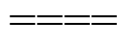


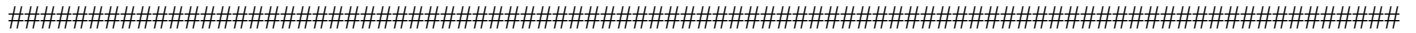
IF YOU WILL OBEY

Lev. 26:3 and Deu 28:1



IF YOU WILL NOT OBEY

Lev. 26:14 and Deu. 28:15



In the Nov/Dec Prove All Things magazine, Elder letter, we were encouraged to read two chapters: Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. Today, we are closer to have these blessings taken away, and the curses are about to start.

In God's Word, the word IF is a question to us. "If ye walk in My statutes, and keep My commandments, and do them" (Lev 26:3). And in Deu. 28, He says, "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God" (Deu 28:1-2).

But, just like Israel of old, we the people of the United States and the whole world has gone away from God, the Father and Jesus, the Christ. As we look into the news of this whole world, we see the chaos that is going on. No one wants to do what God has required of them, so the curses are soon to start.

In Lev.26, we see God's response to our evil ways. "But if ye will not hearken unto Me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise My statutes, or if your soul abhor My judgments, so that ye will not do all My commandments, but that ye break My covenant (Lev 26:14-15). More warnings are given in Deut. 28, "And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee" (Deut 28:14-15).

Most do not believe that great trouble is coming to the whole world. We have been told a great tribulation is coming upon the whole world! Not just the United States! We, the United States of America has been the most blessed nation on this earth. Yet, we see the whining of the young people, the most spoiled of all nations, wanting to go the way of socialism!

The servant of our God, in the book of Daniel prophesied, "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which stands for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book" (Daniel 12:1).

Jesus, encouraged His disciple in Matthew 24, not to be deceived. "And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matt 24:4-5). Many today, are teaching Jesus, the Christ, but they are not teaching to obey what He taught. Christ taught obedience to the coming Kingdom of God. The gospel is teaching the obedience to God's coming kingdom. Obedience builds the character needed to be in God's family! To live and rule with Him.

Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21, all teach the great tribulation, just as Daniel prophesied. Matt 24:21-22, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Mark 13:19-20, "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days." Luke 21:22, "For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled."

Going back to Leviticus 26. The gifts and punishment chapter, verse 3 says, "If ye walk in My statutes, and keep My commandments, and do them." God's next words were, "Then I will give you....." (Lev. 26:4).

Leviticus 26:3 was the only one which asked If you obey! In verses 4-12, God tells them what He will give to them. Following that, verses 14 to 39 God says, "But if ye will not hearken unto Me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise My statutes, or if your soul abhor My judgments, so that ye will not do all My commandments, but that ye break My covenant" (Lev 26:14-15). "If you will not," is found 9 times in Leviticus 26. Then God say "I will" punish you 24 times in verses 14 through 39. Several scriptures brings out more punishment Israel will receive. (1). Lev 26:18, "And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins." (2). Lev 26:21, "And if ye walk contrary unto Me, and will not hearken unto Me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins." (3). Lev 26:23-24, "And if ye will not be reformed by Me by these things, but will walk contrary unto Me; Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins." (4). Lev 26:27-28, "And if ye will not for all this hearken unto Me, but walk contrary unto Me; Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins."

Because we have a very loving, merciful God, He will forgive and change our curses to blessings if we repent and turn to Him. Verses 40-45 says, "If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against Me, and that also they have walked contrary unto Me. And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: Then will I remember My covenant with Jacob, and also My covenant with Isaac, and also My covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land."

Now the warnings of Deu. 28. "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God" (Deut 28:1-2). Next comes the blessings. Verses 3 through 13 shows all the blessings God will give to them if the hearken—meaning listen and obey Him. Another big IF.

Verses 14- 68, shows all the curses God will give them for not obeying His words. "And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee" (Deut 28:14-15).

As God's called out ones, we are to warn the world of the coming punishment for dis-obedience of God's Word. God the Father and Jesus, the Christ are the final authority for all humanity!

Moses said to the children of Israel, "And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee, And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul" (Deut 30:1-2). In verses 19-20, Moses said, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou may love the LORD thy God, and that thou may obey His voice, and that thou may cleave unto Him: for He is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou may dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them" (Deut 30:19-20).

Our Father and Jesus Christ are loving God's who want the best for all who come to Them in a humble and repentant attitude! 📖

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