

Genesis 3:14-19 – God’s Curses on his Creation

Trapp, TSK, HebrewLexicon, Handfuls, Sailhamer, Henry, Puritan, Calvin, Gill, Poole, Delitzsch, Geneva, Whyttock, Armstrong, Gaebelein, Barnes?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **Instead of living close to God and living for the glory of God, man chose to live apart from God and for the glory of himself.**

And there were consequences! Hear the details of the consequences of living this way!

Our headings are:

God cursed the snake

God cursed the woman

God cursed the man

Our goals are: That you will **develop a deep understanding of the cosmic consequence of sin and appreciate more the work of Christ to redeem you from it.**

God cursed the snake

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.

1. Because of the Sneaky Snake’s sin, snakes, one of which was used by the Sneaky Snake, were cursed.

Instead of eating fruits, they would **eat dust**. But why this specific curse?

The Serpent caused man to eat what he shouldn’t have eaten, so God, in a picture of great irony, caused the snake to eat what he shouldn’t.

The crafty was now cursed.

15 And I will put enmity **Between you and the woman**, And between **your seed and her Seed**; He shall **bruise your head**, And you shall **bruise His heel**."

2. God’s curse would also be on the real snake – Satan – and he was cursed with ultimate destruction: His head would be crushed.

The Serpent would crush the heel of the woman’s Seed’s (Jesus’), but the woman’s Seed would crush Satan’s head.

“Crush” is a better translation than “bruise.” It is more consistent language with the rest of the Scriptures. Romans 16:20.

3. Important note: The Serpent's seed and himself are treated as one, but the woman and her Seed are different from her other children.

a. Satan and all his demons he represented would be crushed together.

b. The woman's Seed-singular-would be the only one fit to crush the Devil and his minions. The woman's children would all sell themselves to Satan – but Jesus, by himself, would rescue them after crushing Satan's head.

(Roman Catholics argue it is the woman, not her Seed, who would crush Satan's head, hence, their Mariolatry. JSYK) But that is perverted!

Galatians 4:4 - But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

4. When did this crushing of the Serpent's head take place?

This crushing of Satan's head took place at the cross.

Christ's heel was crushed because he only died for a time but rose again triumphantly. His injury was temporary.

Christ resurrection meant the Devil's work was defeated and he had no control over Christ's children. He could never possess them.

One scholar wrote: "*Christ overthrew Satan's kingdom, baffled Satan's temptations, rescued souls out of his hands, cast him out of the bodies of people, dispossessed the armed strong man, and divided his spoil by his death, gave him a fatal incurable blow to the Devil's kingdom, a wound to the head of the beast than can never be healed, then Satan falls and is bound.*"

Colossians 2:15 Having **disarmed principalities and powers**, He made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them** in it.

5. Lessons:

a. God cursed the snake and changed its anatomy to show he was God...and there is none like he in all the earth. God had all power to do his will.

God wasn't teaching the snake a lesson. They are not moral creatures. God has nothing against snakes personally.

So go ahead and eat animals without feeling guilt!

b. Ever since that time of the cursing of the snake to eat dust, eating dust has been a symbol of total defeat. (Ever heard, “Eat my dust?”)

Micah 7: 16 The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; They shall put their hand over their mouth; Their ears shall be deaf. 17 **They shall lick the dust like a serpent;** They shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They shall be afraid of the LORD our God, And shall fear because of You.

c. Christ’s work at the cross is a strong declaration of judgment, not just on Satan and demons, but on all wicked men also.

d. That Son of the woman would have many children who would continue the work of crushing the body of the Snake with the preaching of the Gospel and establishing dominion for Christ.

Romans 16: 20 And the **God of peace will crush Satan** under your feet shortly...

e. So fight the Devil with the assurance of victory.

Remember, **God spoke all of these things for man and his descendants.** Man could have hope, hearing of the coming victory.

But make no mistake-the enmity between the Serpent and man continues.

1John 3:13 Do not marvel, my brethren, **if the world hates you.**

f. There is no discussion here about Satan’s sin – the one who used the snake - because there is no hope for him.

God cursed the woman

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly **multiply your sorrow** and **your conception;** In pain you shall bring forth children; Your **desire shall be for your husband,** And **he shall rule over you.**"

1. God cursed the woman with pain in intimacy and pregnancy and with increasing frequency of conception.

a. Every woman who has had children understands this pain.

b. The woman who has had children close together understands the struggles of this.

“**Greatly multiply**” **modifies** both the **sorrow** and **conception** of the woman! (This is part of the curse!)

