



**"But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God...  
then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you."**

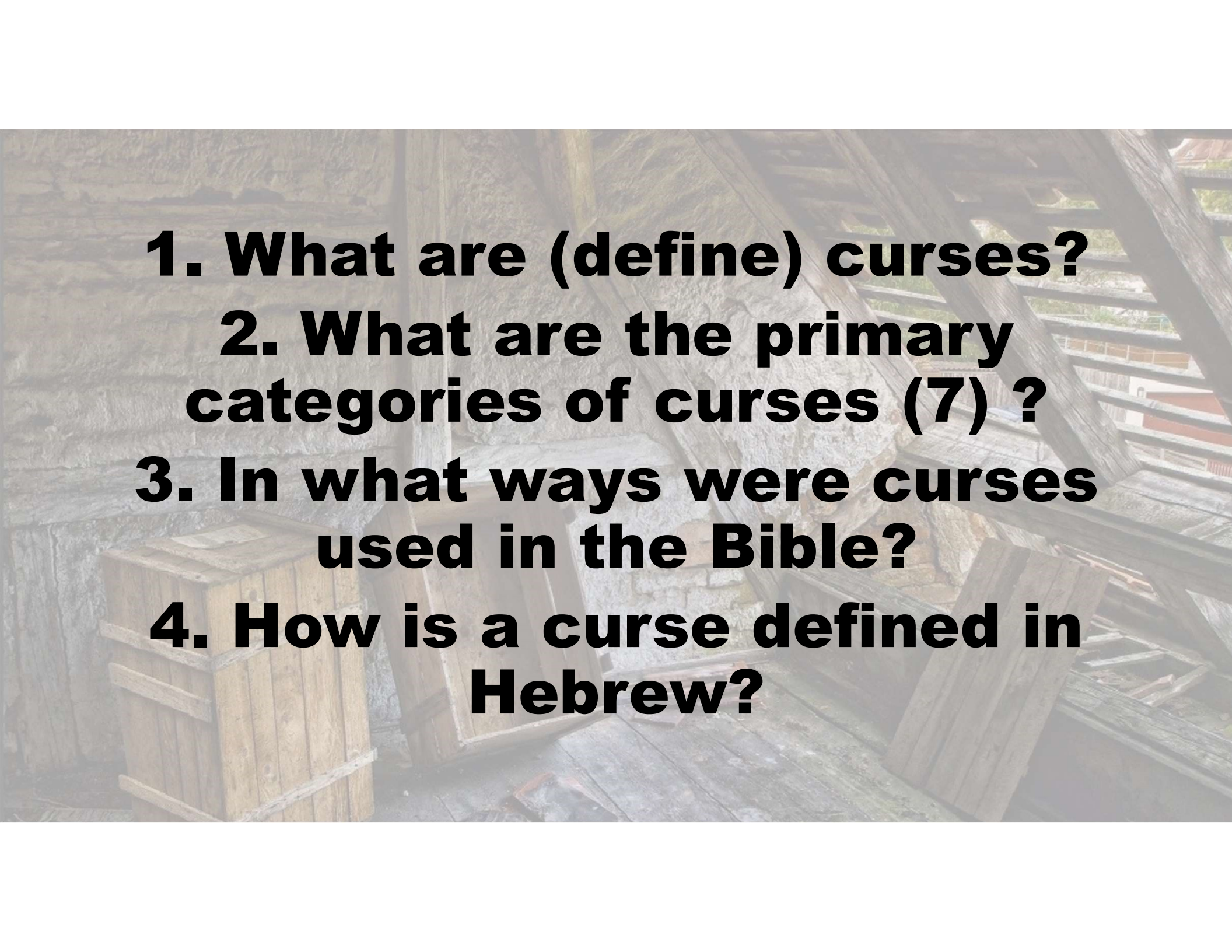
(Deut. 28:15)





# **Biblical Courses**

## **Part 2**

- 
- 1. What are (define) curses?**
  - 2. What are the primary categories of curses (7) ?**
  - 3. In what ways were curses used in the Bible?**
  - 4. How is a curse defined in Hebrew?**





