

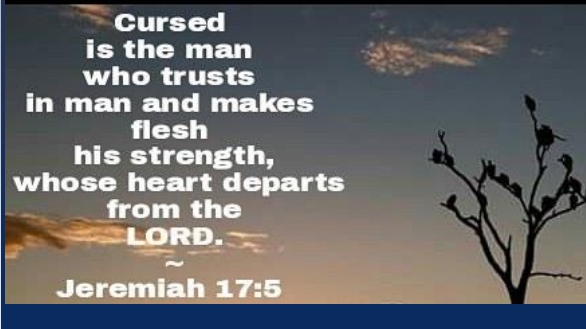
Jeremiah 17:5-10 (NKJV)

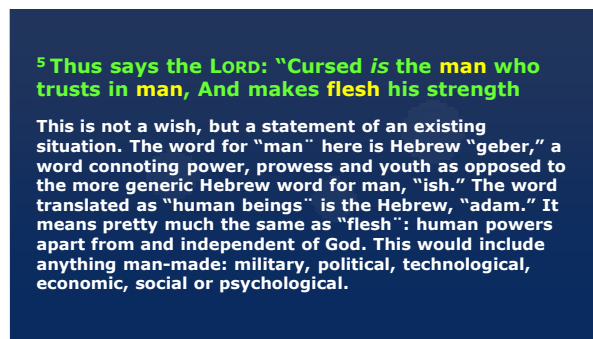
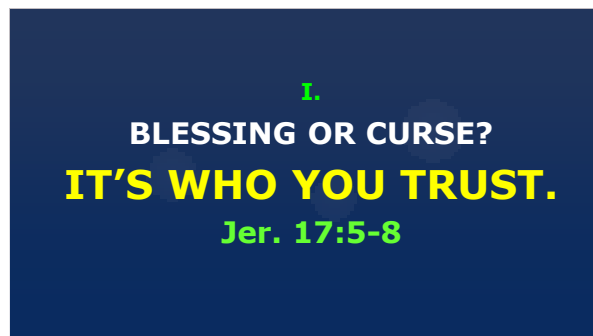
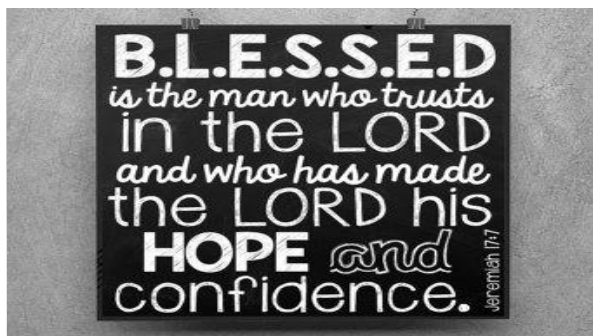
⁵ Thus says the LORD: "**Cursed is** the man who trusts in man, And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD.

⁶ For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *In* a salt land *which is* not inhabited.

⁷ "**Blessed is** the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. ⁸ For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

⁹ "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart, *I* test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.





5... Whose heart departs from the LORD.

This explains the meaning of both "human beings" and "flesh" in this verse. It is about trusting in the flesh – not just trusting in "other men" but about trusting in "our own flesh" as well, about making our flesh our strength. The New Testament calls this walking by the power of the flesh, or in the power of the old man, or walking by our own strength. Gal. 3:3 ; Phil. 3:3

6 For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, In a salt land which is not Inhabited.

The Hebrew word, "ar`ar," is the shrub," without moisture, parched and withered. The bush is, in fact, dead but appears to be alive because it always looks the same. A land of salt without inhabitant. This will be the result of living and acting and working in the strength of our flesh: This is the curse of Christians (not just non-believers) who think that they can begin in the power of the Spirit and try to finish in the strength of the flesh. Are you feeling dried up, worn out, defeated, without hope?

7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD.



The liturgical word for "blessed," Hebrew baruk, is used, not the more secular one, "ashre," used in Psa 1. He uses the same word for "man" as in verse five, connoting real strength and power now, because it is derived from the trust in the Lord rather than in human powers.

