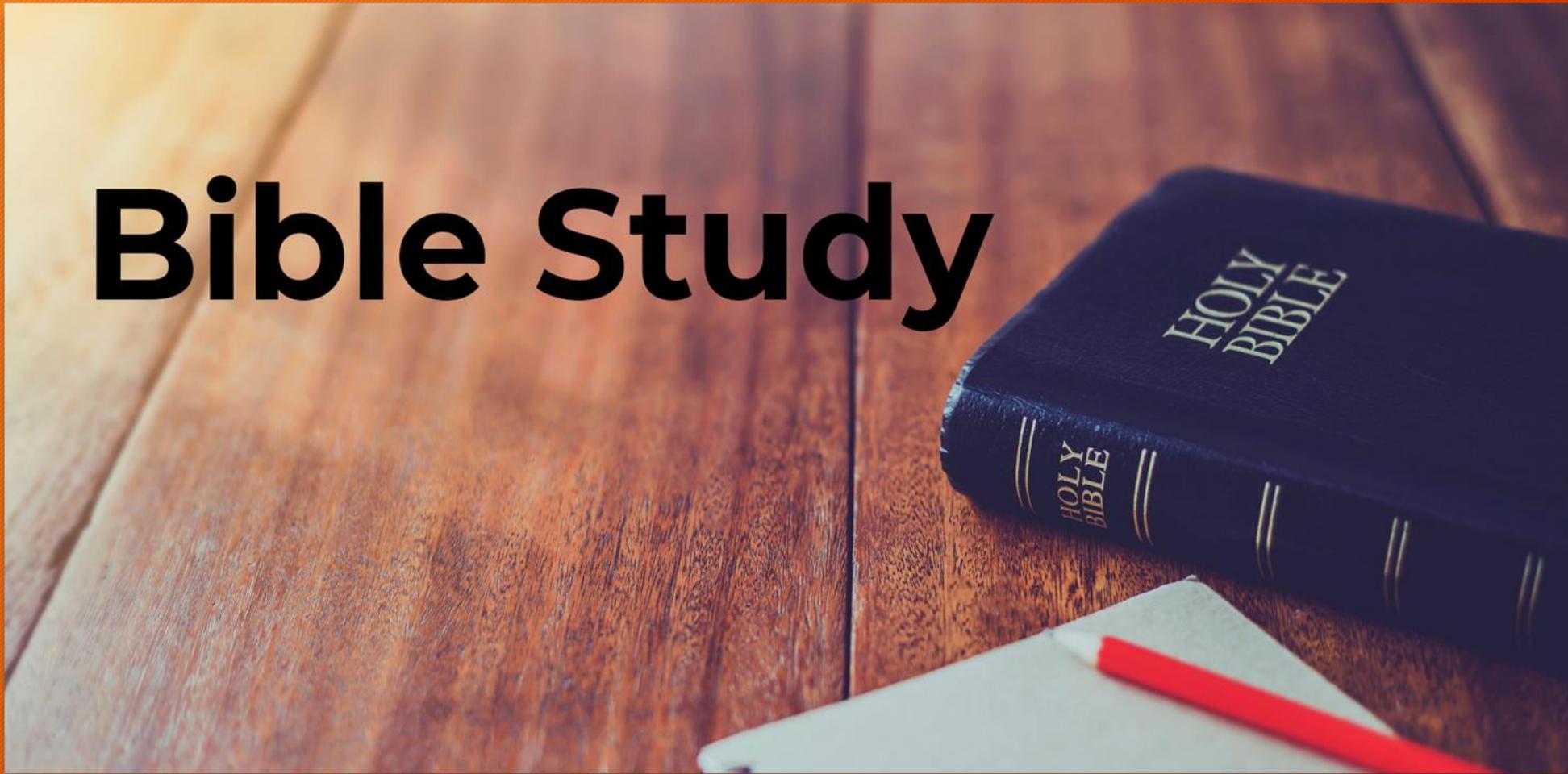


Bible Study



Leviticus 26 BLESSINGS AND CURSES

March 30, 2022

Curses for Disobedience to the Covenant

“But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands, and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant then I will do this to you: 26:14-15 NIV

This too is God's promise.

Causes that stir discipline or punishment

- Failing to listen & obey God

“But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments”

- Breaking the covenant of God

And if ye shall despise my statutes, if your soul abhor (despise) my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but ye break my covenant.

The Hebrew Concept of “Curse”

- **Curse – Hebrew: ‘aror – to remove the influence of God.**
- **is simply that of removing or banishing a person from the place of blessing.**
- **without the blessing of divine protection and provision, the people would have a difficult time in this world.**
- **they were left to their own devices-and therein lay the curse.**

- **This word carries with it a sense of divinely imposed misfortune.**
- **He withdraws His mighty hands of protection and blessing from you thus allowing evil from some ungodly source to bring destruction in your life.**
- **The Lord could very well have intervened but He chose not to.**

- Tragically, Israel did reject God and did suffer the punishments pronounced here.
- What is your reaction to the fact that Israel did reject God and did suffer the punishments?

Summary of the Passage

Although violation of the Lord's covenant resulted in increasingly severe forms of punishment, repentance by the people of God brought restoration and the fulfillment of the Lord's covenant promises.

Outline of the Passage

- **The Lord warned Israel that violation of his covenant will result in increasingly severe forms of punishment (26:14-39).**
 - **A. The Lord will inflict the people with severe punishment if they refuse to obey his law (26:14-15).**
 - **B. The punishments that the Lord will inflict are progressively severe (26:16-39).**

FIRST STAGE

Leviticus 26:16b-17 RSV

- "I will appoint over you sudden terror, consumption, and fever that waste the eyes and cause life to pine away.

Disease will break out among the people.

Spiritually speaking, these diseases, as we have seen in this book of Leviticus, are pictures of moral blotches in our own life, of wrong attitudes -- resentment, bitterness, malice, lovelessness, indifference. These are spiritual diseases which can afflict the believer.

- **“And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it; I will set my face against you, and you shall be smitten before your enemies; those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you.”**

There would be conflict with the tribes around Israel.

In the spiritual counterpart this too is true of us. Arguments arise and become conflicts, strife results in schism and separation, and factions break away.

SECOND STAGE

Leviticus 26:18-20 RSV

- **"And if in spite of this [which was given in order to get you to listen] you will not hearken to me, then I will chastise you again sevenfold for your sins, and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like brass; and your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit."**
- **The second stage consisted, first, of an immediate seven-fold increase of the first stage, and second, ADDED TO THIS WOULD BE DROUGHT.**

- **The counterpart on the spiritual level is depression. Drought is barrenness, lack of life, a sense of futility, of the hopelessness of it all -- depression, in other words.**