**5. How extensive are Biblical curses?**

**6. What are some Biblical curses?**

**7. Can a person be cursed?**

**8. Can curses cross generations?**



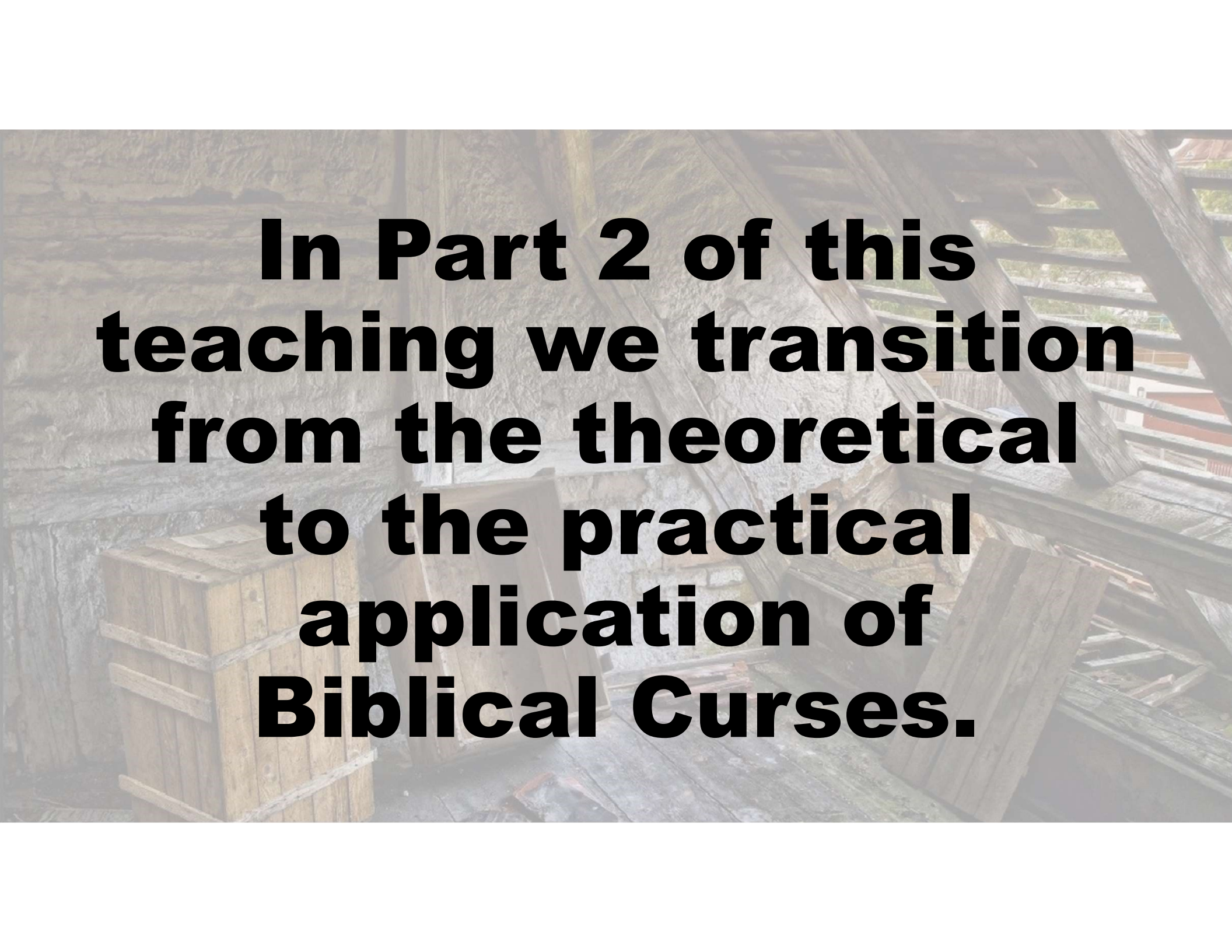


**9. Can you curse someone?**

**10. Do curses always  
succeed?**

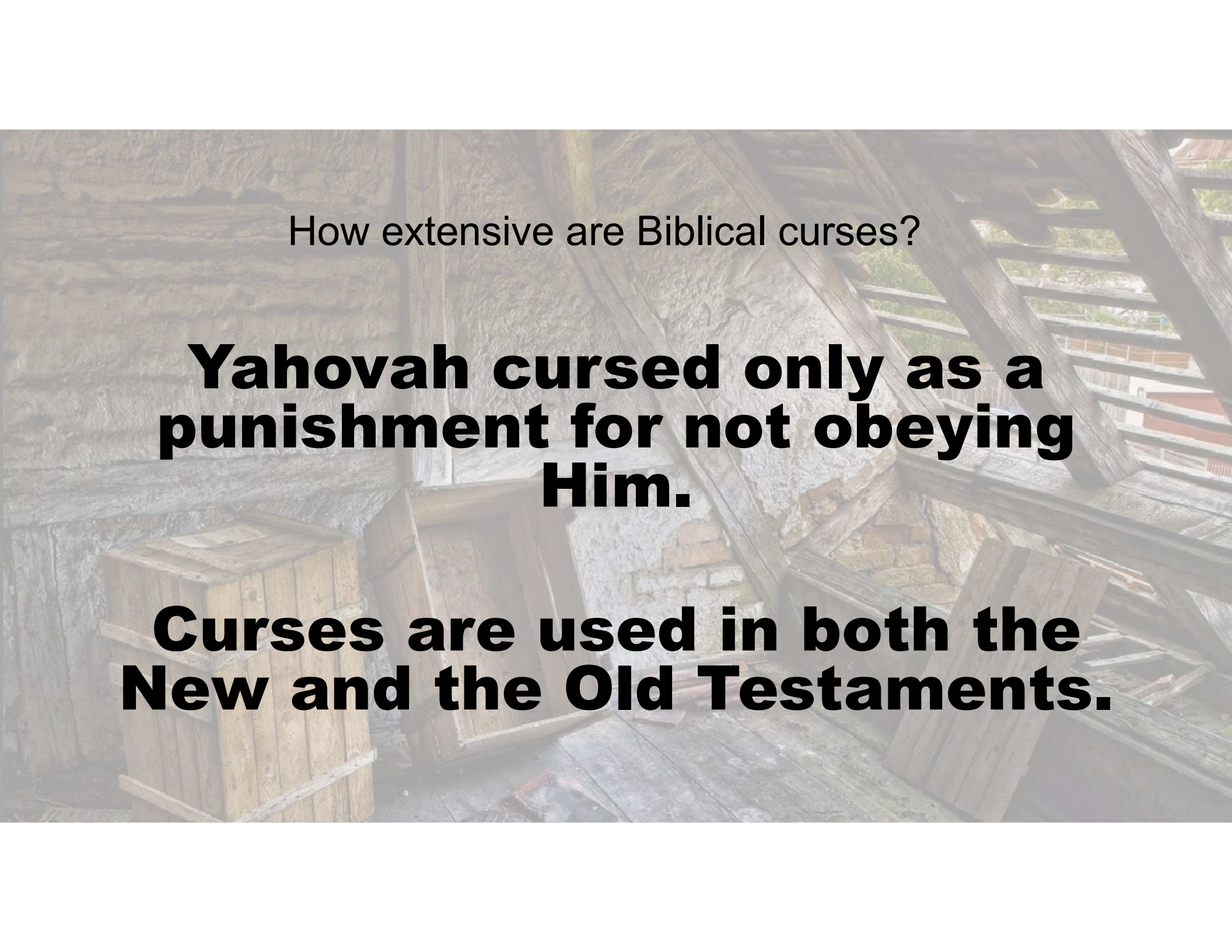
**11. Can curses destroy our  
relationship with Yahovah?**

**12. How do I resist and  
frustrate Satan in his curses  
against me?**



**In Part 2 of this teaching we transition from the theoretical to the practical application of Biblical Courses.**





How extensive are Biblical curses?

**Yahovah cursed only as a punishment for not obeying Him.**

**Curses are used in both the New and the Old Testaments.**





**6. What are some  
Biblical curses?**





What are some Biblical curses?

**Yahovah felt his blessings and curses were so important he had all 12 Tribes hear them and respond to them.**

**These are known as the Curses of the Mosaic Law (Deuteronomy 27-29)**





What are some Biblical curses?

**Deuteronomy 27:12** Moses declares,  
***<sup>12</sup>When you have crossed over the Jordan, these shall stand on Mount Gerizim for the blessing of the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin. <sup>13</sup>And these shall stand on Mount Ebal for the curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.***





What are some Biblical curses?

**The tribes appointed to stand on Gerizim to bless the people all sprang from the two wives of Jacob - Leah and Rachel (free women). The remaining tribes which sprang from the handmaids Zilpah and Bilhah (and others) are located on Ebal.**





What are some Biblical curses?

**The tribes on Gerizim had the honor of saying Amen to the praises Levites delivered, while the tribes on Ebal (of the handmaidens) were left to Amen the curses from Levites.**





What are some Biblical curses?

**(Deuteronomy 27)** <sup>15</sup> ***“Cursed be anyone who makes an idol or casts an image, anything abhorrent to the Lord, the work of an artisan, and sets it up in secret.”***

<sup>16</sup> ***“Cursed be anyone who dishonors father or mother.”***

<sup>17</sup> ***“Cursed be anyone who moves a neighbor's boundary marker.”***





## What are some Biblical curses?

***18 “Cursed be anyone who misleads a blind person on the road.”***

***19 “Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien, the orphan, and the widow of justice.”***

***20 “Cursed be anyone who lies with his father's wife, because he has violated his father's rights.”***





## What are some Biblical curses?

***21 “Cursed be anyone who lies with any animal.”***

***22 “Cursed be anyone who lies with his sister, whether the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother”.***

***23 “Cursed be anyone who lies with his mother-in-law”.***





What are some Biblical curses?

***24 “Cursed be anyone who strikes down a neighbor in secret.”***

***25 “Cursed be anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood.”***

***26 “Cursed be anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by observing them.”***





What are some Biblical curses?

**These curses go on  
for two more chapters  
in Deuteronomy.**





**What are some Biblical curses?**

Psalm 109



**What are some Biblical curses?**

## Psalm 109

Contains some of the most severe curses in the Bible, such as verses 12 and 13.

