 _____

(Hint) Absolute " _____ " is what God requires (2:16-17; 3:11)

Why are all of the previous items listed considered blessings from God?

Hint: Apply your heart to discipline and your ears to words of knowledge (Proverbs 23:12).
How is discipline achieved?

Activity #2: Write down in your own words the curses found in verses 8-13. Take into account the curses previously studied in chapter 2 and 3 of Genesis. Fill in the blank “hints” have been provided to help you along the way.

1. Genesis 4:8-10 _____

(Hint) “_____” brings about curses (3:17)

2. Genesis
4:11-13 _____

Now List the curses both God stated about Cain and Cain stated about himself

God’s curses on Cain:

1. _____

2. _____

Cain’s understanding of God’s curses:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. What did Cain add to the list?
