

# *Old & New Covenant Curses: The Mercy of Warnings*

Leviticus 26:14-46

May 4, 2014

## Sermon Outline

Notes:

### I. Introduction

#### A. Children's Sermon

1. Lies as Old as the Garden
  - a. God is not Good
  - b. God will not Judge Us
2. War or Peace with God?

Wilful sinful acts express a mind that is at war with God.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Acts 17:30–31 (NLT)**

<sup>30</sup> “God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now *he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him.* <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.”

#### B. The Blessings of Yahweh's Presence in Israel

#### **Leviticus 26:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> I will make my dwelling among you, and *my soul shall not abhor you.* <sup>12</sup> And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

#### C. Union with God & Eternal Blessings

#### **Key Idea**

*Even God's most harsh curses are laced with mercy. They serve as a stark warning of the coming final judgment.*

### II. Life in Defiance of God's Covenant

#### A. Hating God

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<sup>1</sup> **Eveson, P. H.** (2007). *The Beauty of Holiness: The Book of Leviticus Simply Explained* (p. 382). Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

### **Leviticus 26:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> “But if you will *not listen to me* and *will not do* all these commandments, <sup>15</sup> if you *spurn my statutes*, and *if your soul abhors my rules*, so that you *will not do all* my commandments, but *break my covenant*...

### B. Covenant Curses

#### **Leviticus 26:16-17 (Fear)**

<sup>16</sup> then I will do this to you: *I will visit you with panic*, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. And you shall *sow your seed in vain*, for your enemies shall eat it. <sup>17</sup> ...*you shall flee when none pursues you*.

#### **Leviticus 26:18-20 (Drought)**

<sup>18</sup> And *if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins*, <sup>19</sup> and *I will break the pride of your power*, and *I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze*. <sup>20</sup> And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.

...the ‘heavens like iron’ and the ‘earth like bronze’ would mean no rain, resulting in dry, hard ground that could produce no harvests.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Leviticus 26:21-22 (Wild Beasts)**

<sup>21</sup> “Then if you walk contrary to me *and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins*.

<sup>22</sup> And *I will let loose the wild beasts* against you, which shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock and make you few in number, so that your roads shall be deserted.

#### **Leviticus 26:23-26 (Defeat & Hunger)**

<sup>23</sup> “*And if by this discipline you are not turned to me* but walk contrary to me, <sup>24</sup> **then** I also will walk contrary to you, and *I myself will strike you sevenfold for your sins*.

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<sup>2</sup> **Ibid.** (p. 383).

<sup>25</sup> And *I will bring a sword upon you*, that shall execute vengeance for the covenant. And if you gather within your cities, *I will send pestilence among you*, and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. <sup>26</sup> *When I break your supply of bread*, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven and shall dole out your bread again by weight, and *you shall eat and not be satisfied*.

### **Leviticus 26:27-39 (Exile)**

<sup>27</sup> “*But if in spite of this you will not listen to me*, but walk contrary to me, <sup>28</sup> *then I will walk contrary to you in **ifury***, and *I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins*. <sup>29</sup> You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. <sup>30</sup> And I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars and *cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your **idols*** [The sentence literally reads: ‘I will ... cast your corpses on the corpses of your dung-like objects’]<sup>3</sup>, and *my soul will abhor you*. ... [Land ravaged by enemies]

<sup>34</sup> “Then *the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths* as long as it lies desolate, while you are in your enemies’ land; then the land shall rest, and enjoy its Sabbaths. ... <sup>36</sup> *And as for those of you who are left*, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a driven leaf shall put them to flight, and they shall flee as one flees from the sword, and they shall fall when none pursues. ...

### **III. Inescapable Relationship with God**

#### **Acts 17:30–31**

<sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now *he **commands** all people everywhere to repent*, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

#### **Luke 13:5 (Tower in Siloam)**

*...but unless you repent*, you will all likewise perish.”

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<sup>3</sup> **Ibid.** (p. 384).

## Luke 15:10 (ESV)

Just so, I tell you, *there is joy* before the angels of God *over one sinner who repents.*”

### A. The Folly of an Unrepentant Heart

1. Blessing leads to pride (Romans 2:4–5)
2. Cursing leads to bitterness against God

## Revelation 16:9–11

<sup>9</sup> They were scorched by the fierce heat, and *they cursed the name* of God who had power over these plagues. *They did not repent* and give him glory.

<sup>10</sup> The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish <sup>11</sup> and *cursed the God of heaven* for their pain and sores. *They did not repent of their deeds.*

### C. Our Great Salvation

## 2 Corinthians 5:20–21

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, *be reconciled to God.* <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### Key Idea

*God is good; He will judge the wicked and He delights in showing mercy to all those who turn to His Son.*