It has traditionally been called the "Judas Psalm" or "Iscairiot Psalm"



## What are some Biblical curses?

*<sup>12</sup>Let there be none to extend mercy unto him: neither let there be any to favor his fatherless children*

*<sup>13</sup>Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out.*



What are some Biblical curses?

On the cross, Yashua recognizes the curses made against him during his life on earth:

*"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"* (Luke 23:34)





**7. Can a person be cursed?**





Can a person be cursed?

**Based on what we just  
read –  
Yes, a person can be  
cursed.**





# **8. Can curses cross Generations?**





Can curses cross Generations?

**All of us have *"sinned and fallen short of God's glory"* (Romans 3:23). We know that payment for our sin is death (Romans 6:23; Deuteronomy 21:23).**



Can curses cross Generations?

**Yahovah punishes the children and their children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth Generation” (Exodus 34:7) *7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth Generation.***





**9. *Can you curse someone?***

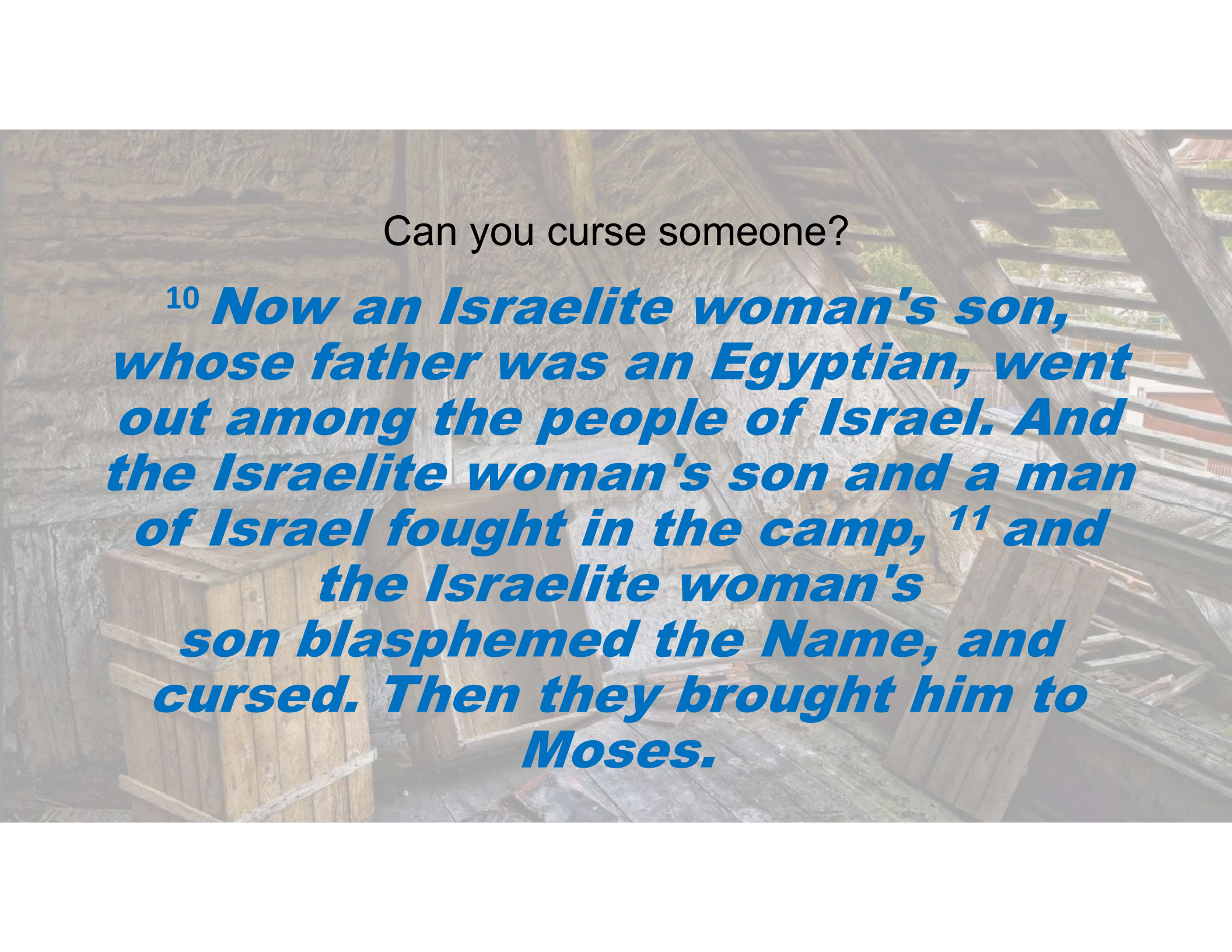




Can you curse someone?

**Yes, but...**





Can you curse someone?

**In the Bible curses and spells are forbidden practices (Deuteronomy 18:10-12). <sup>10</sup>Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, <sup>11</sup>or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.**





Can you curse someone?

***<sup>12</sup>Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you “(NIV).***





Can you curse someone?

**Yahovah commands you to  
bless and not curse  
others. (Romans 12:14)**

***14 Bless those who  
persecute you; bless and  
do not curse.”***





Can you curse someone?

