

Cursed

- A Word Study -

compiled by Rachel Cory-Kuehl, August 2014

Scripture is from New King James Version unless otherwise noted

Malachi 4:4-6 “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

The word in this verse, translated “curse” is “**cherem**” (#02764) which means “devoted to destruction” or simply “devoted”. The LORD instructed Joshua to completely destroy or “devote to destruction,” the cities of the Canaanites. The army of Joshua was to “kill everything living” - every man, woman, and child, and also every animal. The precious metals were to be given to the LORD for service within the Tabernacle. Every idol was to be torn down and demolished.

Exodus 22:20 “He who sacrifices to any god, except to the LORD only, he shall be **utterly destroyed**” [**cherem** - devoted to destruction].

Here the LORD is speaking to the Israelites.

Leviticus 27:29 “No person under the ban, who may become **doomed to destruction** among men, shall be redeemed, but shall surely be put to death.”

No “redemption price” (ransom) would be accepted on behalf of any person in a city which was “devoted to destruction” (The only exception made, was for Rahab and her family.)

Numbers 21:3 “And the LORD listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they [Israel under Joshua] **utterly destroyed** [devoted to destruction] them and their cities.”

KEEPING THE ACCURSED THING

Deuteronomy 7:26 “Nor shall you bring **an abomination** [a cursed thing] into your house, lest you be **doomed to destruction** like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.”

Look through the list of those things which the LORD called “abominations”. Those things, along with those who continue to practice them, were “doomed to destruction”.

Deuteronomy 2:34 [Moses speaking, concerning the Amorites] “We took all his cities at that time, and we **utterly destroyed** the men, women, and little ones of every city; we left none remaining.”

Deuteronomy 3:6 [Moses speaking concerning Og of Bashan, the other Amorite king] “And we **utterly destroyed** them, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon, **utterly destroying** the men, women, and children of every city.”

Deuteronomy 13:17 “So none of **the accursed things** shall remain in your hand, that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of His anger and show you mercy, have compassion on you and multiply you, just as He swore to your fathers.”

Joshua 6:17 [Joshua speaking] “Now the city [Jericho] shall be **doomed by the LORD to destruction**, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.”

Joshua 6:18 “And you, by all means abstain from **the accursed things**, lest you become **accursed** when you take of the **accursed things**, and make the camp of Israel **a curse**, and trouble it.

Joshua 6:21 & 24 “And they **utterly destroyed** all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword. . . . they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.”

Joshua is a living symbol of Jesus. What Joshua does to the accursed Canaanites, Jesus will do to those who are accursed on “the Great Day of the LORD.” We must remember that the Canaanites were practicing human child sacrifice, and child sex slavery at their Temples. Satan held dominion over these people because of their idolatrous, mystical practices. The LORD did not want Israel to be infected with these practices. Their history tells us that they did become infected by marriage with pagan Canaanite women, and the LORD then devoted them also, to destruction. A child taken into an Israelite household to serve as a slave, would bring demonic influence with him.

The Israelite Achan had taken valuables from Jericho and had kept them, hidden under his tent. Because the forbidden “accursed thing” was taken into Israel, the “curse” came upon all of Israel. The LORD could not protect them, or empower them in battle against their enemies. They were defeated at Ai. When found out, Achen and his entire family were stoned and then burned along with the “cursed things” he had taken.

Joshua 7:12 “Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, [at the Battle of Ai] but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become **doomed to destruction**. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy **the accursed** from among you.”

Joshua 7:13 “Get up, sanctify the people, and say, ‘Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: “There is **an accursed thing** in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away **the accursed thing** from among you.”’”

Joshua 22:20 “Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in **the accursed thing**, and **wrath** fell on all the congregation of Israel? And that man did not perish alone in his iniquity.”

Joshua 10:40 “So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but **utterly destroyed** all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded.”

I have not listed every city which was “devoted to destruction”. I think you get the picture. Now do you understand why the LORD later dealt so severely with King Saul? After defeating the Amalakites at the LORD’s command, Saul kept alive the King of the Amalakites. He kept alive a man who was “devoted to destruction”. He kept King Agag as a trophy. He also did not object when his men kept the best of the cattle and the sheep (1 Samuel Cpt 15). In keeping the “accursed thing” Saul brought the “curse” upon himself, and upon all of Israel.

1 Samuel 15:21 [Saul speaking to Samuel] “But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.”

Saul is making excuses, which of course Samuel did not accept. Saul knew the law.

Isaiah 34:5 “For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; Indeed it shall come down on Edom, and on the people of My curse, for judgment.”

Here is a prophecy of judgment upon the descendants of Esau. Israel was originally told not to war with Edom or Moab, because they gave Israel passage through their lands, and sold them water and provisions (Deut. Cpt 2). The descendants of Lot originally worshiped Yahweh. Only later were they corrupted by idolatrous practices, and much later came to worship Allah, the God of Islam. Because they now worship gods other than Yahweh, they are “doomed to destruction”.

Isaiah 43:28 “Therefore I will profane the princes (priests) of the sanctuary; I will give Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches.”

Israel also was “devoted to destruction” because of her idolatrous practices.

Isaiah 34:2 “For the indignation of the LORD is against all nations, And His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter.”

The whole earth will be “cursed” or “devoted to destruction” once the redeemed people of Christ have been removed.

Every city “devoted to destruction” was burned to the ground by Joshua. I realize that some are teaching that this will only apply to “the land” of Israel, but I have explained why I believe it will apply to the whole earth, because everyone on the earth will worship the Beast (a god other than Yahweh) except those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev. 13:8). Those who serve Yahweh will be removed from the earth, leaving only those “doomed to destruction”. My purpose in writing this study was to show that complete destruction of this earth is coming.

2 Peter 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

Just another REASON why I believe the earth will be lifeless during the 7th millennium. Revelation ends with the promise that there will “be no more curse” in the forever Kingdom of Messiah.

Revelation 22:3 “And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.”

Zechariah 14:11 “The people shall dwell in it; And no longer shall there be utter destruction, But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.”

Let me here suggest another study which explains that God’s “wrath” is not punishment directly inflicted upon the transgressor - by the God Himself. The LORD’s wrath is to separate Himself from the unrepentant transgressor.

Please see the study: “[The Wrath of God - A Different View](#)”.

*We pray this study will prove a blessing.
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