

## “THE TYPOLOGY OF THE BIBLE” SERIES

### #7: “The Curse and Christ”

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:14-24

INTRO:

Verse 3 of the well-known Christmas carol, “Joy to the World,” says:

*No more let sins and sorrow grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found.*

What is “the curse”? Let’s look at Genesis 3:14-24. The Contemporary English Version has it:

*The Lord God said to the snake: “Because of what you have done, you will be the only animal to suffer this curse – For as long as you live, you will crawl on your stomach and eat dirt. You and this woman will hate each other; your descendants and hers will always be enemies. One of hers will strike you on the head, and you will strike him on the heel.”*

*Then the Lord said to the woman: “You will suffer terribly when you give birth. But you will still desire your husband, and he will rule over you.”*

*The Lord said to the man: “You listened to your wife and ate fruit from that tree. And so, the ground will be under a curse because of what you did. As long as you live, you will have to struggle to grow enough food. Your food will be plants, but the ground will produce thorns and thistles. You will have to sweat to earn a living; you were made out of soil, and you will once again turn into soil.”*

*The man Adam named his wife Eve because she would become the mother of all who live.*

*Then the Lord God made clothes out of animal skins for the man and his wife.*

*The Lord said, “These people now know the difference between right and wrong, just as we do. But they must not be allowed to eat fruit from the tree that lets them live forever.” So the Lord God sent them out of the Garden of Eden, where they would have to work the ground from which the man had been made. Then God put winged creatures at the entrance to the garden and a flaming, flashing sword to guard the way to the life-giving tree.*

As we look at this curse brought on by the sin of Eve and Adam, it is both interesting and amazing to consider how Christ, who provided the cure for the curse, actually bore the detailed aspects of it...

First of all, note that

**MAN WAS CURSED, BUT CHRIST BECAME THE CURSED FOR MAN.**

Paul wrote in Galatians 3:13, *"...Christ rescued us from the Law's curse, when he became a curse in our place. This is because the Scriptures say that anyone who is nailed to a tree is under a curse."*

The Scripture passage he cites is Deuteronomy 21:22-23, that says, *"If a criminal is put to death, and you hang the dead body on a tree, you must not let it hang there overnight. Bury it the same day, because the dead body of a criminal will bring God's curse on the land. The Lord your God is giving this land to you, so don't make it unclean by leaving the bodies of executed criminals on display."*

Jesus took our place and was executed as a common criminal so that the curse could be lifted from us.

**THE CURSE BROUGHT MANKIND GRIEF, BUT CHRIST ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE GRIEVED FOR US.**

Grief comes from loss. Adam and Eve, while grieving the loss of their home in the garden, had their grief intensified when their son Cain killed his brother Abel. And this was only the beginning for all mankind.

In prophesying of the coming of the Messiah, Isaiah wrote in chapter 53, verse 3: *"He was hated and rejected; his life was filled with sorrow and terrible suffering. No one wanted to look at him. We despised him and said, 'He is a nobody.'"*

**AS A RESULT OF THE CURSE, MAN SUFFERED AND EXPERIENCED SO MUCH PAIN, BUT CHRIST HURT FOR US.**

Life on earth was very painful for Adam and Eve and their descendants. Eventually, sin became so rampant and life became so painful that God chose to delete all except Noah and his family and start all over again. However, the pain of sinfulness returned, and it continues to this day.

Again, the prophet Isaiah wrote in chapter 53, verses 4 and 5: *"He suffered and endured great pain for us, but we thought his suffering was punishment from God. He was wounded and crushed because of our sins; by taking our punishment, he made us completely well."*

Through the suffering of Jesus, we have the hope and expectation of a sinless world.

**THE CURSE BROUGHT THORNS AND THISTLES, BUT CHRIST WORE A CROWN OF THORNS FOR US.**

In Genesis 3, verses 17 and 18, God told Adam: *“You listened to your wife and ate fruit from that tree. And so, the ground will be under a curse because of what you did. As long as you live, you will have to struggle to grow enough food. Your food will be plants, but the ground will produce thorns and thistles.”*

We read in John 19:2 that *“The soldiers made a crown out of thorn branches and put it on Jesus...”* Now, why would they do such a thing? What would they have known about the symbolism of thorns? Thorns and thistles had become symbols of the curse upon mankind because of Adam’s sin, but Roman soldiers wouldn’t have known this. Only God could have planted such an idea into the heads of those Roman soldiers.