**Yahovah also tells us  
not *curse* the ruler of the  
people. (Exodus 22:28)**

***28 “Do not blaspheme God or  
curse the ruler of your  
people.”***

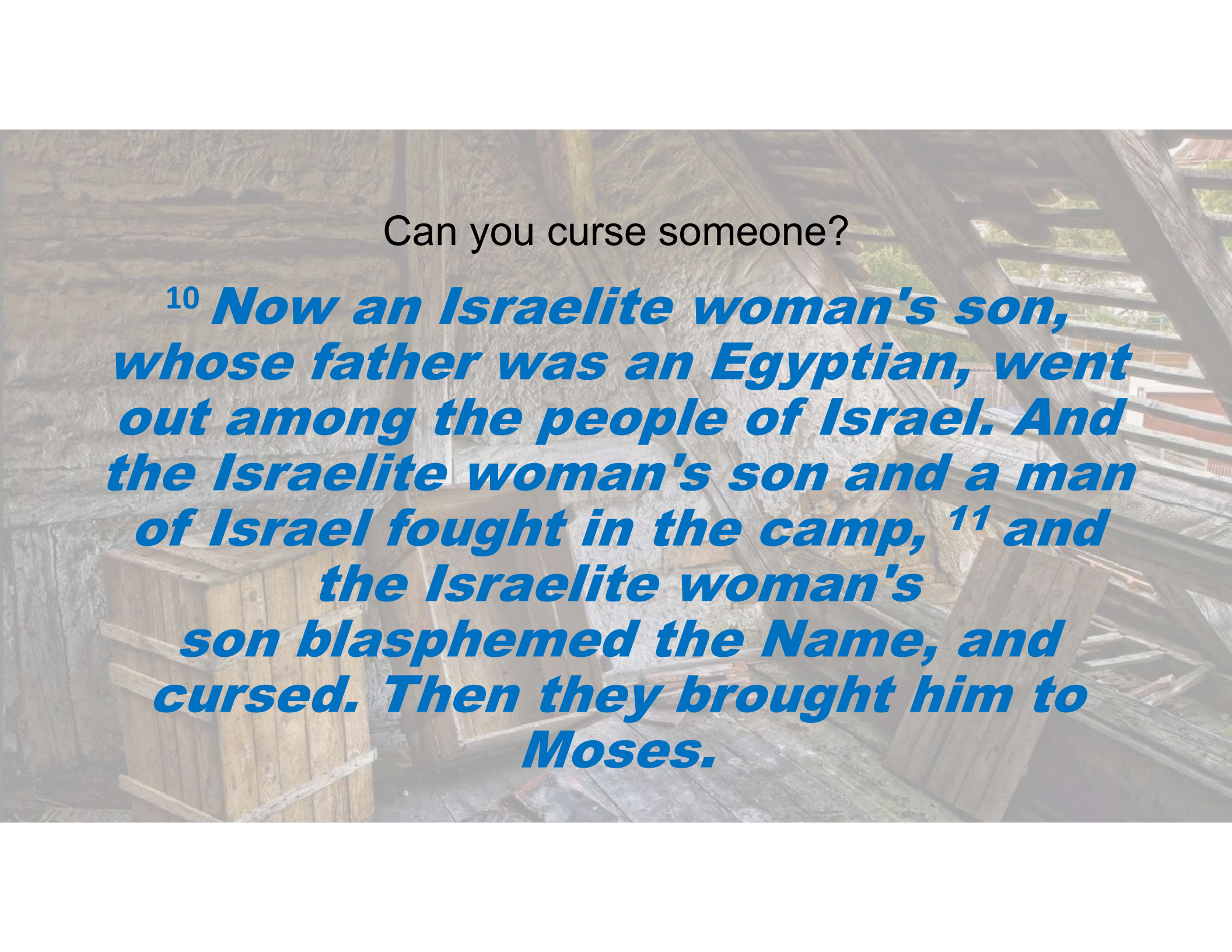




Can you curse someone?

**No one on pain of death shall curse their father or mother (Exodus 21:17), nor the deaf (Leviticus 19:14). Cursing God or blaspheming was punishable by death (Leviticus 24:10-16).**

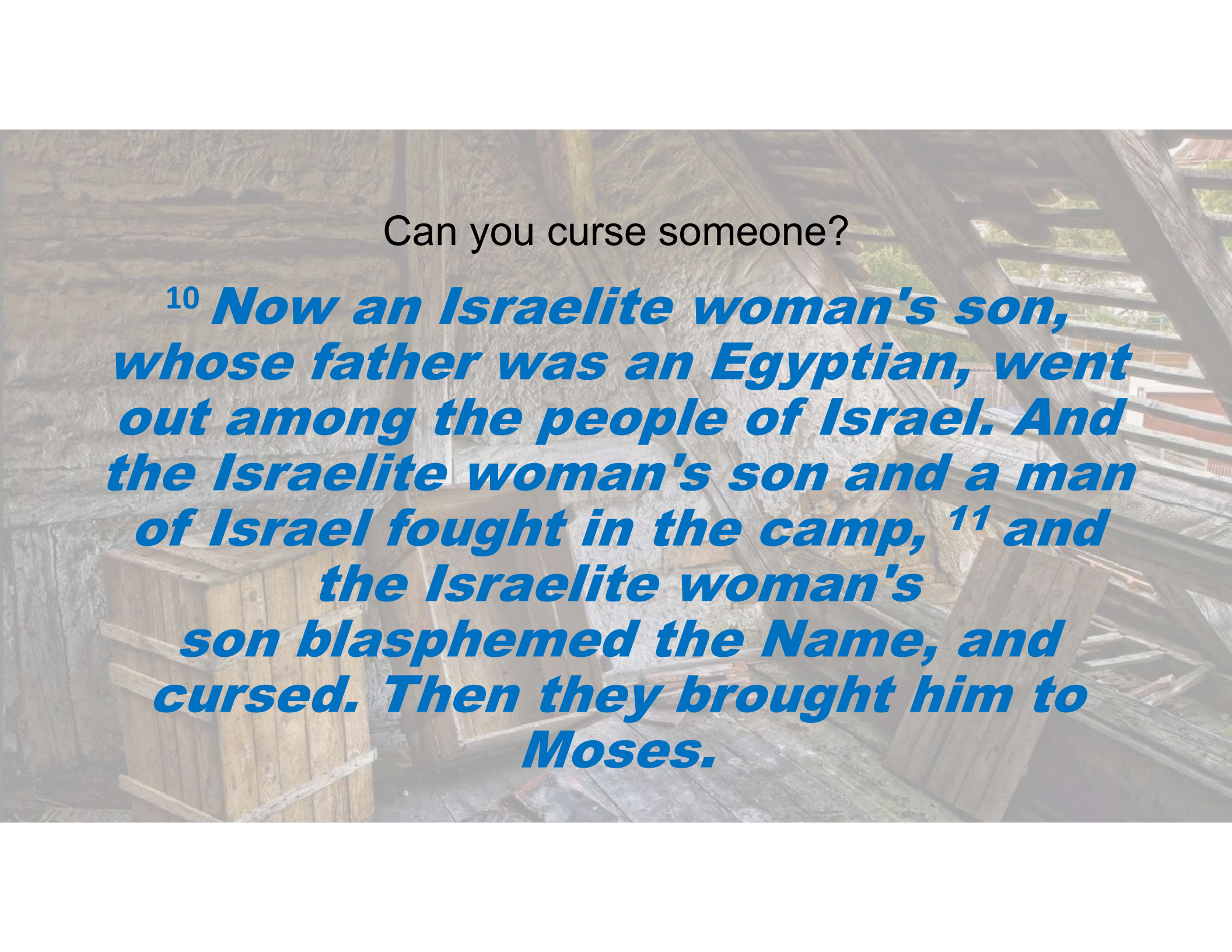




Can you curse someone?

***<sup>10</sup> Now an Israelite woman's son, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the people of Israel. And the Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel fought in the camp, <sup>11</sup> and the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the Name, and cursed. Then they brought him to Moses.***





Can you curse someone?

***His mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan. <sup>12</sup> And they put him in custody, till the will of the LORD should be clear to them. <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>14</sup> "Bring out of the camp the one who cursed, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him.***



Can you curse someone?

***15 And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. 16 Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.”***





**10. Do curses always succeed?**





Do curses always succeed?

**No, Biblical curses  
sometimes fail to work.**





Do curses always succeed?

**In 1 Samuel 14 we read that: Jonathan, Saul's son, tastes a honeycomb and almost dies due to a curse made by his father preventing soldiers from eating before the battle is over.**





Do curses always succeed?

**In Judges Chapters 19-21, because of a civil war with the Tribe of Benjamin, the men of Israel had cursed the Tribe of Benjamin, preventing any Tribe from providing a wife to Benjamite men. (Judges 21:18) *“Cursed be anyone who gives a wife to (the tribe of) Benjamin.”***





Do curses always succeed?

**So the Benjamites  
devised a plan and stole  
wives from the area of  
Shiloh.**





Do curses always succeed?

**Curses can sometimes work in reverse. In the story of Balaam, (Numbers Chapters 22-24), King Balak sends messengers to Balaam who offer to pay him handsomely if he'll curse Israel. Balaam is interested in this offer, but needs to consult with God first.**





Do curses always succeed?

**Balaam says, I'll not curse Israel,  
no matter how much you offer  
me; I can't go against God.  
Balaam decides to consult with  
God one more time. After  
Balaam's donkey spoke to him  
and saves his life, God gives  
Balaam a message.**





Do curses always succeed?