Intimacy was not intended solely for having children, but now the joys of intimacy would become limited because of frequent pregnancies.

There would be miscarriages and stillbirths.

Marriage was hurt by sin.

2. God cursed the woman with trying to rule her husband.

The phrase “your desire shall be for your husband” is not accurately translated in our translation; others get it right. (The ESV is a better interpretation. It says, “Your desire shall be CONTRARY to your husband!”)

It should read “**your desire shall be TO your husband,** as to his authority.

This is not a good desire. (**This is part of the curse!**)

This phrase means “a desire to have authority.” Look:

Genesis 4: 7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. **And its desire is for you,** but you should rule over it."

Notice “sin’s” desire was not to be by Cain’s side, but to rule over him. But Cain had to rule over sin!

So as part of the curse, Eve’s would desire, not to be by her husband’s side, but to rule over him.

3. God cursed woman with a domineering husband.

Adam’s “rule” was not the work of loving headship, but it signified a tyrannical rule.” While Eve would try to rule Adam, he would respond by being a tyrant.

Eve had manipulated her husband into eating the forbidden fruit, but now he would rule over her with a heavy hand.

4. The Apostle Paul explained that this deceiving of the woman by the Serpent so easily was a reason she was not allowed to teach or to have authority over a man.

1 Timothy 2: 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. **14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.**

5. Lessons:

a. The life of a woman has always been hard because of this curse, but God is restoring creation.

Christians have notably influenced the development of medicines.

More, look how C-sections are possible, when many of those women or babies would have died.

Look at pain medicines that are available.

If you've had an epidural, aren't you thankful they are available?

b. Don't abuse or manipulate your husband.

He is a saved son of God. He might not be smart, but know who his Father is!

If you abuse your husband, you will injure kingdom work.

c. Don't be a tyrant over your wife.

She is a saved daughter of God. Remember who her Father is and what her Father did to save her. She is special to him.

Working with your wife will build the kingdom faster.

God cursed the man

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust

you shall return."

1. God cursed the ground Adam would work for following the bad advice of his wife and for ignoring the command of God to not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Adam's toils would be long and hard to provide food.

The earth would produce less foods and poorer quality.

All the delicious and healthy foods of the Garden of Eden were lost.

Useless and harmful plants would grow.

There would be more weed than wheat, and more thorns than tomatoes.

Instead of man eating the food of his labors, wild animals and aphids would destroy them.

The word for "toil" is the same word for "pain" for the woman.

2. God cursed Adam with very hard work – with sweat and tears – until his body returned to the dust.

So every time man worked hard, his back ached, a thorn stuck his hand, bugs ate his vegetables, and his head hurt, he would know it was because of the Fall of mankind.

Every time man went to funeral, it was a reminder that after all the hard work death was coming.

Job 1:21 And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

3. Lessons:

a. Work. A man who doesn't work when he is able is in wretched rejection of God. He should starve.

b. Work is usually hard.

You have to wake up early and face the cold, face the traffic, face unfriendly co-workers, face an unfair boss, and face a government that wants to take more and more from you. (Since multiplication of conception is a consequence of sin, then mitigating the consequence of the fall is permissible.)

But hard work is par for the course.

Be thankful. You could be sawing trees with a hand-saw in -20C weather.

c. *After all the hard work you will die.* You will die because of Adam's sin. Every funeral is a reminder.

d *This does not mean you are to blindly accept exhausting labor if you can avoid it. It is good to seek, by God's grace, to remove the effect of the curse.*

If you work well and the nation is blessed, you may not have to do back-breaking work, just like a woman loves her epidural.

e. *The thorns Adam would endure is a picture of the work of Christ for you – thorns on his head.*

But he gives you an inheritance you can take out of this world...the only inheritance you can take with you.

Conclusion:

What horrible curses were put on the woman – pain in childbirth and multiplicity of conception!

What pain and troubles were announced on men – brutal work, and death!

And then consider the eternal consequences: Eternal death and hell!

Yet in all this, you hear the voice of hope...Jesus was coming. The Garden is coming again!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

1. *God's promise to the woman did come true. The curse is being removed. Jesus came to save.*

That is the grace of heaven about which you must keep talking.

The convicted wretched sinner is restored as a child of God...with all the rights and privileges of true children.

Be thankful.

Heaven is coming.

2. God's physical blessings will also come again to the land when men start to live for him.

3. Work for God's grace is spread through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus. Pray for those who preach it.

Finally, if you live for you, you will feel God's curse in this life and experience its full force in hell.

If you want to live for God, ask God to remove the curse on you and put it on Jesus.

He will do that and clear your record.