

FOURTH GENERATION CURSE (part one)

Rebekah's family is an example of the Fourth Generation Curse mentioned in the **Second Commandment (Ex.20:4-6)**.

The Ten Commandments was the Magna Carta of Mosaic Law for the priest-nation of Israel. It consisted of two sections: God section (Commandments 1-4/ Ex.20:1-11) and Man section (Commandments 5-10/ Ex.20:12-17). Violation of it was a critical part of the 5 cycles of divine discipline on priest-nation of Israel

- (Deut.28:1-14) Blessings
- (Deut.28:15-68) Cursing (5 cycles)
- (Deut.32:15-29) Five Cycles of Divine Discipline

This lesson will study four aspects of part one of the Fourth Generation Curse and how Rebekah's family was part of it.

1. The Second Commandment is based on the doctrinal principle of the exclusive covenant love relationship between God and His people (Jer.31:31-34; Eph.5:23-25, 32-33).

“You shall not worship them (idols) (Ex. 20:4) or serve them; for I the Lord God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me.” (Ex.20:5/ 34:14; Deut.4:23-31; 1 Cor.10:14-22).

Violating the Second Commandment involves idolatrous substitution of devotion towards covenant love. Jesus warned Israel of this:

(Matt.6:24) **“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (the treasures you put in place doing the right thing with God/ Luke 16:1-13; 1 Cor.6:12-16/ believer's body used 8 times).”**

(Deut.6:4-7) **“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and you shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”**

2. The Fourth Generations Curse is described as “a jealous God visiting the iniquities of fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me.” (Ex.20:5)

Hebrew word for iniquity (aon) refers to willful violation of directive will of God resulting in legal guilt (1 Sam.3:10-14) **against Eli's house** because of iniquity/ “Ichabod/ glory of Lord has departed from Israel” (1 Sam.4:19-22)

Do not miss the positive comparison in the Second Commandment

(Ex.20:6) **“But showing lovingkindness to thousands (generations), to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”**

Remember you cannot serve two masters “for either you will hate the one and **love the other**, or you will be devoted to one and despise the other” (Matt.6:24).

3. In our last study we covered Rebekah’s family in Mesopotamia which was an example of the violation of the Second Commandment – “visiting of iniquities of fathers (OMCD parenting) on their children”

Terah had 3 sons: Abram, Nahor, and Haran. After Haran and Terah died, Abram left; leaving only the Shemite Nahor in Mesopotamia (Gen.11:26-32).

Abraham sent for a wife from Nahor for Isaac. Bethuel was Rebekah’s father and Laban her brother (Gen.24:1-4, 10, 24, 51, 67). Rebekah brought into the Patriarch family her family’s OMCD parenting.

Later Rebekah and Isaac sent Jacob to Laban for a wife (Gen.27:12-13, 35-46; 28:1-9). Jacob allowed his choice of wife to become an attack upon the seed of Christ in AC. Jacob had 12 sons from four mothers. Which mother would bear the seed of Christ? (Matt.1:2; Gen.35:23; 49:29-33).

4. The Fourth Generation Curse was directed towards believing parents regarding spiritual training of their children.

Some theologians refer to the Fourth Generation Curse as culpability (blame worthy of divine discipline).

The pivot of spiritually mature believers carries the responsibility of custodianship of evangelism and word of God to the next generation.

We see this doctrinal principle in the preparation of the Coming of Christ in Four Gospels. One example is Gabriel’s message to Zachariah regarding birth and ministry of John Baptist as forerunner of Messiah (Luke 1:11-17).

Listen to what Gabriel told John Baptist’s father:

(Luke 1:16-17) “He will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a **forerunner before Him** in the spirit and power of Elijah, **‘To turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children and disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.’**” (Mal.4:6/ read)