**He's to tell King Balak that the Israelites are God's people and can't be cursed. In fact they're blessed. King Balak planned for Balaam to curse people and now Balaam is doling out blessings. Eventually Balaam blesses Israel... and curses King Balak.**





**11. Can curses  
destroy your  
relationship with  
Yahovah?**



Can curses destroy our relationship with Yahovah?

**Those with Yashua need not worry about curses and Satanic attacks because *"...nothing can separate us from God's love"* (Romans 8:37-39), and *"greater is He that is in us (the Holy Spirit) than he who is in the world (Satan)"* (1 John 4:4).**





Can curses destroy our relationship with Yahovah?

**God's love for us is never in doubt and that the Holy Spirit is greater than Satan. Do not concern yourselves with things like curses and spells and Satanic interference.**





Can curses destroy our relationship with Yahovah?

**However, don't think that we are free from all of Satan's attacks and demonic curses. *"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith..."* (1 Peter 5:8-9).**





Can curses destroy our relationship with Yahovah?

**There is a demonic adversary  
who is full of dirty and  
deceitful spiritual tools  
designed to inflict harm and  
destruction upon the faithful.**





**12. How do I resist,  
incapacitate and  
frustrate Satan in his  
curses against me?**





How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

**Pray for God to provide a spiritual hedge of protection. This will insulate you from any personal or demonic designs. If God put a hedge around Job that Satan couldn't penetrate without God's permission, then He can erect one around you.**





How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

**(Job 1:10):** *"Hast not thou made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land."* You can pray for that protection and the blessing of prosperity as well.





How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

**Keep your life righteous and holy.  
Let there is no opportunity for any  
curse to debilitate you in any way.  
Pray like we see in (Proverbs 26:2):**

***"Like a fluttering sparrow or a  
darting swallow, an undeserved  
curse does not come to rest."***





How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

**Never leave your house spiritually naked. Clothe yourself in the armor of God against any spiritual attack. As we read in (Ephesians 6:10-17):**

***<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.***





How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

***12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,***





How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

***15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,***





How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

**Even though it is often hard to do, instead of wishing evil and harm on those who have hurt you, pray for their blessing and prosperity.**

**Yashua instructed us in (Luke 6:28) to:**

***"Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."***



How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

**If you curse those who've hurt you, you put yourself in danger of Yashua's judgment. He said in (Matthew 5:22):**

***"But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."***



**Slide 54**

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**CB2**

Carl Bartell, 3/8/2021





How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

**Raca meant “empty-headed” and insinuated a person’s stupidity or inferiority. It was an offensive name used to show utter contempt for another person. Yashua warned that the use of such a word to describe someone was tantamount to murder and deserving of the severest punishment of the law.**





How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

**Remember that sin has placed the entire world under a curse. All of us have *"sinned and fallen short of God's glory"* (Romans 3:23). We know that payment for our sin is death (Romans 6:23; Deuteronomy 21:23).**





How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

**When we declare Yashua is our Lord and Messiah, and agree to obey Him, He dies in our place on the cross.**

**He takes the curse of death for us and the curse against us is now broken.**



How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?

## **Death no longer rests upon us (Galatians 3:13)**

***13 Messiah 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."***



# Summary

- 1. What are (define) curses?***
- 2. What are the 7 primary categories of curses?***
- 3. In what ways were curses used in the Bible?***
- 4. How is a curse defined in Hebrew?***





Summary

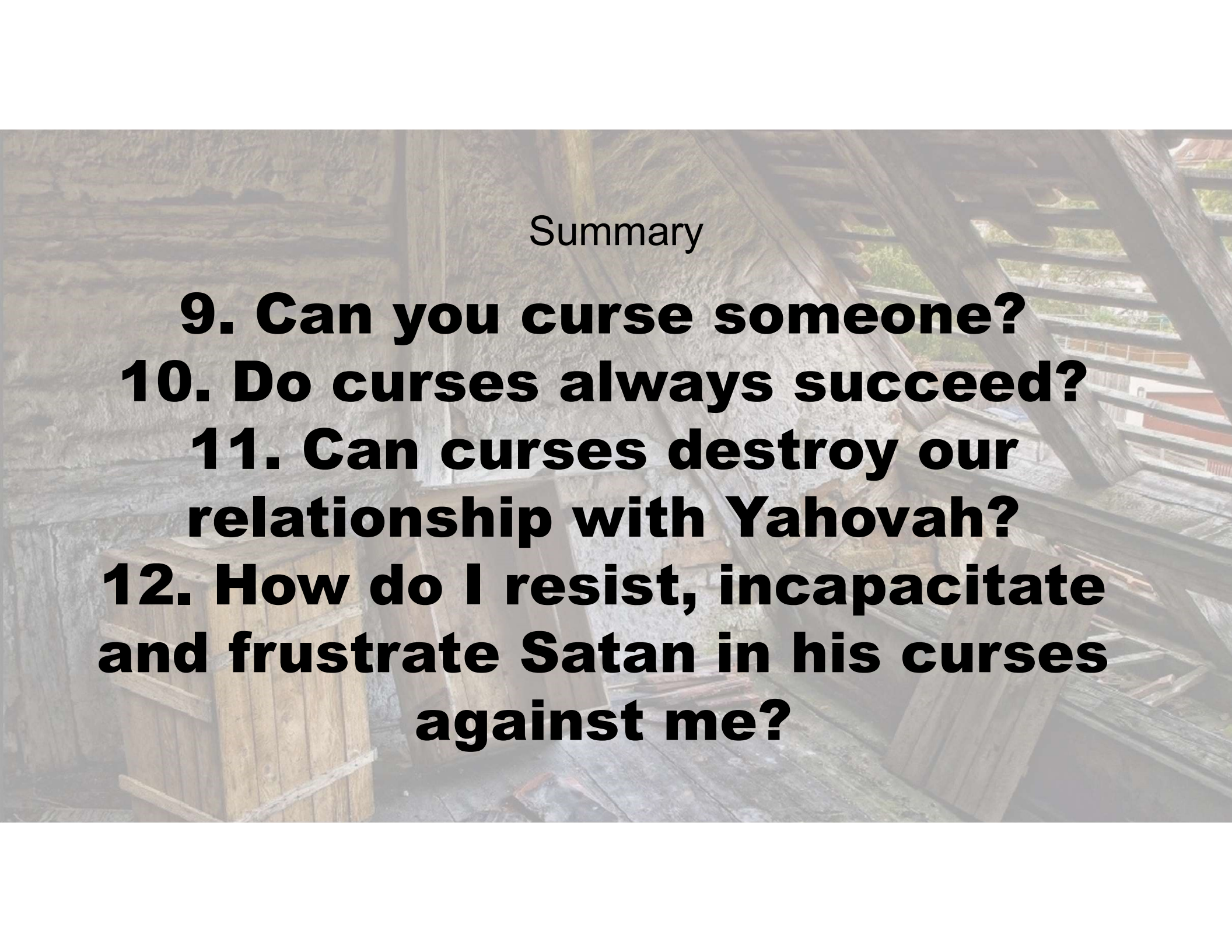
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Summary