The thorns that came to symbolize the curse because of sin came to symbolize the freedom from sin because of the righteousness and sacrifice of Jesus.

**THE CURSE CAUSED MAN TO SWEAT, BUT CHRIST SWEAT BLOOD FOR US.**

In Genesis 3:19, God told Adam: *“You will have to sweat to earn a living...”* Up to the time of his sin, all of his needs were provided by the Lord; he didn’t have to “earn” a living.

The New Testament tells us in Luke 22:44 that while Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He *“was in great pain and prayed so sincerely that his sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood.”*

**THE CURSE BROUGHT A SWORD TO KEEP THEM FROM THE TREE OF LIFE; CHRIST WAS PIERCED WITH A SWORD.**

In Genesis 3:24, Moses wrote: *“Then God put winged creatures at the entrance to the garden and a flaming, flashing sword to guard the way to the life-giving tree.”*

In John 19:34, the New Testament informs us that *“One of the soldiers stuck his spear into Jesus’ side, and blood and water came out.”* John tells us in verse 37 that this was a fulfillment of the prophecy in Zechariah 12:10, which says, *“I, the Lord, will make the descendants of David and the people of Jerusalem feel deep sorrow and pray when they see the one they pierced with a spear. They will mourn and weep for him, as parents weep over the death of their only child or their first-born.”*

As the sword prevented Adam and Eve from eating from the tree of life, the spear-pierced body of Jesus provided everlasting life to us.

**THE CURSE OF SIN SEPARATED MAN FROM GOD; CHRIST WAS SEPARATED FROM GOD SO THAT MAN MIGHT BE REUNITED WITH GOD.**

The sin of Adam and Eve got them evicted from the Garden and separated them from God, since God is holy and can't have any fellowship with unrighteousness.

The New Testament, in Matthew 27:45 and 46, tells us that *"At noon (on the day Jesus died), the sky turned dark and stayed that way until three o'clock. Then about that time Jesus shouted, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?'"*

In 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21, the apostle Paul wrote: *"Christ never sinned! But God treated him as a sinner, so that Christ could make us acceptable to God."*

***UNDER THE CURSE OF SIN, MAN LIVED AND THEN DIED; CHRIST DIED SO THAT WE MIGHT LIVE.***

Genesis 3:19, Moses wrote that God told Adam: *"...you were made out of soil, and you will once again turn into soil."* In other words, you will eventually die. Prior to their sin, there was no death. There was no aging. No passing of time. There is so much more than what we initially think of when we think of the curse of sin.

The most popular verse in the whole New Testament is John 3:16, where we read: *"God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die."*

#### **CONCLUSION:**

A discussion took place as to who the most influential people of history have been. In this particular discussion, the name Christopher Columbus came up. He was certainly an influential man. He had quite an impact upon the world – some good, some not so good.

Other than Jesus, who would be at the top of your list?

At the top of my list would be Adam. Paul wrote this about him in his letter to the Roman Christians, chapter 5, verse 12: *"Adam sinned, and that sin brought death into the world."* Just think of the impact that death has made upon the world!

However, Paul goes on in that 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans: *"That one sin led to punishment. But God's gift (of Jesus) made it possible for us to be acceptable to him, even though we have sinned many times. Death ruled like a king because Adam had sinned. But that cannot compare with what Jesus Christ has done. God has been so kind to us, and he has accepted us because of Jesus. And so we will live and rule like kings.*

*"Everyone was going to be punished because Adam sinned. But because of the good thing that Christ has done, God accepts us and gives us the gift of life. Adam disobeyed and caused many others to be sinners. But Jesus obeyed him and will make many people acceptable to God.*

***“The Law came, so that the full power of sin could be seen. Yet where sin was powerful, God’s kindness was even more powerful. Sin ruled by means of death. But God’s kindness now rules, and God has accepted us because of Jesus Christ our Lord. This means that we will have eternal life” (16-21).***