8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

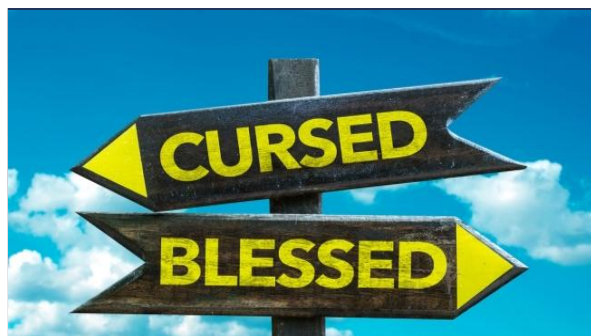
His roots, and unlike the shrub, he has roots, stretch until they find water, grace, and derive nourishment. As in Psalm 1 "planted" means "transplanted" by God, to a nearby stream, an irrigation channel that does not dry up.

They are referring to basic, fundamental options or directions of life. They do not mean that we are to not use our human powers or human resources. They do not mean that we always must bypass them or completely distrust them. What they mean is that we are not to ascribe the same total and unquestioning trust in them as we do in God.

THE TWO WAYS

PATH OF DEATH	PATH OF LIFE
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Thus says the Lord: 'Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord.'" (Jeremiah 17:5) • "For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited." (Jeremiah 17:6) 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord." (Jeremiah 17:7) • "For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit." (Jeremiah 17:8)

II.
BLESSING OR CURSE?
IT'S YOUR CHOICE!
 Deut. 11:26-29; Deut 27-30



Blessings and curses

*"See, I am setting before you today
 a blessing and a curse
 - the blessing if you obey the
 commands of the LORD your God
 ... the curse if you disobey."*

- Deut. 11:26-28 NIV

Blessings & Curses

Mts. Gerizim & Ebal

1. Blessings from Gerizim (Deut. 11:27)

Obedience leads to productivity.

2. Curses from Ebal (Deut. 11:28; 28:15)

Disobedience to the Lord results in a curse.

Deuteronomy 27 & 28

Deut. 28:1-33 Blessings or Curses

All these blessings will
 overtake you because
 you obeyed God (2)

- Success (3)
- Exaltation (9, 10, 13)
- Fruitfulness (4, 11)
- Prosperity (4, 5, 8)
- Victory (7)
- God's favor (2-13)
- Success (12)

However, disobedience will
 result in:

- Humiliation (16, 19, 26)
- Mental/emotional and
 physical problems
 (20, 21, 22, 27, 28)
- Barrenness/unfruitful
 (18)
- Breakdown in family
 relationships/alienation
 (30, 32)
- Poverty (17)
- Defeat (24, 25, 33)
- Oppression (31)
- Failure (20, 29)
- God's disfavor (23)

CURSE #1 – Deut. 27:15 Idolatry

It's a CURSE to make an idol and put it in
 a secret place. We may think we have no
 idols. BUT God doesn't judge just MAN-
 MADE idols ... He also judges the idols of
 the HEART.

3. Standing in Shechem (Joshua 24:15)

From one side we hear of God's blessings. From the other we hear His curses. The decision that the people faced that day was not a difficult one. It was simply choosing between right and wrong, good and evil, blessing or curse.

Life is filled choices.

The greatest gift which God in His bounty bestowed in creating, and the most conformed to His own goodness, and that which He prizes the most, was the freedom of the will, with which the creatures that have intelligence, they all and they alone, were and are endowed.

