

Leviticus & Hebrews: The Necessity of the Cross

Lesson 18: Loved Through the Cross

Key Verse: *“Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins...“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, ~Leviticus 26.21, 40-41*

Evicting someone is difficult. While based on one party's illegal breaking of a legal contract, the difficulty isn't found in the law. Rather, it's found in knowing that someone will be subject to homelessness, loss of personal property, and loss of dignity. It is also maddening that people enter a legal contract and then fail to abide by their binding guarantees, especially when the landlord has faithfully upheld their responsibilities. Enforcing the legal consequences of breaking a lease is an appropriately **wrathful** response. In fact, a landlord who refuses to uphold such wrath is disrespectful and dismissive of the neighbors who faithfully pay rent and take care of the leased property with diligence and excellence. Such a landlord is unfit and unjust. Embedded in the legal process of eviction are several opportunities for the lease violators to approach the landlord in **repentance**. Repentance is a legally protected opportunity!!! An excellent landlord will pursue, encourage, and use the law to compel repentance. But some reject this abundance of opportunity and thus are forced out of the landlord's protection through legal eviction. Thanks be to our King whose justified wrath against sin has pursued legal protections for repentance through the sacrifice of His own Son, Jesus.

God of Jacob, Isaac, Abraham, and Jesus, Thank You for loving all Your people by warning of the consequences of our disobedience. Thank You for providing our eternal blessing of Your Presence in us through Your Son, Jesus. Thank You for walking alongside us as we suffer the consequences of our disobedience as well as the consequences of sin's progressive ruin of Your creation. Reveal to us Your unchanging nature and love for us in this week's study. Increase our faith so that we have an awesome fear of You, rooted in the preserving work of Jesus, our Savior.

Leviticus 26.1-46 “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.

² You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

³ “If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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.

⁶ I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And I will remove harmful beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land.

⁷ You shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. ⁸ Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten thousand, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

⁹ I will turn to you and make you fruitful and multiply you and will confirm my covenant with you. ¹⁰ You shall eat old store long kept, and you shall clear out the old to make way for the new.

¹¹ I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. ¹² And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

¹³ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

¹⁴ “But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, ¹⁵ 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,

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins, ¹⁹ and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. ²⁰ And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.

²¹ “Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins. ²² And I will let loose the wild beasts against you, which shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock and make you few in number, so that your roads shall be deserted.

²³ “And if by this discipline you are not turned to me but walk contrary to me, ²⁴ then I also will walk contrary to you, and I myself will strike you sevenfold for your sins. ²⁵ And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute vengeance for the covenant. And if you gather within your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

²⁶ When I break your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven and shall dole out your bread again by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.

²⁷ “But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me, ²⁸ then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins. ²⁹ You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters.

³⁰ And I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars and cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your idols, and my soul will abhor you.

³¹ And I will lay your cities waste and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your pleasing aromas. ³² And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it.

³³ And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.

³⁴ “Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate, while you are in your enemies' land; then the land shall rest, and enjoy its Sabbaths. ³⁵ As long as it lies desolate it shall have rest, the rest that it did not have on your Sabbaths when you were dwelling in it.

³⁶ And as for those of you who are left, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a driven leaf shall put them to flight, and they shall flee as one flees from the sword, and they shall fall when none pursues.

³⁷ They shall stumble over one another, as if to escape a sword, though none pursues. And you shall have no power to stand before your enemies. ³⁸ And you shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

³⁹ 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.

⁴⁰ “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, ⁴¹ 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, ⁴² 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.

⁴³ But the land shall be abandoned by them and enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them, and they shall make amends for their iniquity, because they spurned my rules and their soul abhorred my statutes.

⁴⁴ Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them, for I am the LORD their God. ⁴⁵ But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.”

⁴⁶ These are the statutes and rules and laws that the LORD made between himself and the people of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai.

