

THE CURSE UPON THE SERPENT

Adam, Eve and the (possessed) serpent were involved in the insurrection of the Garden of Eden. When it came time for God to interrogated them, He only interrogated Adam and Eve. But when it came time for God to judge them, He judged them in a reversed order – the serpent, Eve and then Adam.

While Satan was also involved in this insurrection, he was NOT part of this judgment. He had been judged already for insurrection against God in eternity past (Matt.25:14; Isa.14:12-15; Ezek.28:2; Gen.3:5).

This lesson will study SEVEN points regarding the CURSE OF THE SERPENT (ha nachash).

1. There are four things to understand about the Hebrew word used for CURSE (arar).

- § Arar means to bind so as to reduce one's ability or to reduce one powerless. Under an arar curse, a person is in the same significant way bound so that he is unable to do what he was once able to do.
- § Arar curse is the most powerful decree expressed by an authority and by means of it a man or a group that has committed a serious transgression is delivered over to misfortune (TD of NT, pg.411).
- § Arar curse decreed by God can only be annulled by God (Jer.24:8-10; Mal.2:1-2).
- § Arar stands in contrast to barak (blessing) (Deut.27:15-16; 28:16-18).

2. The pronouncement of the arar curse upon the serpent was in three parts.

- § **Deed:** "because you have DONE this." (past history)
- § **Decree:** "cursed are you MORE THAN all cattle, MORE THAN every beast of the field." (future history)
- § **Days:** "all the days of your life" (perpetual history).

3. The other animals of Day 5 and 6 (chayah nephesh) fall under the Adamic curse of death. However, this curse upon the serpent went beyond it.

It effected the serpent's perpetual existence upon the earth. It was classified as detestable (unclean) in Levitical Law (lev.11:41-47) – "whatever crawls upon its belly."

Only death releases it from the arar curse of life – "all the days of your life."

4. The arar judgment upon the serpent was in three sections.

- § **Belly:** "on your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat all the days of your life."
- § **Bitter enemy:** And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed."
- § **Bruise:** "He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel."

The snakes crawling on their bellies are visual aid lessons of Adam's fall and God's curse upon the serpent's part in it. It is a visual aid lesson just like the physical death (dying you shall die).

“They will lick the dust like a serpent, like reptiles of the earth. They will come trembling out of their fortresses; to the Lord our God they will in dread, and they will be afraid before Thee.” (Micah 7:17) victory of Christ (Micah 7:14-20).

5. Two different entities were recorded in the serpent’s arar curse. One entity involved the serpent and the other entity involves Satan.

In Gen.3: 14, we have been discussing the arar curse involving only the serpent. However in Gen.3: 15, there is a prophecy associated with the serpent’s arar curse involving Satan.

There are three parts to the prophetic arar curse associated with Satan.

- § **Spiritual enemy:** “I (God) will put enmity between you and the woman.”
- § **Spiritual seed:** “Between your seed and her seed.” (John 8:44)
- § **Spiritual conflict:** “He (Christ) shall bruise you (Satan) in the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel.” (Isa.53:3-5; Rev.12:9; 20:2; 2 Cor.11:3)

- § **Seed:** “And to your seed, that is, Christ.” (Gal.3:16)
- § **Soon:** “And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” (Rom.16:20)
- § **Second Coming:** “And the Devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone.” (Rev.20:10)

6. Gen.3:15 is known in theology as PROTEVANGELISM (first prophetic gospel) in the angelic conflict.

Notice that the PROTEVANGELISM is part of the curse upon the serpent rather than upon Adam or Eve.

- § **Hostility conflict:** Satan verses dispensational divine agency in the world - (which woman to attack)
- § **Heredity conflict:** Satan seed verses God’s seed in the world – (which child to attack)
- § **Head and heal conflict:** Satan’s head verses Christ’s heel – (which area to attack) – Christ will attack from above while Satan will attack from below.

- § **Suffering victor:** “Christ, the seed of the woman, will be the suffering victor over Satan.”(Luke 3:23-38; John 12:31-33; Rom.16:20; Col.2:15)
- § **Savior’s seed:** “After the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Satan attacks the Savior’s seed, the Church.” (Phil.1: 29; James 1:2-4; 1 Pet.1: 6-7; 4:12-19).
- § **Spirit:** “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He (1 Cor.6: 19) [Holy Spirit] who is in you than he who is in the world (2 Cor.4: 4).” (1 John 4:4)
- § **Second Coming:** In the parable of the Tares (Matt.13: 24-30, 36-43), Jesus explained this conflict between Satan and Christ and the ultimate victory at His Second Coming.

7. During the Millennium, the hostility part of the arar curse will be removed from the serpent but the rest of the curse remains.

“The wolf and the lamb shall graze together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain says the Lord.” (Isa.65:25)

The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra.” (Isa.11: 8; 11:5-9)