

ISRAEL'S 5 COURSES OF PUNISHMENT

OVERVIEW:

GOD outlined His conditions for Israel in Leviticus chapter 26, and Israel knew what to expect if they chose to abandon God's statutes and commandments, which He had given them.

THE THEME: Has everything to do with **Israel's Worship, Offerings and Sacrifices.** The people were instructed what to do in order to maintain fellowship with God. Leviticus deals with the dress code, diet, social life, rules and regulations etc. for the express purpose of setting Israel apart so that they would be distinctly different from all the other nations of the world.

1. Leviticus Chapter 26, is where the **5 Courses of Punishment** (or chastisement, judgment) are found. Israel's Program, laws, and religious rights have nothing to do with us in the Dispensation of Grace, but we can still be greatly edified by studying it. **Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:11, "Now all these things happened unto them (back in the O.T.) for ensamples (examples and warning to us): and they were written for our admonition (instruction to equip us) whom the ends of the world (ages) are come."**

2. As we study the **5 Courses of Punishment** keep in mind the 3 basic applications of scripture:

a. The Historical Application: Pertaining to that period of time when the scripture was actually written.

b. Doctrinal Application: When dealing with The Old Testament scriptures we are to be always discerning, figuring out what the doctrinal application is. In other words, how that particular passage relates to other passages in the Bible. **The doctrinal application of Old Testament events is very often something that relates directly to the nation of Israel sometime in the future, usually during the tribulation, a prophetic picture.**

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c. Spiritual Application: Certain doctrinal or biblical principles prove to be true throughout the Bible so that we can benefit from them even though we live in totally different dispensations. That's what Apostle Paul meant in **1 Corinthians 10:11, there are certain spiritual applications TO US so we can benefit in that way by studying israel's program.**

3. In studying all the intricate details of Israel's prophetic program, they all evolve into one cohesive, logical order. We begin to understand their spiritual struggle and what God is doing with the Nation of Israel and the divine design that was behind it all.

If you want to understand the status of the Nation of Israel today, and what is in store for the Nation of Israel in the future, it is vital that you have a good understanding of chapter 26. In fact, if you don't, you won't ever figure out the gospel accounts, or the earthly ministry of Christ to the nation of Israel nor the Book of Acts, especially the early part of Acts. Why? because all that information directly relates to the **5th course of Chastisement which the Nation of Israel was under at the time and in fact, STILL IS!**

4. **Genesis chapter 1- 11 covers the 1st 2000 years of human history.** Then you have the calling out of Abraham in **Genesis 12.** God calls Abraham for the purpose of forming a new nation. **A nation to prove to the other nations of the earth what it is like to have God as “your God,” and have God's wisdom as “your wisdom.”**

The Bible devotes 11 Chapters beginning at **Genesis 1:1** over a period of 2000 years for creation, including creation of mankind, the flood, the reintroduction of life after the flood and the proliferation (growth) of human society over the earth through Noah's 3 sons after the flood. In the Bible, this covers about **15 pages.**

5. **The 13 Epistles written by Paul** which contain the doctrine which is designed specifically for us today in the Dispensation of Grace is roughly 100 pages. That's less than 6% of the Bible that is written to and about us as members of the Body of Christ, leaving over 94% of the Bible Relating directly to the prophetic program of the Nation of Israel and Israel's intended role here on the earth. **And it all begins with Abraham.**

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Look at Genesis chapter 12. God's Dealings with the Nation of Israel all begins here in chapter 12. Herein lies the **covenant** which God establishes with Abraham and there are **7** main components. **Read, Genesis 12:1-3 vss.**

In verse 2, we have the first 4 components:

- 1. "I will make of thee a great nation"**
- 2. "I will bless thee"**
- 3. "I will make thy name great"**
- 4. "Thou shalt be a blessing"**

In verse 3, the remaining 3 components

- 5. "And I will bless them that bless thee"**
- 6. "And I will curse him that curseth thee"**
- 7. "And in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed"**

***These are the 7 main components of the Abrahamic Covenant (binding agreement).**

NOTE: Again, the purpose for the calling out of Abraham and the formation of the nation of Israel was to have all other nations see what it is like to have God as your God and God's Wisdom as your wisdom.

6. Israel was supposed to be a nation which functioned according to the four divine institutions which God had established earlier in Genesis, and Israel was supposed to be a holy and righteous nation. The world was supposed to view Israel in a special way. **Read: Deuteronomy 4:5-8 vss.**

In the **5th verse** you have statues and judgments that Israel was supposed to do. **Verse 6** says: **"Keep therefore and do them: for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the site of the nations."** Israel was supposed to demonstrate spiritual fitness, in other words, they were supposed to be a wise and understanding people. Righteous and credible, to the point other nations would look at Israel and say, **(verses 6-8) "Surely this great nation is a wise and**

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understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who have God so nigh (close) unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that has statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day.”

NOTICE: For Abraham and his descendants it is evident that the Abrahamic Covenant made a great change. (Read Genesis 15:18). The Israelites became distinctively the heirs of Promise. That Covenant of Abraham (Promise) is completely GRACIOUS and UNCONDITIONAL.

The descendants of Abraham had only to dwell in their own land to Inherit Every Blessing! But in Egypt (in bondage) they LOST their blessings, but NOT their Covenant! The Dispensation of Promise ENDED when Israel rashly (recklessly, willingly) ACCEPTED THE LAW (Exodus 19:8). GRACE had prepared a Deliverer (MOSES), GRACE provided a sacrifice for the guilty, & by Divine Power brought them out of bondage (Exodus 19:4); BUT at Mt. Sinai, THEY EXCHANGED GRACE for the LAW!

7. LEVITICUS 26:1-2: “THE LAW OF THE LAND” (read)

LEVITICUS 26:3-13: “THE CONDITIONS OF BLESSING” (read)

LEVITICUS 26:14-15: “WARNINGS OF CHASTISEMENT/PUNISHMENT” (read)

God gave Israel the “conditions” to live up to His expectations. A parallel passage listing all these blessings and curses are in Deuteronomy chapter 8 (read entire chapter).

8. NOW for the NEGATIVE SIDE OF THE STORY!!!

THE FIRST PUNISHMENT – LEVITICUS 26:16-17 vss.

THE SECOND PUNISHMENT – on top of the first punishment – 26:18-20 vss.

THE THIRD PUNISHMENT – on top of the 1st & 2nd punishment – 21-22 vss.

THE FOURTH PUNISHMENT – on top of the 1st, 2nd & 3rd punishment – 23-26 vss.

THE FIFTH PUNISHMENT – on top of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th punishment – 27-31 vss.

NOTE: ISRAEL IS STILL UNDER THE FIFTH COURSE OF PUNISHMENT TODAY!!!