Diamonds: The aim of eviction law is to protect tenants from traps and schemes of an evil landlord. Likewise, the purpose of God's blessings and curses is to protect His people from falling into traps and schemes set by Satan and sin's rule in their heart. Note that scholars agree with the translation of the words “blessing” and “curses”. However, they are clear about the importance of defining these two terms within historical context:

- “Blessings”: God's blessings in the Old Testament include material welfare, such as crops and personal and

national safety. However, these gracious gifts from God are promised with the expected effect of presence with God. God's presence in all of history and time transcends material welfare or expectations of wealth. God's own Son, Jesus, contradicts any gospel that diminishes presence with God as the ultimate blessing from God. Both God and Jesus acknowledge humanity's basic needs, even the basic needs of His creation (Matthew 6.11, 25.30-33; Luke 9.10-17). However, their consistent teaching is that presence with God is God's blessing, and that suffering is not an accurate indicator of God's blessing! Our pursuit is holiness through our heart and mind's singular devotion to Him alone as God in our every action, every thought, every circumstance, every business transaction, until we see Him face-to-face (Leviticus 11.45, 20.26; Matthew 5.1-16).

1. List out the blessings secured in God from Leviticus 26.3-11. As you list them, rephrase them in your own words, allowing for you to better understand God's blessings. Freely use additional translations to help you rephrase and understand God's blessings in this passage:
- "Curses": a more accurate understanding is the word "discipline". While scholars agree the translation is accurate, the historical context of 2025 leads us to consider this word in light of magical, mystical, and occult-like applications. Instead, God's curses are more like a "Performance Improvement Plan" from an employer's Human Resources department! The strategy isn't termination but instead becoming realigned and re-focused on God's mission for His people: personal holiness building to national holiness revealing them as a light unto the nations, bringing them under His Sovereign rule alongside them (Genesis 18.17-18; Isaiah 49.6; Matthew 28.19; Revelation 7.9-10).
2. As you read through God's discipline strategy in Leviticus 26.16-39, highlight God's "I will" statements. Noticing their progression towards exile, which of God's discipline strategies do you think would cause you to beg for mercy, even to repentance? (Lesson Writer's note: We all would love to believe the first curse would cause us to beg for mercy and repent. However, my personal history with Christ reveals that I would have fought Him well into the curses closer to verses 36-38!)
 3. Why do you think God has focused more on His discipline strategy than His blessings? Ponder this in light of every time you have seen God reveal your worth and the worth of His people through the hardships and gifts we have studied throughout both Hebrews and Leviticus (Lesson 2, Q9; Lesson 13, Q2, Q4, and Q6; Lesson 16, Q9—this is not exhaustive! Throughout this year you have identified God's value in *many* questions whose phrasing isn't as direct as the ones listed above. If you have time, peruse all your lessons to remember the many ways God has revealed your value to Him.)

The Sinai covenant was established by God at Mount Sinai (Leviticus 7.37-38, 26.46). It includes the Ten Commandments from Exodus, laws commanded in Deuteronomy, as well as the rites and laws we have studied this year in Leviticus (Exodus 19.10-25, 20.18-21; Deuteronomy 4.11-12). The Sinai covenant is conditional, meaning that His people's actions and attitudes have consequences: blessings of God's provision and presence for obedience and single-hearted devotion to God, or discipline from God gradually escalating to exile from His provision (the land) and His presence. This simple assessment is the mirror image of the dynamic relationship God had with His creation in Genesis. There, Adam and Eve were also provided with a choice: single-hearted obedience to God securing presence with God or punishing exile from God and His land as discipline for disobedience.

4. Review your answer to Question 3 from Lesson 1, "Worship at the Cross" (see "pdf" at this link: [Lesson 1 as pdf](#)). How do you think God feels about having to repeat history in response to their rebellion? How does

No; while God will vindicate His dominion as Governor of the universe, He will not be vindictive.”²

“However, God in His Love has appointed the Lord Jesus Christ to stand in the place of sinners to bear their sin, guilt, and punishment and thereby satisfy God’s wrath on their behalf (Isaiah 53.4-11; John 1.29)...Christ had to bear the outpouring of God’s unmitigated wrath against sin in order to satisfy justice completely” (2 Corinthians 5.21; Galatians 3.13; 1 Peter 2.24).

“Both the Levitical sacrifices (Leviticus 1.3-4) as epitomized in the Day of Atonement and the rite of Passover portray the sacrificial work of the Lord Jesus Christ (Exodus 12.24-27)...Just as the blood of the slain lamb protected Israel from the execution of God’s judgment, so also the blood of the slain Lamb, Jesus, protects His people from the Father’s wrath against their sin” (Romans 5.9, 8.1; Ephesians 2.3-5; 1 Corinthians 5.7; 1 Thessalonians 1.10).

