

When Our Blessings Become A Curse!

2 Kings 18:1-4

1

When Our Blessings Become A Curse!

Fact: The Bible is filled with examples of people who turned their blessings into a curse!

Consider the serpent of brass. 2 Kings 18:1-4

- ▶ Hezekiah a good king; he removed the high places, images, and even the brazen serpent.
 - The brazen serpent had been a blessing in the time of Moses. Numbers 21:4-9
 - Now, years later, it had become an object of worship.
 - Good things perverted and misused often become a curse instead of a blessing!

2

When Our Blessings Become A Curse!

Consider the warning in Deuteronomy 6:10-15!

- ▶ At the appointed time Israel would enter the promise land. Joshua 3
- ▶ They would receive houses they had not built, vineyards they had not planted. Deuteronomy 6:11
- ▶ At which time they would encounter the danger of forgetting the God of heaven, and begin worshiping the gods of the Canaanites, thereby turning their blessings into a curse!
- ▶ We need to learn from their mistakes! Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6.

3

When Our Blessings Become A Curse!

Consider Absalom.

- ▶ Impressive outward appearance. 2 Samuel 14:25
- ▶ Impressive leadership abilities. – he *“stole the hearts of the men of Israel”* 2 Samuel 15:3-6
- ▶ Absalom became a traitor!
 - Sought to wrest the kingdom from his father.
 - Responsible for the warfare which followed. 20,000 killed. 2 Samuel 18:6-8
 - He came to a dishonorable and untimely end. 2 Samuel 18:9-14,17.
- ▶ **Absalom turned his blessings into a curse!**

4

When Our Blessings Become A Curse!

Consider Solomon! 1 Kings 3:9-13

- ▶ Great wisdom. 1 Kings 3:16ff
- ▶ Great wealth. 1 Kings 10:21, 27
- ▶ The son of a king. 2 Samuel 12:24
- ▶ A great builder! 1 Kings 10:1,7.
- ▶ But he *“loved many foreign women”* who *“turned away his heart.”* 1 Kings 11:1-4.
- ▶ He began to worship idols. He turned his blessings into a curse! 1 Kings 11:5ff

5

Solomon Has Many Modern Counterparts:

- ▶ Men of wisdom and great education, but who often ridicule faith in God, affirming that man is an animal among animals! 1 Corinthians 1:23; cf. Romans 1:18ff
- ▶ People of great wealth, but who trust in their riches and improperly use such. Matthew 19:16ff
- ▶ **Note:** Wealth properly used can be a great blessing. 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 27:57-60.
- ▶ But many are possessed by their possessions!

6

When Our Blessings Become A Curse!

Consider Jeroboam. 1 Kings 12:28-33.

- ▶ Authority, properly exercised, can be a great blessing. (Kings: Hezekiah and Josiah)
- ▶ Authority, improperly exercised, becomes a curse! Proverbs 29:2; 1 Peter 5:2-3; Acts 20:28
- ▶ Authority, properly exercised in the home, is a great blessing, Ephesians 5:22-23; 6:1
- ▶ But it is possible for husbands and fathers to become brow-beating, wife-beating tyrants, and create all manner of problems.

7

When Our Blessings Become A Curse!

A good family is a great blessing! Proverbs 18:22; Psalms 127:3.

- ▶ From the standpoint of this life, what can be better than a faithful wife, a dependable husband, and respectful children?
- ▶ But it is possible to love one's mate more than God; it is possible to use one's children as an excuse to miss worship!
- ▶ Families are a great blessing, but many let them become a curse! Matthew 10:37

8

When Our Blessings Become A Curse!

Time is a great blessing!

- ▶ It "takes time to be holy." 1 Peter 1:15
- ▶ Time to learn the scriptures. 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:15
- ▶ Time to raise a family, to develop character, to build a business.
- ▶ Time is precious! It must be used wisely. Ephesians 5:16
- ▶ But time, improperly used, can become a curse instead of a blessing. cf. Psalms 90:12

9

When Our Blessings Become A Curse!

The ability to read is a great blessing!

- Read the Scriptures: Ephesians 3:4; 1 Timothy 4:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:27; Revelation 1:3.
- ▶ But we can also utilize this ability to fill our minds with false doctrine, smut, and trash!

10

When Our Blessings Become A Curse!

A nice meeting house, comfortable treasury, and faithful Christians a great blessing!

- ▶ A sound church is a loving spiritual family, and this is truly a great blessing. Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:24; John 13:33-34
- ▶ But all this can make us comfortable; we can become "*at ease in Zion*," we can become "*Lukewarm*," Amos 6:1; Revelation 3:15-16.
- ▶ When this happens we turn our blessings into a curse!

11

But! Consider The Other Side Of The Coin!

It is possible to turn OUR CURSE into A BLESSING!

- ▶ Consider Joseph. Genesis 37:28; 39:9-10; 41:40; 50:20.
- ▶ Children of the devil can become children of God. John 8:44; cf. John 1:12
 - Those in sin are separated from God. Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 6:23.
- ▶ But through obedience to the gospel, they can be adopted into the family of God and enjoy all spiritual blessings in Christ. cf. Galatians 3:26-27 - thereby turning their curse into a blessing!

12