

THE FOURTH GENERATION CURSE

During the month of September, we will be studying a special series of lesson on parenting in a moral declining nation.

We will learn that parenting in a morally declining nation is difficult but not impossible.

Our first lesson on parenting in a moral declining nation is taken from the Ten Commandments (Ex.20). The Ten Commandments is the Magna Charta for the spiritual and social life within a nation.

- The first four commandments discuss the spiritual life of the nation.
- The last six discuss the social life.

The Ten commandments provide the moral guidelines to the four divine institutions (Matt.5: 17-20; 7:12; 22:34-40; Rom.13: 9-10; Gal.5: 14).

This lesson will study SIX aspects of The Fourth Generation Curse and how it is related to parenting in a morally declining nation.

1. Bob Thieme referred to the Fourth Generation Curse as the doctrine of culpability.

Culpability is an English word referring to being blameworthy.

The Fourth Generation Curse places the blame upon poor parental training and habits that are passed onto their children thus collectively effecting the spiritual and social welfare of the nation.

2. The Fourth Generation Curse is associated with violation of the Second commandment (Ex.20: 4-6; Deut.5: 8-10).

The Second Commandment is based on the doctrinal principle of the Believer's exclusive love relationship with the Lord, just like a marriage relationship (20:5). "Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous (qanna), is a jealous God." (Ex.34: 14) (Deut.4: 23-31; 32:16-21; Ps.78: 56-58)

The violation of the Second commandment involved idolatrous substitution for the covenant love relationship with the Lord God that results in The Fourth Generation Curse.

3. The Fourth Generation Curse is described as – "Visiting (paqad / kal ptc) the iniquity (aon) of the fathers on the children, on the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me." (20:5)

The Hebrew word for iniquity (aon) refers to intentional violation of the Second Commandment resulting in legal guilt. The Second Commandment is given collectively to the nation to be obeyed individually.

The concept is that the parent's areas of weakness (OMCD) are passed on to their children such as prejudice, fear, anger, maligning and rebellion against divine delegated authority.

Parents pass on to their children no only poor training but also bad beliefs and behavior. It gets worst the more the moral and spiritual decline of the nation.

Paul was ministering in both the Jewish (apostasy) and Gentile (paganism) nations with this problem (1 Cor.10: 18-22).

4. Each generation will determine its own role in life on the basis of positive volition towards God and His truth, and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Four generations of cursing or thousands of years of blessing (Ex.20: 5-6).

Proverb 30:11-14 describes four types in a moral and spiritual declining nation. The type mentioned is child who curses his father and does not bless his mother.

The actual sins of the parents and children are not transmitted or transferred from one to another – ‘Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sins.’ (Deut.24: 16) (Ezek.18: 19-23)

“No generation was to think that it bore God’s judgment for the iniquity of another generation.” (Vines, pg.122)

5. In John 9:2-3, Jesus revealed a false Pharisaical teaching regarding the Fourth Generation Curse.

“Rabbis were even capable of thinking that a child could sin in the womb or that it’s soul might have sinned in a preexistence state. They also held that terrible punishment come on certain people because of the sins of their parents.” (NIV, John 9:2)

“Jesus answered, ‘It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him.’” (John 9:3)

6. God provided for all iniquities to be judged at the cross on Jesus Christ (Isa.53: 4-6, 11; Acts 8:30-35).

“And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from **this Scripture** he preached Jesus to him.” (Acts 8:35)

“And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”
(1 Pet.2: 24; Isa.53: 4)

For the unbeliever, God expects him to believe that Jesus died for his sins, was buried and raised from the dead on the third day in order to establish a covenant love relationship with God.
(1 Cor.15: 3-4; Rom.1: 16; Eph.2: 8-9; Gal.3: 13, 24).

For the believer, God expects him to confess his sins to restore his covenant love relationship
(Ps.31: 5; 51:1-4).