When the judgment of eviction is given by the judge, the evicted tenants have the option of appealing or seeking a reversing of the judgment. However, to do so comes at a cost: one full month of rent. Without paying the court (who gives it to the landlord) one month of rent in full, the evicted tenant has no ability to appeal the judge’s ruling. As such, the eviction stands and the tenant must remove all their possessions and themselves from the residence by the end of the 5th day from the judgment (weekends included in the 5-day count).

7. How is Jesus the payment for your appeal process before your Judge according to Hebrews 9.1-10.23?

However, if at the end of the 5-day count for application of an appeal the resident has not removed their possessions and/or themselves, the landlord files a “writ of possession”. This legal document is delivered by the court’s officer to the now illegal resident of the home, posting it clearly. This document informs the resident that they have 24 hours to remove themselves and their possessions. At the 24th hour, the court’s officer and the landlord will return and remove both the illegal resident and their possessions *on that day!*

8. God’s progressively worsening discipline in Leviticus 26.16-39 continues throughout history, finishing with the consequences for those who “refuse Him who is speaking” in Hebrews 12.25-29. Jesus is clear that once the appeals process runs out, eviction, or eternal separation from Him, will take place (Luke 16.19-31). Where are you in the appeals process? Has Jesus paid for your appeal, reversing God’s judgment of hell and torment? Are you still struggling with paying for the appeal with your own currency of works, trying harder to be perfect, or self-conflagration under the false promise that your suffering will cover the cost of your sins?

Doctrine: Repentance~ (Leviticus 26.40-42) “Repentance is a response to God’s gracious call to salvation. It includes a genuine sorrow for one’s sin (Luke 5.1-11), and turning away from one’s sin toward Christ (Acts 26.15-20), and a life that reflects lasting change and transformation (Psalm 119.57-60). It is the human counterpart to God’s work of regeneration; in other words, the human side of our conversion.”³

Repentance is a preparation for “God’s kingdom to expand” into God’s people on earth. The purpose of repentance is cleansing to allow “God’s presence to come down and invade” into the lives of His people.⁴

As mentioned in this lesson introduction, embedded in the legal process of eviction are several opportunities for the lease violators to approach the landlord in repentance. Repentance is a legally protected opportunity!!! An excellent landlord will

²AW Pink

³ The Gospel Project, *The 99 Essential Doctrines: #67 Repentance*, Lifeway Christian Resources (2018)

⁴ Gladd, Benjamin, *Help Me Teach the Bible, Benjamin Gladd on Teaching Luke*, The Gospel Coalition (April 1, 2020)

pursue, encourage, and use the law to compel repentance.

9. Likewise, God has embedded an opportunity for repentance at any point in Leviticus 26.40-45. Rather than ignoring the cost of the people's disobedience, God instead walks with His people through the justified consequences of their disobedience (26.43-44). How does God comfort His repentant people while they still suffer the consequences for their disobedience? How does Hebrews 12.5-11 provide you with the same comfort?

Your Scripture-Soaked Prayer:

Lecture Outline:

Aim: A disciplined life reaps God's blessings.

- I. Covenant Rewards (Lev 26.1-13) **T1:** God's great love is lavished upon every believer through His spiritual blessings.
 - a. Which specific spiritual blessing is most meaningful to you?
 - b. What heart change might you need to experience the impact of this blessing now?
- II. Covenant Rebellion (Lev 26.14-39) **T2:** God's tough love allows the consequences of our sin to restore us and refine us.
 - a. How is God using tough love in your life?
 - b. Where or how is He disciplining you by allowing you to experience the consequences of your sin? What is your response?
- III. Covenant Remembered (Lev 26.40-46) **T3:** God's great love motivates Him to act on behalf of all who return to Him in repentance.
 - a. How are you responding to God's discipline? With more rebellion? Or with repentance?

Mathews, Kenneth A., *Leviticus: Holy God, Holy People*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009) pp. 237-246

MacArthur, J. & Mayhue, R., *Biblical Doctrine*, A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2017) pp. 303, 458-459, 522-523

Morales, L. Michael, *Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord?*, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015) pp.15-107, 185-220

Sklar, Jay, *Leviticus*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014) pp. .313-325