

THE CURSE UPON THE SERPENT

In our last study, we learned that five divine judgments were given in Gen. 3:14-19 in addition to the sin-death judgment of Gen.2:17 (Adam's Original Sin) (Rom.5:12-21).

We also learned that two of the five judgments were because of the indirect participation in Adam's Original Sin (Upon satan and the ground).

Gen.3:14-19 is referred to as the 'arar' curse judgments. The 'arar' curse is pronounced twice (Gen.3:14-15 and Gen.3:17-19), but not pronounced upon the woman of Gen.3:16. [We will learn why next week].

<p>This lesson will study five aspects of the Curse upon the Serpent.</p>
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1. This is the first of about 60 references of the 'arar' curse judgment in the Bible (Gen.3:14-19).

- "The **Arar curse** is a pronouncement of judgment on those who break covenant." (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, pg.54)
- "The **Arar curse** is the most powerful decree expressed by an authority and by means of it a man or group that has committed a serious transgression is delivered over to misfortune." (TD of NT. Pg.411)

The phrase, "cursed is the man," is used 12 times in **Deut.27:11-26**. Vine's says, "God alone truly 'curses.' It is a revelation of His justice, in support of His claim to absolute obedience." (pg.54)

The curse judgment recorded in Gen.3:14-19 is very serious; and its effects extend through-out human history.

2. The 'arar' curse is contrasted to the 'barak' blessing (Deut.27:11-13).

The 'arar' curse can only be annulled by God (Jer.24:8-10; Micah 7:17-18).

(Mal.2:2) "**If you do not listen, and if you do not take to heart to give honor to My name**, says the Lord, **then I will send the curse** upon you and **I will curse your blessings**; and indeed, **I have cursed them already**, because you are not taking it to heart."

(Jer.17:5) "**Cursed** is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the Lord." (read Jer.17:6 to contrast) "he will be like"

(Jer.17:7) "**Blessed** is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord." (Jer.17:8 to contrast) "he will be like"

God is the source and man the recipient of both cursing and blessings.

- All of mankind is under the 'arar' curse of Adam's Original Sin (Rom.5:12-21).
- How does he get out from under the 'arar' curse to barak blessings?

3. Paul gave the answer in Gal.3:10-14.

- **Gal.3:10-12** quotes Deut.27:26 (12th 'arar' curse)
- **Gal.3:13** quotes Deut.21:23 (study Bible references)
- **Gal.3:14** gives the blessings in Christ.

(Deut.21:23) "His corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accused of God), **so that** you do not defile your land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance."

- **This Law** was the concern of the Jewish leaders of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (John 19:31-42).

Paul's interpretation of Deut.21:23 and John 19:31-42 is given in:

(Gal.3:13-14) "**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us** – for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree' – **in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**" (Gal.4:4-5; Acts 5:30; 10:39-40)

God annuls the 'arar' curse of Adam's Original Sin through faith Christ being seed of the woman of Gen.3:15 (protoevangelism) [The first gospel] (1 Cor.15:22 and Gal.3:8).

(Gal.3:16) "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as referring to many, but rather to one, 'And to your seed, that is Christ.'" (Gal. 6:14)

4. The 'arar' curse upon the serpent is three fold.

- 1st – "Cursed are you **more than all** cattle, and **more than every** beast of the field (day 5) [chayah nephesh]." (Gen.3:14a)
- 2nd – "On your belly you will go." (Gen.3:14b)
- 3rd – "And dust you will eat all the days of your life." (Gen.3:14c)

As a result, Moses classified the serpent as an unclean animal (Lev.11:41-47).

Even in the millennium (Rev.20), the serpent will crawl upon his belly and eat dust. "The wolf and the lamb will gaze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and **dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain, says the Lord.**" (**Isa.65:25**; Isa.11:5-9)

5. The serpent (snake) crawling upon its belly is a doctrinal visual aid like the Rainbow.

The doctrinal truth of the serpent on its belly on earth and rainbow in the heavens should be taught by you to your children and grandchildren (Deut.4:9).

- The snake or serpent is the story of God's 'arar' curse judgment of Adam's Original Sin and why every person is in need of salvation in Christ (Rom.5:12; Gal.3:13-14; 1 Cor.15:22; 1 cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).
- The rainbow is the story of God judgment upon the world of the unbeliever and salvation in Christ (Noah and ark) (Gen.9:11-13; Matt.24:35-37).