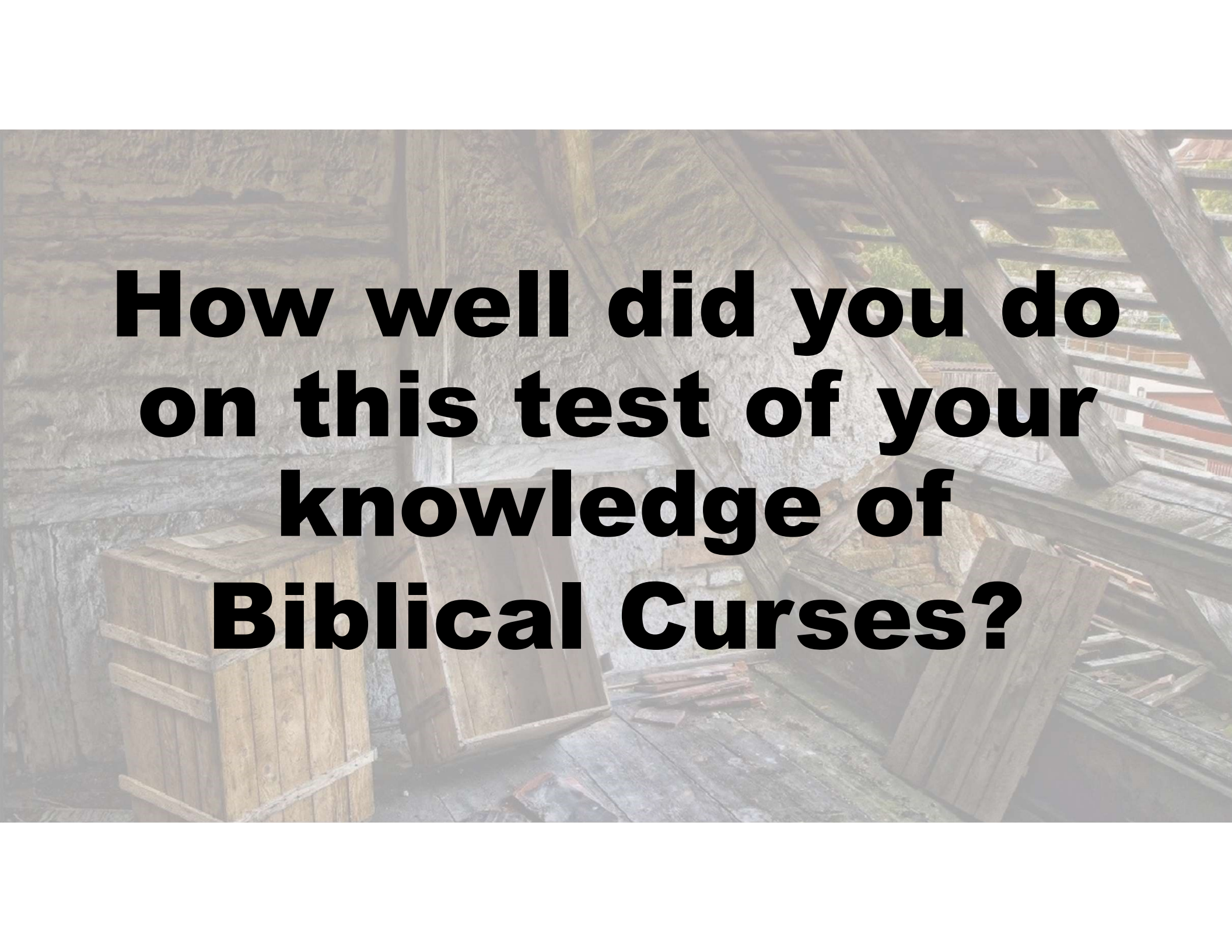
- 9. Can you curse someone?**
- 10. Do curses always succeed?**
- 11. Can curses destroy our relationship with Yahovah?**
- 12. How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?**





**For a list of more  
courses see this  
teaching on our  
website.**



The background image shows a rustic wooden structure under construction. On the left, there is a wall made of rough-hewn stone blocks. To the right, a complex network of dark wooden beams and rafters forms the roof structure. In the foreground, several large wooden crates or boxes are stacked, and some loose wooden planks are scattered on the floor. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a soft, natural light filtering through the structure.

**How well did you do  
on this test of your  
knowledge of  
Biblical Curses?**





## **Extra Credit Homework:**

- 1. Based on (Galatians 3:13), was Yashua cursed when he died on the cross?**
- 2. Why Did Yashua Curse the Fig Tree?**

**To find out the answer to these two questions, read this teaching on the web to it's end and the answers will be posted.**







# Your homework:

1. Based on Galatians 3:13, was Yahshua cursed when he died on the cross?
2. Why Did Yahshua Curse the Fig Tree?

## Summary

***What are (define) curses?***

***What are the 7 primary categories of curses?***

***In what ways were curses used in the Bible?***

***How is a curse defined in Hebrew?***

***How extensive are Biblical curses?***

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***Can a person be cursed?***

***Can curses cross generations?***

***Can you curse someone?***

***Do curses always succeed?***

***Can curses destroy our relationship with Yahovah?***



## ***How do I resist, incapacitate and frustrate Satan in his curses against me?***

### **Some Biblical Curses**

#### **Galatians 3:13 ESV / 92**

Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—

#### **Genesis 3:17 ESV / 77**

And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

#### **Romans 12:19 ESV / 74**

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

#### **Isaiah 54:17 ESV / 64**

No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.”



Proverbs 26:2 **ESV / 61**

Like a sparrow in its flitting, like a swallow in its flying, a curse that is causeless does not alight.

Genesis 3:14 **ESV / 53**

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

2 Kings 5:27 **ESV / 50**

Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your descendants forever." So he went out from his presence a leper, like snow.

Numbers 22:6 **ESV / 48**

Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."

Deuteronomy 28:15-68 **ESV / 43**

"But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. ...

Romans 12:14 **ESV / 39**

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.



**Luke 6:28 ESV / 39**

Bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

**Psalms 109:1-31 ESV / 37**

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. Be not silent, O God of my praise! For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying tongues. They encircle me with words of hate, and attack me without cause. In return for my love they accuse me, but I give myself to prayer. So they reward me evil for good, and hatred for my love. ...

**1 Peter 3:10 ESV / 36**

For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;

**James 1:26 ESV / 36**

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

**Leviticus 26:14-46 ESV / 30**

"But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. 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 struck down before your enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you. And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins, ...



Ephesians 4:29 **ESV / 29**

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Deuteronomy 28:1-68 **ESV / 27**

“And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

...

Deuteronomy 5:9 **ESV / 27**

You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Genesis 3:15 **ESV / 27**

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Proverbs 15:4 **ESV / 25**

A Gentile tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 **ESV / 25**

Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things,



therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.

**James 3:10 ESV / 24**

From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

**Colossians 3:8 ESV / 24**

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

**Proverbs 21:23 ESV / 24**

Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

**Ephesians 5:4 ESV / 23**

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

**Luke 6:45 ESV / 23**

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

**Matthew 15:11 ESV / 23**

It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”

**Genesis 3:15-19 ESV / 23**

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV / 22**

Therefore, if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**Luke 10:30-37 ESV / 22**

Yahshua replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ...

