

## **FOURTH GENERATION CURSE (part two)**

In our last study we introduced the Fourth Generation Curse from Ex.20:4-6. It dealt with divine discipline resulting from violation of the Second Commandment to those under Old Covenant.

We learned that the Second Commandment was based on the covenant love relationship between God and His people. It contained a warning against idolatry (Ex.20:4-5a) [Jealous God].

(Ex.20:4-6) was directed towards believing parent's being held accountable for the poor spiritual training of their children.

**PRINCIPLE:** God will intervene with Divine Discipline:

(Ex.20:5b) "Visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth of those who hate Me."

This doctrinal concept is also important to New Covenant believing parents in the Divine Institution of family.

**There are five divine institutions:**

- Freedom (Gen.1:26-27),
- Employment (Gen.2:15; 3:17-19),
- Marriage (Gen.2:18-25; 3:16a),
- Family (Gen.3:16b; 4:1), and
- Nation (Gen.10-11).

**This lesson will study four aspects of the Fourth Generation Curse and how it relates to New Covenant believing family.**

### **1. In our last study we discussed the background history of poor parenting passed on to Isaac and Rebekah.**

We learned that Rebekah was the third generation in Nahor family (Nahor, Bethuel, Rebekah (Gen.24).

It is a doctrinal concept (Divine Principle) that God is trying to teach us about spiritual parenting in the Divine Institution of family.

- **Old Covenant:** "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it." (Prov.22:6)
- **New Covenant:** "For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well." (2 Tim.1:5)

### **2. It is Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (Human Viewpoint Thinking) [moral and spiritual weaknesses] that operates against the Revealed Directive Will of God that is passed onto the children.**

(Eph.4:17) "So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind." (John 3:19; 2 Cor.4:6; 6:14; 1 John 1:6-7; 1 Pet.2:9)

When the Old Man is connected to Cosmos Diabolicus (Worldly Thinking), the believer is engaged in the devil's system of thinking which is always in opposition to the Revealed Directive Will of God.

Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus is described by Paul as the believer's **former manner of life**:

(Eph.4:22) "That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self (Old Man), which is being corrupted in accordance with the **lust of deceit** (Cosmos Diabolicus)"

**Lust of deceit**: "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." (2 Cor.11:3; Rev.20:2)

**3. Therefore, parents can pass onto their children not only poor moral and spiritual training of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus, but extreme even evil beliefs and behaviors that attack the Revealed Directive Will of God (Joseph's dream) (Gen.37:18-19, 26-27).**

This is a big problem in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church in the USA. Parents say, "I do not know what to do?" They are playing catch-up to a long-term parenting problem. **It can be corrected but it should begin with the parents before the children** (Eph.6:1-4) Divine Chain of Command).

Change comes by exchanging one's Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus thinking for New Man Divine Viewpoint thinking (Eph.4:22-24).

- **First pay attention to the warning of (Eph.4:22)** "Corrupted in according with the lust of deceit." The Bible is full of examples like Rebekah and Isaac.
- **Next start doing what Jesus did.** Notice that Jesus confronted the problem with God's truth and the dangers (Matt.4:1-11 and Matt.16:21-23). He used the ONLY offensive weapon in the Angelic Conflict (Eph.6:17).
- **Then stand firm in the Word of God and Prayer.** (1 Cor.16:13-14; 1 Thess.3:7-10; 2 Thess.2:13-15).

**4. Rebekah and Isaac choose how they would parent their children.**

- Their first mistake was to not agree with the word of God.
- Their next mistake was not to develop a master plan.
- Their final mistake was not to present a united front of unconditional love of God to their children.

This mindset was at work in the Patriarch family threw the third generation of Jacob (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob).

They chose to show **favoritism** (coat) that was hurtful and developed bad beliefs and behavior within the family (Gen.37:1-4).

This resulted in an unhealthy, estranged, and divided family. It remained that way until God found someone in the family that would live whole-heartily for God (Joseph) (Gen.50:20) / 4<sup>th</sup> generation from Abraham/ healing within family).

**Like this family, your family can have a happy ending because God is faithful**  
(Rom.4:21; 1 Cor.1:9).

**You can choose to walk by faith with God to experience His miraculous work**  
(2 Cor.5:7).