

ARE YOU UNDER A GENERATIONAL CURSE?

BIBLE STUDY BY JAMIE MCNAB 17/10/15

Today we have a life to lead ... and we want to please God. We should be committing to living God's way. Being fruitful in every good work. We should be different from those around us. It's not always easy.

But ... what if we are handicapped because of some external cause that is working against us? Strangely ... quite a lot of church people do believe that we are affected by the sins of our forefathers. The thinking is ... that certain of our forefathers ... parents, grandparents or great grandparents are the cause of the problems we have. Perhaps diabetes, cerebral palsy, cancer, alcohol addiction or other addictions, un-controlled anger ... physical or spiritual ... sins of our forefathers? A pattern of financial problems ... are they because of the sins of our forefathers?

A generational curse? Does that mean that my preparation for God's Kingdom is handicapped and thwarted because of something I didn't do?? Do we need special deliverance?? A special deliverance ministry? Is that true or is that false?

Here are some books from people that do believe that we are affected by the sins of our forefathers:

Derek Prince ... Blessings or Curse ... you can choose?

Neil Anderson ... The Bondage Breaker ... 7 steps to freedom ... to renounce the sins of your ancestors

Marilyn Hickey ... Breaking Generational Curses ... if a sin is repeatedly committed ... it becomes an iniquity ... it is passed down through the bloodline. You have to be cleansed or else your bloodline is polluted.

So ... are we suffering from the consequences of the "sins of our forefathers"? Do we need a deliverance ministry? Or ... can we "do it ourselves"? It's not enough to be baptised. Is this true? Do we need to take special action to be released. Let's see.

Exodus 20:1-6

The Ten Commandments ... The Covenant

And God spoke all these words, saying:

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

"You shall have no other gods before Me.

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. **(does this mean that we are under the curses of our past family?)**

Exodus 34:5-7

Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him (Moses) there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed before him (Moses) and proclaimed, **"The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."** (Is God going to punish the children ... the grandchildren?)

The Jews ... and even many of the disciples believed that they were under generational curses.

John 9:1-4

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man **or his parents, that he was born blind?"**

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. (Add a full stop after the word, "sinned"). I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

Exodus 20:4-6

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;
you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Are there any believers who hate God? How many believers hate God?
How many commit idolatry? (It is feasible that 3 or 4 generations can be alive at the same time. Are they all doing the same thing?
Committing idolatry? Hating God).

Actually ... in a lot of cases ... families live like each other. They live the same way ... like father, like son ... and they reap the consequences.

However ... it's not purely that explanation. It says that God will curse them. But let's look at some cases where the parents sinned ... but God blessed the children. It's easy to find some of these examples in the scriptures.

Numbers 14:20-31

Then the Lord said: "I have pardoned, according to your word; but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord— because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. (they sinned ... and they are going to reap the consequences)
But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has

followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea."

And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. Say to them, 'As I live,' says the Lord, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: (this generation were condemned to death) The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.

Here's a big example where the people sinned ... but ... the children came into the Promised Land. So that's not a generational sin. They actually inherited the Land of Promise. They enjoyed peace and prosperity. They were blessed.

It's not God's idea or philosophy to pass on generational sins ... it is His will that people pay for their own sins. God doesn't pass on generational sins.

Deuteronomy 24:16

"Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.

There is no way a child should be sinned for the sins of their father. Why would God punish anyone else other than the person who is guilty?

Jeremiah 31:29-30

In those days they shall say no more: (in the coming Kingdom)
'The fathers have eaten sour grapes,

And the children's teeth are set on edge.'

But every one shall die for his own iniquity; every man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth shall be set on edge. (The proverb will be corrected)

Every man, every woman ... pays the penalty for their own sins.

Ezekiel 18:1-9

The word of the Lord came to me again, saying, "What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying:

'The fathers have eaten sour grapes,

And the children's teeth are set on edge'?

"As I live," says the Lord God, "you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel. (God doesn't like it ... because it is fault)

"Behold, all souls are Mine;

The soul of the father

As well as the soul of the son is Mine;

The soul who sins shall die.

But if a man is just

And does what is lawful and right;

If he has not eaten on the mountains,

Nor lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel,

Nor defiled his neighbour's wife,

Nor approached a woman during her impurity;

If he has not oppressed anyone,

But has restored to the debtor his pledge;

Has robbed no one by violence,

But has given his bread to the hungry

And covered the naked with clothing;

If he has not exacted usury

Nor taken any increase,

But has withdrawn his hand from iniquity

And executed true judgment between man and man;

If he has walked in My statutes

And kept My judgments faithfully—

He is just;

He shall surely live!"

Says the Lord God.

Ezekiel 18:10-12

"If he begets a son who is a robber
Or a shedder of blood,
Who does any of these things
And does none of those duties,
But has eaten on the mountains
Or defiled his neighbour's wife;
If he has oppressed the poor and needy,
Robbed by violence,
Not restored the pledge,
Lifted his eyes to the idols,
Or committed abomination; **If he has exacted usury**
Or taken increase—

Shall he then live?

He shall not live!

If he has done any of these abominations,

He shall surely die;

His blood shall be upon him.