**Numbers 14:18 ESV / 22**

‘The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.’

**Exodus 20:7 ESV / 22**

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.



Romans 12:21 **ESV / 21**

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 5:22 **ESV / 21**

But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

Isaiah 8:10 **ESV / 21**

Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

Proverbs 15:1 **ESV / 21**

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Galatians 3:13-14 **ESV / 20**

Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—so that in Messiah Yahshua the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Romans 8:2 **ESV / 20**

For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Messiah Yahshua from the law of sin and death.

Malachi 3:10 **ESV / 20**

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Exodus 20:5 **ESV / 20**

You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the

fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me,

**James 4:7 ESV / 19**

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

**Psalm 10:7 ESV / 19**

His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.

**Deuteronomy 5:11 ESV / 19**

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

**Ephesians 4:27 ESV / 18**

And give no opportunity to the devil.

**Romans 13:4 ESV / 18**

For he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

**Romans 12:1-2 ESV / 18**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Matthew 5:1-48 ESV / 18**

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is



the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ...

**Proverbs 25:26 ESV / 18**

Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.

**Psalms 39:1 ESV / 18**

To the choirmaster: to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David. I said, “I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, so long as the wicked are in my presence.”

**Psalms 19:14 ESV / 18**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

**Genesis 12:3 ESV / 18**

I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

**Revelation 1:1-20 ESV / 17**

The revelation of Yahshua Messiah, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Yahshua Messiah, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Yahshua Messiah the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

...

1 John 4:1 **ESV / 17**

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Romans 14:17 **ESV / 17**

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 26:52-54 **ESV / 17**

Then Yahshua said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

Matthew 4:1-25 **ESV / 17**

Then Yahshua was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ...

Psalm 91:1-16 **ESV / 17**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, ...



Numbers 23:11 **ESV / 17**

And Balak said to Balaam, “What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have done nothing but bless them.”

Leviticus 26:39-42 **ESV / 17**

And those of you who are left shall rot away in your enemies' lands because of their iniquity, and also because of the iniquities of their fathers they shall rot away like them. “But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

1 John 1:9 **ESV / 16**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

James 3:9-12 **ESV / 16**

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

1 Timothy 5:8 **ESV / 16**

But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

**Matthew 5:38-39 ESV / 16**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

**Hosea 4:2 ESV / 16**

There is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

**Philippians 4:8 ESV / 15**

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**Acts 17:10-11 ESV / 15**

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

**John 18:1-40 ESV / 15**

When Yahshua had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Yahshua often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Yahshua, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” They answered him, “Yahshua of Nazareth.” Yahshua said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ...



Jeremiah 48:10 **ESV / 15**

“Cursed is he who does the work of the LORD with slackness, and cursed is he who keeps back his sword from bloodshed.

Jeremiah 17:5 **ESV / 15**

Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD.

Proverbs 30:11 **ESV / 15**

There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers.

Exodus 34:7 **ESV / 15**

Keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

Genesis 4:11 **ESV / 15**

And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

2 Timothy 2:16 **ESV / 14**

But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness,

John 3:16 **ESV / 14**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Psalms 34:13 **ESV / 14**

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

Leviticus 26:1-46 **ESV / 14**

“You shall not make idols for yourselves or erect an image or pillar, and you shall not set up a figured stone in your land to bow

down to it, for I am the LORD your God. You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD. “If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last to the time of the grape harvest, and the grape harvest shall last to the time for sowing. And you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land securely. ...

**Genesis 5:29 ESV / 14**

And called his name Noah, saying, “Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.”

**James 3:5-6 ESV / 13**

So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

**Galatians 3:10 ESV / 13**

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

**Romans 12:2 ESV / 13**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**John 3:16-17 ESV / 13**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.



**Matthew 5:37 ESV / 13**

Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

**Proverbs 18:21 ESV / 13**

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

**Judges 5:23 ESV / 13**

"Curse Meroz, says the angel of the LORD, curse its inhabitants thoroughly, because they did not come to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.

**Exodus 22:1-31 ESV / 13**

"If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him, but if the sun has risen on him, there shall be bloodguilt for him. He shall surely pay. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. If the stolen beast is found alive in his possession, whether it is an ox or a donkey or a sheep, he shall pay double. "If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed over, or lets his beast loose and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best in his own field and in his own vineyard. ...

**James 3:8 ESV / 12**

But no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

**Luke 10:18 ESV / 12**

And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

**Luke 9:1 ESV / 12**

And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,

**Mark 7:7 ESV / 12**

In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

**Matthew 15:4 ESV / 12**

For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.'

**Matthew 5:10 ESV / 12**

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Ezekiel 18:20 ESV / 12**

The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

**Job 7:9 ESV / 12**

As the cloud fades and vanishes, so he who goes down to Sheol does not come up;

**1 Peter 1:15 ESV / 11**

But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

**Ephesians 5:22-33 ESV / 11**

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Messiah is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Messiah, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Messiah loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ...



Ezekiel 18:19-20 **ESV / 11**

“Yet you say, ‘Why should not the son suffer for the iniquity of the father?’ When the son has done what is just and right, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live. The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

Deuteronomy 29:24-28 **ESV / 11**

All the nations will say, ‘Why has the LORD done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?’ Then people will say, ‘It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them. Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book, and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.’

Leviticus 26:40 **ESV / 11**

“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me,

James 5:12 **ESV / 10**

But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

Deuteronomy 28:46 **ESV / 10**

They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever.

# Homework Questions:

## Question 1:

In Galatians chapter 3 we are told that Yahshua was a curse. Was Yahshua cursed?

Answer:

The passage you are referring to is found in Galatians 3:13-14.

Messiah redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE” – in order that in Yahshua the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (NASB) Gal. 3:13 -14

To answer your question, we will first discover what the curse is about and then we will find out why it is applied to Yahshua.

### *The Curse*

Ancient Israel used four methods for putting criminals to death: “stoning, burning, the sword, and strangulation” (Dr. J. H. Hertz. Pentateuch & Haftorahs. Soncino Press, London. 1960. p. 842.). A criminal or an enemy could then be hung on a tree until evening as a spectacle to everyone of their evil deeds. Joshua 10:25-26 is an excellent example of this humiliation. “Hanging on a tree” was a symbol of humiliation. God did not want a person to be hung on a tree unless he/she had been killed for disobeying God’s moral law. Therefore, God established this law.

If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his corpse shall not hang all



night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accursed of God), . . . (NASB) Deut. 21:22-23

Hanging was for an exceptionally wicked man or woman.

### *Applied To Yahshua*

Yahshua was “cursed” before He died on that Roman cross which was made out of wood. The scriptures tell us that Yahshua was a holy baby (Luke 1:35); He found favor with God as a young person (Luke 2:52); and at the beginning of His ministry God the Father said, “This is my Son in whom I am well pleased . . .” (Matt. 3:17). Near the end of Yahshua’s ministry, God the Father repeated the statement, “This is my Son in whom I am well pleased” at the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:5). Finally, Yahshua died on a cross for the sins of every man and woman. The scriptures say that Yahshua was perfect. He was sinless. We deserved to die because of our sins. He did not. Therefore, when He willingly died a physical death on a cross in our place – for our sins – He became a “curse.” The Apostle Peter repeats this fact in His writings and to a crowd which was listening to him preach about Yahshua Messiah.

