



Lifted Up
John 12:27-36

John 12:27-36

27 "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

28 Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

29 Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him."

30 Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake.

31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

34 The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"

35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.

36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

NKJV

John 12:32-33

32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

33 This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

Why was it so important that Jesus died this manner of death?

Galatians 3:13

Christ has 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"),

NKJV

What is a curse from God?

The Hebrew terms in the Old Testament where you find the word "cursed"

— *alah, meerah, qelalah* - those Hebrew terms all mean the very same thing, devoted to doom, devoted to destruction.

A curse from God is solemn promise by God that He is going to use His power to administer justice according to His righteous standards.

How does God feel about cursing people?

God does not delight in cursing the wicked.

Ezekiel 18:23

23 Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord God, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?"

NKJV

1 Timothy 2:3-4

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

NKJV

Why does God curse the wicked?

God is just and because He is just, He judges the world according to His righteous standards. His judgements are called curses. God has cursed sin and the wicked. He has promised that one day He will destroy sin with all the wicked. They are doomed to everlasting destruction.

What is the most severe curse upon the wicked?

Daniel 12:2

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and **everlasting** contempt. (ESV)

Jesus called this place of everlasting contempt Gehenna and Hades. Of all the prophets in the bible, Jesus gave the most warnings about this curse and He described the conditions in the greatest detail.

John 5:28-29

28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

29 and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

NKJV

Jesus described the environment of this eternal place of condemnation as a place of unquenchable fire that causes everlasting physical and emotional torment.

What are other examples of God's curses in the bible?

Before the fall of man, God gave Adam and Eve a law and He told them that He would curse them if they sinned.

Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

NKJV

They sinned, and God cursed them.

Genesis 3:16-20

16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

NKJV

Genesis 3:22-24

22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" —

23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

NKJV

Another example of God cursing someone is in the story of Cain and Abel. Cain sinned, and God cursed Cain.

Genesis 4:11-12

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

12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."
NKJV

Another example of God cursing someone is in the story of the Noah. Mankind was wicked. The wicked are more than sinners. The wicked perpetrate wickedness. God cursed mankind.

Genesis 6:5-7

5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

7 So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."
NKJV

Another example of God cursing someone is in the laws of Israel. If Israel obeyed God, He promised them blessings. If they sinned, He promised He would curse them.

Deuteronomy 28:15

15 "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

NKJV

When God established the government of Israel, He began to use human agency to administer His curses according to His righteous standards.

In His laws to Israel, if a Jew committed a crime that was worthy of capital punishment, they were stoned. Then their dead bodies would be tied to a pole or on a tree.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

22 "If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree,

23 his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

NKJV

Joshua 8:29

29 And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until evening. And as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his corpse down from the tree, cast it at the entrance of the gate of the city, and raise over it a great heap of stones that remains to this day.

NKJV

Joshua 10:26-27

26 And afterward Joshua struck them and killed them, and hanged them on five trees; and they were hanging on the trees until evening.

27 So it was at the time of the going down of the sun that Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees, cast them into the cave where they had been hidden, and laid large stones against the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

NKJV

Why were the wicked hung upon a tree or a pole?

To the Jews, having your body hung on a tree or a pole was a sign that you were not just suffering the judgment of men, but the judgment of God.

To the Jews, being hung on a tree was a public display of God's curse.

Why was Jesus lifted up?

It was no accident that Jesus was lifted-up on a tree! It was God's plan. It was a sign to the Jews that Jesus was cursed by God.

What the Jews did not understand at the time of Jesus's death was that Jesus was cursed by God for them to save them from the curse of God.

According to God's righteous standards, Jesus, the son of man, was chosen to represent the Jews and all mankind. He was to experience God's curse for sin to save mankind from the curse of sin. That is why Paul said...

Galatians 3:13

13 Christ has 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"),

NKJV

When Jesus said, if I am lifted up, He was literally saying, if I am cursed by my heavenly Father, I will draw all people to myself. He knew that when people understood God's curse for sin and they believed He suffered that curse for them, they would be drawn to follow Him.

He was right. Jesus not only prophesied his death and his manner of death. He prophesied the impact that His manner of death would have on all people's. Jesus is the founder of Christianity. He has the largest group of followers in world history.

It is a great thing for someone to die for me. It shows how much they love me.

It is a greater thing for someone to be cursed by God for me; to allow themselves to suffer the curse I deserve; to bear that God's curse for me; and to feel both the physical and emotional pain of God's curse for me.

To become the curse for sin....

When Jesus hung on the cross He was charged and pronounced guilty for every sin mankind has ever committed and he suffered the curse for every sin mankind deserved.

- He suffered death as Adam and Eve suffered death.
- He suffered the physical pain of sin as Adam and Eve suffered the physical pain of sin.
- He suffered separation from God the Father as Adam and Eve were separated from the presence of God in the garden.
- He suffered separation from those he loved and became a fugitive and vagabond as Cain became a fugitive and a vagabond for murdering Able.
- He suffered the emotional terror of asphyxiation that those cursed in the flood suffered.
- He suffered the disappointment that Moses suffered when he was not allowed to enter the promised land.
- He suffered the humiliation of being made subject to his enemies even as Israel suffered.
- He suffered the pain and debilitation that Israel suffered from disease, hunger, thirst, and nakedness.
- He suffered the abandonment and betrayal of his closest friends even as Israel suffered the loss of their family and friends.
- He suffered the loss of everything of value to him in this world, even as Israel suffered.
- He suffered the fear that Israel suffered when they were carried to other lands.

Whatever curse we can find in the bible, Jesus experienced it on the cross.

In just a few hours, Jesus identified with every sinner and every curse for sin. Because Jesus was God, His suffering satisfied God's wrath against sin and mankind. It is no longer necessary for anyone to suffer God's curse on sin. He will save anyone who believes on Jesus.

If you will believe Jesus is God and that He became a curse for you and died for you, you will be saved from the curse of sin.

If you do not believe Jesus became a curse for you, you are still condemned to suffer the curse of sin.

Invitation

Will you believe upon Jesus? If you will, be baptized in water.

One of the main signs that you believe upon Jesus, is that you share your faith with others. If you had a cure for cancer, wouldn't you share it. You have the cure for the curse of sin.

It takes boldness to share Jesus with others.

When the early church needed boldness, they prayed. They prayed for boldness and I am sure they prayed for God to prepare the people that were on their hearts.

Will you pray for the lost and for boldness?