

A BLESSING AND A CURSE 2 Kings 2:19-25

I. BLESSING THE WATER (19-22)

A. The Significance of the Problem (19, 21; Gen 3:17-19; Rom 8:19-23)—*local manifestation of Curse from the Fall; Creation malfunctions*

1. **DEATH**—the water is bad
2. **INFERTILITY**—
 - a. **Fruit of the Soil**()—farming is not productive
 - b. **Fruit of the Womb** ()—causing miscarriages

B. The Ingredients of the Solution (20-21)

1. **New Bowl**—ceremonial purity
2. **Salt**
 - a. **The nature of salt** ()—*does not burn*, used to purify and preserve
 - b. **God's covenant faithfulness** (Lev 2:13; Num 18:19)—salt added to particular offerings
 - c. **The church's effect upon society** (Mat 15:19-20)—to purify, make wholesome, preserve
3. **Prophetic Decree** (21)—“Thus says the LORD...”

C. The Source of the Problem (21)—

1. **The Water Source** ()—*the spring*
2. **The Human Heart** (Prov 4:23; Jer 17:9; 14, Mat 15:19-20)—wellspring of life

D. The Continuity of the Scripture

1. **Looks back to Moses** (Ex 15:22-25)—the waters of Mara
2. **Looks forward to Jesus** (Mat 5:13)—the ultimate answer to all the suffering and frustration and death cause by the Fall of humanity.

II. CURSING THE BOYS (23-25; 2 Chron 36:16; Job 19:18)

A. The Wickedness of Mockers (Ps 1:1; Job 19:18; 2 Chron 36:12, 16)—scoffers,

1. The Physical Deficiency of Elisha—*baldness*
2. The Memory of Elijah—“*Go up, baldy!*”
3. The Authority of God—the message and messenger of God
 - a. The Prophet of God
 - b. The Word of God
4. The School of Prophets (2 Kings 2:2-3)—in this town, not first time

B. An Indictment of the Town—without repentance, the sins of parents will be passed on to their children.

C. The Fulfillment of the Curse (Gen 9:2-3, 5; Isa 11:6-9; Lev 26:21-22)—mauling bears; creation turned against humans

III. THE NATURE OF GOD

A. God is the source of all blessing.

B. Our God is to be feared.

C. Jesus is the ultimate answer to all the sin and suffering of the world. (Isa 11:6-9)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing...

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy...

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground:
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found...

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove, the glories of his
righteousness, and wonders of his love...