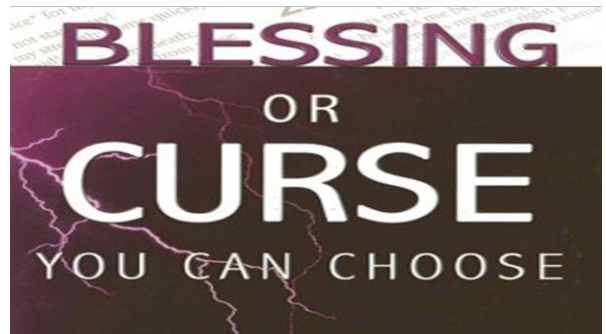
The most important choice I will make is between life and death. (Deut. 30:15, 20). It is a loving God who sets before us the stark alternatives of life and death, good and evil (Deut 30:15). And He asks nothing but our love in return (Deut 30:16). Without taking away our right or ability to choose, the LORD commands: "choose life" (Deut 30:19). God says to walk in His ways and to love Him. God was going to bless them: then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you

A Choice to Make

I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. Deut 30:19-



God has offered us blessing
Claim them by faith!



Deuteronomy 28 - Blessings of Obedience

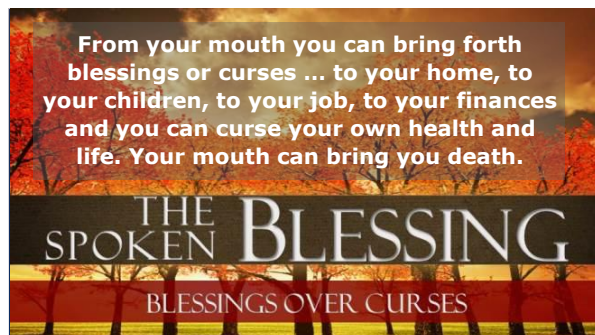
Blessings will overtake you in the city and country.
 Blessings will overtake you coming and going.
 Fruit of the body, soil, herds and offspring.
 Bounty of home storage and productivity.
 Defeat your enemies, breaking them up when they attack you.
 Bless your storehouse and all that you do, bless your circumstances.
 Establish you to Himself as you walk in His ways.
 You will be known by the name of God and others will respect you.
 Abundance of goods, health, productivity, increase where you are.
 Enjoy the treasure of Jehovah, the Lord of Hosts, his favor in all seasons.
 Jehovah [YHWH] will make you a lender, not a borrower.
 Jehovah [YHWH] will make you the head, not the tail or underfoot.

III.

BLESSING OR CURSE?
IT'S IN YOUR HEART
AND MOUTH!

⁹ "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart, *I* test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings. (Jer. 17:9-10)

Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh".
Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.



YOU SHALL BLESS ... AND I WILL BLESS
Numbers 6:22-27 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise **ye shall bless** the children of Israel, saying unto them, THE LORD BLESS THEE AND KEEP THEE; THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON THEE, AND BE GRACIOUS UNTO THEE: THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE UPON THEE, AND GIVE THEE PEACE. And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; **and I will bless** them.

IV. ITS NOT **GENERATIONAL CURSES**

No Generational Curses Jer. 31:29-30; Eze 18:2-3
 GOD will pass thru me, generational blessings from Abraham. This is part of the promise that God gave to the children of Israel. If you are a born again Christian, you have been "grafted" on to that tree, and this same inheritance belongs to you... **Romans 11; 14:12**

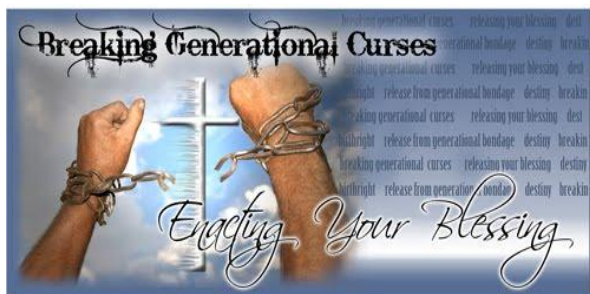
THE BLESSINGS OF ABRAHAM

Did you know you are Abraham's seed and have received the world as your inheritance? Included in Abraham's blessings were health and long life, fellowship with God, wholeness and abundance.

