

SERMON OUTLINE

In Leviticus 26:1-46, God promises to act with one of 3 responses depending on the way His people walk before Him.

- I. If you obey me, then I will bless you.
 - A. I will provide for you (vs. 3-5).
 - B. I will give you peace (vs. 6-8).
 - C. I will prosper you (vs. 9-10).
 - D. I will be present with you (vs. 11-13).
- II. If you disobey me, then I will punish you.
 - A. If you will not listen to me, then I will send:
 1. Disease (vs. 14-16).
 2. Defeat (v. 17).
 - B. If you still will not listen to me, then I will:
 1. Humble you (vs. 18-19a).
 2. Halt My provision (vs. 19b-20).
 - C. If you still will not listen to me and walk contrary to me, then I will strike you with wild beasts to destroy you (vs. 21-22).
 - D. If you still refuse to repent, then I will walk contrary to you and strike you with siege (vs. 23-26).
 - E. If you still will not listen to me and walk contrary to me, then I will walk contrary to you in my fury (vs. 27-28) and I myself will discipline you with:
 1. Death (vs. 19-30).
 2. Destruction (vs. 31-32).
 3. Exile (vs. 33-39).
- III. If you confess your iniquity and repent, then I will remember My covenant and relent (vs. 40-46).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, December 1, 2019

Passage: Leviticus 26:1-46

Memory Passage: Leviticus 26:40-42

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Lev. 26:1-13.** Why do you think the law is summarized in this way (vs. 1-2)?
- (b) What are the Israelites to do (v. 3) in order to receive the blessings that follow in v. 4ff?
- (c) The blessings for this obedience are provision (vs. 4-5), peace (vs. 6-8), prosperity (vs. 9-10), and presence (vs. 11-13). Explain why each of these is important, and what is significant about the fact they are promises of *physical* blessing.
- (d) What is the significance of v. 13 in the context of vs. 1-13? In the context of the entire chapter (cf. vs. 1, 2, 44, 45)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Lev. 26:14-39.** What brings about the beginning of the curses (vs. 14-15)?
- (b) Notice the divisions in the text marked out by the repeated phrase “if you will not listen to me/are not turned to me . . . I will discipline/strike you sevenfold for your sins” (vs. 14, 18, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28). Summarize (1) the disobedience exhibited by the people (“if you”), (2) the curses inflicted by God (“then I will”), (3) whether the disobedience and/or curses increase, diminish, or stay the same in each section.
- (c) What does God reveal about Israel’s future keeping of the Sabbath year, and how does He use the exile to reverse the effects of the nation’s disobedience (vs. 33-35, 43)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Lev. 26:40-46.** Explain the “if . . . then” situation described in vs. 40-43.
- (b) Why must Israel confess the iniquity of their fathers as well as their own (v. 40)?
- (c) What will God do when He “remembers” His covenant with Abraham (vs. 42-44)?
- (d) What will God do when He “remembers” His covenant with Moses on Mt. Sinai (v. 45)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Lev. 26:9, 14-15, 25, 40-45.** Six of the 8 uses of “covenant” in Leviticus occur in this chapter. Which covenant is being referred to in each of these 6, and how does the idea of covenant affect both blessings and curses?
- (b) Does the Abrahamic Covenant promise physical blessings, spiritual blessings, or both (cf. Gen. 12:1-3; 17:4-14). Explain.
- (c) The metaphorical use of “circumcise” to refer to the human heart occurs for the first time in Scripture in v. 41. What does the phrase mean, what consequences does it bring about, and what happens when this heart is “humbled” (cf. the other uses of this metaphor: Deut. 10:16; 30:6; Jer. 4:4; 9:25-26; Ez. 44:7-9, Acts 7:51; Rom. 2:28-29)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Jer. 31:31-34 (cf. Heb. 8:8-12), Ezek. 11:19-21, & 36:25-27.** What blessings does the New Covenant provide that impact a believer’s ability and desire to understand and walk in obedience to the commands of God?
- (b) Given that God promises to “cause (a New Covenant believer) to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey my rules” (Ezek. 36:27), how do you account for the fact of your (and all believers’) disobedience to God’s statutes and rules (don’t forget to consider the implications of “already-not-yet” eschatology and how it relates to life in this age and the age to come!)?
- (c) Leviticus 26 points to physical blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience, but it also refers to the spiritual realities pointed toward by the physical. What spiritual realities are promised to believers through Jesus fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant (consider the blessings of provision, peace, prosperity, and presence found in Lev. 26:1-13).
- (d) **Read Eph. 1:3 & Heb. 12:3-17.** Do believers today receive blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience to God’s word and statutes? Explain your answer in light of what you’ve learned about the New Covenant, physical vs. spiritual, and curses vs. discipline.

DATE: December 1, 2019

PASSAGE: Leviticus 26:1-46

Covenant Blessings and Curses