

Witchcraft Curses

What are witchcraft curses and how can they affect us? Witchcraft is sorcery, and it means to whisper a spell, enchant or practice magic. The Greek word for witchcraft is *pharmakeia*, and it is where we get the English word pharmacy. This word also means deceptions and seductions in idolatry, poisoning, and the use of administering drugs. Because we are talking about witchcraft curses, we will focus on the definition meaning of sorcery such as casting spells, chanting or practicing magic.

The word *curse* is defined in the 1828 Noah's Webster Dictionary as *to speak evil of; to utter a wish of evil against one; to imprecate evil upon; to call for mischief or injury to fall upon; to injure; to subject to evil; to vex, harass or torment with great calamities.*

"An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever, because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you (Deuteronomy 23:3-5).

I have used the verses in Deuteronomy 23 to show how Balaam was hired to cast a curse on God's people, but God did not allow the curse and instead blessed them. This is not always the case. Let's take a look at the following words taken from Isaiah chapter 47. I have underlined the implications of witchcraft.

⁹*But these **two things shall come to you** In a moment, in one day: **The loss of children, and widowhood.** They shall come upon you in their fullness Because of the multitude of your sorceries, For the great abundance of your enchantments. ¹⁰*"For you have trusted in your wickedness; You have said, 'No one sees me'; Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; And you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one else besides me.'* ¹¹*Therefore evil shall come upon you; You shall not know from where it arises. And trouble shall fall upon you; You will not be able to put it off. And desolation shall come upon you suddenly, [Which] you shall not know (Isaiah 47:9-11).**

Curses spoken to us or over us by those who practice witchcraft can have grave consequences if the devil can find an opening in our lives to put this curse to effect. Curses such as hexes, vexes, spells, chants, incantations and the likes are accomplished by a person conjuring up a demon and sending it our way to harm. For example, an individual who practices voodoo will curse an item that represents that person usually using a person's personal belongings such as a hairbrush or hair itself; they then send a demon out to fulfill the curse.

In Isaiah 47:9 -11 Isaiah is prophesying judgment because of the people's sins of witchcraft sorcery. There were consequences to the people of Babylon trusting in abominations such as

witchcraft, enchantments, astrologers and the likes. These people put themselves under a curse; they had been warned not to seek after these things and did so anyway.

We spoke earlier on spiritual house cleaning and to add to those things we also need to get rid of things that are accursed. When we were not walking with the Lord or were ignorant of the consequences, we may have brought items into our homes that were accursed. To keep the enemy from finding a place in our lives, we should get rid of any and all hidden things. If you are not sure about an object in your home but feel like it may be something that you shouldn't have then take it outside, pray over your home and see if the atmosphere clears up, if it does then you probably should get rid of that item.

"You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. 26" Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing (Deuteronomy 7:25-26).

Like a flitting sparrow or a fluttering swallow, an undeserved curse goes nowhere (Proverbs 26:2 HSCB).

I have heard this verse used countless times to defend a person's theology that we cannot be cursed without a cause; however, I would say that almost everyone has a reason to be cursed. We only need to appropriate the blood of Jesus Christ, and the curse becomes causeless!

Curses as a Result of Personal Sin

Some curses result as a consequence of our sin. From the beginning of man, God taught us, as His children that there would be consequences if we sin; if we disobeyed Him. We all know the story of Adam and Eve when they were told not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they did, and the consequences ensued! To gain a better understanding of God's word on curses and blessings I encourage you to read all of Deuteronomy chapters 27 and 28.

When we were growing up, we most likely lived in an environment where we had rules and those rules, if broken, had consequences. When Mike and I were raising our son, we would often have discussions whereby we would give him knowledge of both sides of a possible scenario. For instance, if he wanted to "hang out" somewhere that we knew was probably a place of teenage mischief we would show him on one hand what wrong could come out of his going and what good (if any). We would then ask him to choose rightly, sometimes he did and sometimes he did not. Either way, he learned that life had consequences to his actions. If He says to do something or refrain from something it is because He is wise and knows the outcome. We would be wise to heed His word!

"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: (Deuteronomy 28:15).

and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you" (Exodus 15:26).

Because sin gives place to the devil and opens the door to allow a curse we should not sin when we are angry. As I was growing up, I had a lot of anger issues, and long into my adult years. When I became a born-again believer, I always felt guilty because I thought anger was a sin until I read the following words "*Be angry, and do not sin*": *do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil (Ephesians 4:26-27)*. After gaining this Scriptural understanding, I was able to evaluate my anger in light of the truth. Instead of feeling guilty that I was angry I learned how to *be self-controlled* not lash out at others because of anger. It always helps to have Gods word tucked into our hearts.