Galatians 3:13-14,
Genesis 12:1-3

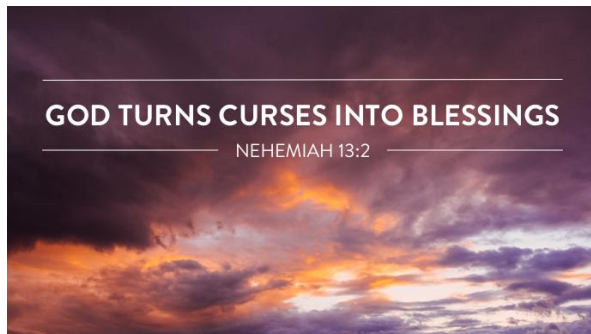
Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

Galatians 3:14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit

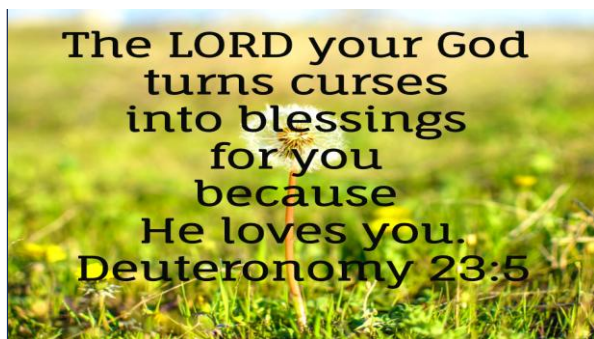


GOD TURNS CURSES INTO BLESSINGS

NEHEMIAH 13:2



The LORD your God
turns curses
into blessings
for you
because
He loves you.
Deuteronomy 23:5



What is the last word of the O.T.?

Malachi 4:6

Blessings come in the N.T. ... in Christ. It is in HIM that we find the BLESSINGS.
Ephes. 1:3 – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."



21 AREAS OF CURSES INTO BLESSINGS

1. **FROM CARNALITY TO SPIRITUALITY** Gal 5: 19-24
2. **FROM FEAR TO FAITH** Isa 41:10-13 Heb 10:38 ; 13:5-6.
3. **FROM BARRENESS TO FRUITFULNESS** Jn 15:2,8,16 Psalm 1:1-3.
4. **FROM WEAKNESS TO STRENGTH** Isaiah 40:29-31 II Cor 12 :9-10.
5. **FROM CURSES TO BLESSINGS** Gal 3 :13-14.
6. **FROM FAILURE TO SUCCESS** Jn 21 :3-6
7. **FROM SICKNESS TO HEALTH** Mat 4:23-24; 8:14-17.
8. **FROM POVERTY TO PROSPERITY** 2 Cor 8:9; 3 John 2.

9. **FROM IGNORANCE TO REVELATION** I Cor 2 :9-14 Jn 8:32.
10. **FROM CAPTIVITY TO LIBERTY** Lk 4:18 Acts 10:38
11. **FROM SELFISHNESS TO UNSELFISHNESS** 2 Cor 5:15 Mat10:37-39 ; 20:28.
12. **FROM CARELESSNESS TO PURPOSE** Eph 5:14-17 Mat 24 :45-51
13. **FROM SORROW TO JOY** Jn 16:20 I Thess 5: 16-18
14. **FROM PASSIVENESS TO ACTIVENESS** Rom 12 :11 Mat 20:6-7.
15. **FROM HATRED TO LOVE** Matthew 5:43-48 Mat 6:14-15 I Jn 3 :10-18.
16. **FROM DISORDER TO ORDER** Gen 1:1-3 I Cor 14 : 40 ,33.

17. **FROM STAGNANCY TO GROWTH** Pro 4:18 I Chron 4 :10 Mat 25 :14-30.
18. **FROM DIVISION TO UNITY** Psa 133 :1-3 Eze 37 :1-10 Acts 2:1-4.
19. **FROM MURMURING TO PRAISE** I Cor 10:10-11 Acts 16:25-26 Ps 34:1.
20. **FROM SILENCE TO PROCLAMATION** Mat10 :32-33 Acts 1:8 Mk 16:15.
21. **FROM PRAYERLESSNESS TO PRAYERFUL** Lk 18:1-7 Mat 9:37-38 Ez 36:33-38.