"If, however, he begets a son
Who sees all the sins which his father has done,
And considers but does not do likewise;
Who has not eaten on the mountains,
Nor lifted his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel,
Nor defiled his neighbour's wife;
Has not oppressed anyone,
Nor withheld a pledge,
Nor robbed by violence,
But has given his bread to the hungry
And covered the naked with clothing;
Who has withdrawn his hand from the poor
And not received usury or increase,
But has executed My judgments
And walked in My statutes—

He shall not die for the iniquity of his father;

He shall surely live! (It's what we do that is counted)

"As for his father,

Because he cruelly oppressed,

Robbed his brother by violence,

And did what is not good among his people,

Behold, he shall die for his iniquity.

Ezekiel 18:19-31

"Yet you say, 'Why should the son not bear the guilt of the father?'

Because the son has done what is lawful and right, and has kept all My statutes and observed them, he shall surely live. The soul who sins shall die.

The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

"But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. 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?

"But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die.

"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair?

When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' O house of

Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord God. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel?

Each person will shoulder their own responsibility for their sins.

Ezekiel 18:32

For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord God. "Therefore turn and live!" (Turn away from wickedness and choose life --- that is God's desire ... showing His love)

The Thinking Atheist website says there is a Bible inconsistency in Ezekiel 18:20 ... a contradiction in Jeremiah 16:9-10. Is there?? No!!

Jeremiah 16:9-10

For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will cause to cease from this place, before your eyes and in your days, the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride.

"And it shall be, when you show this people all these words, and they say to you, 'Why has the Lord pronounced all this great disaster against us? Or what is our iniquity? Or what is our sin that we have committed against the Lord our God?' (Why is God doing this to us?)

Jeremiah 16:11-13

then you shall say to them, 'Because your fathers have forsaken Me,' says the Lord; 'they have walked after other gods and have served them and worshiped them, and have forsaken Me and not kept My law. (The thinking Atheist says this is the contradiction ... But ... not so.

They were worse than their fathers!!) And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, each one follows the dictates

of his own evil heart, so that no one listens to Me. Therefore I will cast you out of this land into a land that you do not know, neither you nor your fathers; and there you shall serve other gods day and night, where I will not show you favour.'

It's not a generational curse ... it's because they are doing WORSE than their fathers!!

Jeremiah 32:17-18

"Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. You show lovingkindness to thousands, and **repay the iniquity (Hebrew: Avon) of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them**—the Great, the Mighty God, whose name is the Lord of hosts. (**Is this the generational curse popping up again? No!**) Continue reading:

Jeremiah 32:19

You are great in counsel and mighty in work, for Your eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, **to give everyone according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings.**

Sin is most commonly translated from the Hebrew ... **Chatta-ah** ... to miss the mark ... an act ... **a wrong act**

Iniquity ... Hebrew: **Avon** ... twisted ... crooked ... or perverse spirit ... perverse attitude ... **evil inclination**

Transgression ... Hebrew: **Pesha** ... rebellion

Psalm 32:5

I acknowledged my sin (**chatta-ah**) to You,
And my iniquity (**Avon**) I have not hidden.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions (**Pesha**) to the Lord,"
And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Iniquity ... evil inclination ... evil mind ... evil heart ... can be passed down in families ... can be passed down in generations. It's not automatic though.

Exodus 34:5-7

Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him (Moses) there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed before him (Moses) and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, **forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin**, by no means clearing the guilty, **visiting the iniquity (Avon) of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.**"

God does not visit sins or transgressions on future generations ... but evil inclinations ... evil mind-set of their parents ... that brings judgment on them. The soul that sins shall die but the souls that do not sin ... shall live. It's a personal thing.

Would believers have a problem ... would we need a deliverance ministry?

Absolutely NOT!!

Isaiah 53:3-6

He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. (**Sorrows = pains**
Grieves = sicknesses)

And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

But **He was wounded for our transgressions, (Pesa)**

He was bruised for our iniquities; (Avon) (JPS "SURELY OUR DISEASES HE DID BEAR; AND OUR PAINS HE CARRIED")

The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;

And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity (Avon) of us all.

Jesus took all ... took everything ... all the consequences of our sins.

Isaiah 53:12

Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
Because He poured out His soul unto death,
And He was numbered with the transgressors,
And He bore the sin (Chet)of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors. (Pesha)

Galatians 3:10-14

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, (**temporary covenant written on the animal skins**) to do them." But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "**the just shall live by faith.**" Yet the law is not of faith, but "**the man who does them shall live by them.**"

Christ has redeemed us (believers) from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), **that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Jesus bore our sins, transgressions, iniquities ... we have been redeemed us from any curse)**

John 8:30-32

As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.
Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "**If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**"

We don't have any generational curses hanging over us.

John 8:34-36

Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. **Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**

If we accept Jesus as our Saviour ... We are completely free!!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (If ... you are IN CHRIST)

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:1 AMPLIFIED BIBLE

THEREFORE, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.

We are making our own choices. We can choose the right way. We don't have any generational curses on us. No condemnation! We are set free of any curses.

So ...

1. I don't believe in any generational curses despite popular views
2. If there was any truth in it ... believers are redeemed anyway.
3. There is no need for any Deliverance Ministry.