. . . and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness . . . (NASB) 1 Pet. 2:24

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Yahshua, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.” (NASB) Acts 5:29-30

Yahshua died on the cross and continued hanging on it until that evening. So when we come to Gal. 3:13-14, the Apostle Paul says that we can inherit the promise of the Spirit by faith – by

believing in Yahshua. This is possible because Yahshua became a curse – bore our sins – when He hung on the cross – a tree.

Conclusion:

Why did Yahshua do this? Because He loves you. It is that simple. Now He asks you to believe or trust in Him.

Question 2:

## Why Did Yahshua Curse the Fig Tree?

Many things can masquerade as the real thing but fail upon closer inspection. Yahshua deals with this mismatch in a shocking episode in the Gospels: the cursing of the fig tree ([Matt. 21:18–22](#); [Mark 11:12–14, 20–25](#)). In this inverted miracle we see precisely the stakes not only of failing to produce fruit, but of giving a fruitful impression and failing to back it up

Examining the Episode

Yahshua enters Jerusalem amid exultation from the masses gathered for Passover. In the morning, as he travels from Bethany, he spots a fig tree “in leaf.” At this point in late spring, most fig trees haven’t developed mature fruit ([Mark 11:13](#)). But this particular tree draws Yahshua’s attention because it already has a full covering of leaves. It’s an early bloomer. Its foliage signals that it should have early figs.

With that expectation, Yahshua inspects the tree. He is immediately disappointed. All leaves, no fruit. All expectation, no satisfaction.



In a shocking turn, Yahshua curses the tree and makes it wither from the roots, never to yield fruit again. We are taken aback; this seems stunningly out of character for Yahshua, the child-welcomer, compassionate healer, and storm-calmer.

What should we learn from this peculiar scene?

On the surface, it's an object lesson on the power of faithful prayer ([Matt. 21:20–22](#)). But more is going on behind the scenes. The fig tree cursing, an enacted parable of sorts, is also a sober warning for us today—in at least two ways.

1. Fruitlessness leads to judgment.

Throughout the Old Testament, Israel is described as God's vineyard, tree, or planting ([Judges 9:8–15](#); [Isa. 3:14](#); [5:1–7](#); [Jer. 12:10](#); [Ezek. 17:2–10](#); [19:10–14](#)). As any agrarian Israelite knew, the firstfruits of the harvest belong to God ([Ex. 23:19](#); [Neh. 10:35–37](#)), which helps conceptualize their relationship to God: as his own special planting, they must yield spiritual fruit as his covenant people ([Ps. 1:3](#); [Jer. 17:8–10](#)). Israel's fruitfulness (literal or otherwise) is not the basis of their relationship with God, for it is God who gives fruitfulness ([Deut. 7:13](#); [28:4](#)). A lack of fruitfulness is a sign of God's curse for their rebellion ([Deut. 11:17](#)).

This foundational metaphor for Israel's spiritual health vividly blooms in the prophetic era. The time had come for God's people to yield fruit that would bless the world ([Isa. 27:6](#)). Several times the prophets describe God as inspecting Israel for "early figs," as a sign of spiritual fruitfulness ([Mic. 7:1](#); [Jer. 8:13](#); [Hos. 9:10–17](#))—but he finds "no first-ripe fig that my soul desires." So in two exiles (Assyrian and Babylonian), God pours out the curse of barrenness ([Hos. 9:16](#)), and Israel becomes a rotten fig ([Jer. 29:17](#)).

But all is not lost. God promises to one day replant Israel and produce healthy figs from her again ([Joel 2:22](#); [Amos 9:14](#); [Mic. 4:4](#); [Zech. 8:12](#); [Ezek. 36:8](#)).

With this web of background images, light bulbs would've immediately gone on in the minds of Yahshua's disciples as he re-enacted Israel's history by cursing the fig tree.

The fruitless fig tree draws us back to prior points in Yahshua's ministry, when God's people were called to produce spiritual fruit ([Matt. 3:8–10](#); [7:16–20](#); [13:8](#); [Luke 3:7–9](#)). Yahshua has pursued the children of God with compassionate seriousness ([Luke 13:34](#)). And the Jewish crowds—gathering to celebrate God's *past* act of redemption (Passover/exodus)—have just hailed Yahshua as “king” while he leads a *new* exodus on a meaning-laden donkey ([Zech. 9:9](#)).

The eschatological restoration has arrived. Everything is lining up. Israel's fruit will now be harvested; blessing will now pour forth. While the rest of the nations—the other fig trees—are not yet in season, this *one* tree is “in leaf.” And both Matthew and Mark, by “sandwiching” the fig tree episode, focus the lens on where it will all transpire: Jerusalem.

- Matthew: Jerusalem → Fig tree → Jerusalem
- Mark: Fig tree → Jerusalem → Fig tree

Except there's no fruit. The fig tree, once again, has failed. The Passover celebration, the tumult, the crowds, the singing—it's all a show. Yahshua enters God's house of prayer and finds it a “den of robbers” ([Mark 11:17](#)). Lots of action, lots of bustle, but no righteousness. Leaves, but no fruit.

So upon inspecting the fruitless tree, Yahshua pours out divine judgment via two sign-acts: the future-pointing act of cursing the temple, and the enacted metaphor of cursing the tree.



2. Think about your own figs.

But all is not lost. When the disciples ask Yahshua to explain what just transpired, he pivots and talks about prayer. Why? Though they do not yet fully understand, they will be the new caretakers of God's people ([Matt. 21:33–45](#)). They will be instruments by which Israel is transformed—when the Jewish nucleus of Christ-followers extends branches worldwide and brings forth fruit from all nations (beginning in Acts). And, as Yahshua teaches here, they will do this by the power of faithful prayer.

Thus the fig tree cursing is not just about historical Israel. It's about us. It's about all the people of God throughout time.

The Old Testament expectation that God's covenant people bear fruit did not wither on that road between Bethany and Jerusalem when that poor fig tree met its expeditious fate. In fact, the mandate that God's people bear spiritual fruit has actually *intensified* in the new era, not weakened ([John 4:36; 15:2–16](#); [Rom. 1:13; 6:21](#); [Gal. 5:22](#); [Phil. 1:11; 4:17](#); [Heb. 12:11](#); [Jas. 3:17](#)). Not to *earn* God's gardening affection—but to yield that which he has (re)made us to do.

Soberingly, this passage does not just remind us that a Christian by definition must produce spiritual fruit (even if only small early figs). It's also about the threat of and temptation toward false pretenses of fruit.

The fig tree, like the bustling temple courts during Passover, was putting on a good show. And that made it all the worse. It's one thing to lack fruit out of season. It's another thing to lack it while pretending you have it.

So let us be warned.

Our personal lives can look like “in leaf.” Our leaves may look like those of a supermom, a winner, a perfect family, an A-team Christian with an overstuffed schedule of ministry activities. But the root may be withered. There may be no fruit of holiness and no intimacy with God. What’s worse—our leaves may even fool us.

And our churches can do the same. A church’s leaves may look impressive: booming attendance, capital campaigns, clever pastors, impressive music. But what will the Lord find upon close inspection? Will he find *only* leaves? Or will he find figs, too?