


The 2nd Commandment Generational Curses


Exodus 20:4-6 part 2

Presented by Bob DeWaay
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Overview

- Idolatry will invoke the visitation of iniquity to future generations
- God's *hesed* reaches farther than His anger
- Moses pleads for God to protect His own honor and show *hesed* to wayward Israel
- People are responsible for their own sin
- Even when suffering because of the sins of ancestors, we should pray and trust God
- Blessing and cursing are relational issues



Images for worship are forbidden

- **Exodus 20:4, 5a**

You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them;



Warning: severe consequences!

■ **Exodus 20:5, 6**

You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.



In what sense is God 'jealous'?

- Not in the human sense of suspicious, distrustful, or wrongly envious of others
- "That attribute that demands exclusive devotion"
- "That attribute of anger against all who oppose Him"
- "That energy he expended on vindicating His people" (Walter Kaiser *Exodus* 423)



"Visiting the iniquity" to 3rd and 4th generations is contrasted to showing *hesed* to thousands

■ **Exodus 34:6**

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;"

“Visiting the iniquity” to 3rd and 4th generations is contrasted to showing *hesed* to thousands

■ **Exodus 34:7**

who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.

Moses pleads for Yahweh to protect the honor of His own name

■ **Numbers 14:15 - 17**

Now if You slay this people as one man, then the nations who have heard of Your fame will say, “Because the LORD could not bring this people into the land which He promised them by oath, therefore He slaughtered them in the wilderness.”

But now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as You have declared,

Moses cites what he heard on Sinai when pleading for pardon for Israel!

■ **Numbers 14:18 - 19**

‘The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generations.’ “Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”



Yahweh's *hesed* brings pardon and the iniquities are NOT visited on the children

■ **Numbers 14:20, 29, 31**

So the LORD said, "I have pardoned them according to your word;" . . . your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me. . . . Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected.



Jonah also cited what God said to Moses on Sinai

■ **Jonah 4:2**

He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity."



People are responsible for their own sin

■ **Deuteronomy 24:16**

Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin.

Jeremiah saw no conflict between the visitation of iniquities and individual accountability

■ **Jeremiah 32:18, 19**

who shows lovingkindness to thousands, but repays the iniquity of fathers into the bosom of their children after them, O great and mighty God. The LORD of hosts is His name; great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, giving to everyone according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds;

God repays the covenant breaker directly


■ **Deuteronomy 7:9, 10**

Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face.

Israelites in captivity complained of injustice


■ **Ezekiel 18:2, 4**

What do you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, "The fathers eat the sour grapes, But the children's teeth are set on edge"? . . . Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.

 Daniel suffered because of the sins of previous generations; but prayed!


- **Daniel 9:16**

O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach to all those around us.

 They suffered consequences, but not personal punishment for guilt


- **Ezekiel 18:20**

The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.

 God's answer for those who lament the situation their parents created for them


- **Ezekiel 18:32**

"For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord God. "Therefore, repent and live."


 Blessing and cursing are relational not symptomatic

■ **Galatians 3:13, 14**

Christ 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" in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.


 Applications and Implications

- 1) We should turn from idols and doing so will be a great blessing to our children
- 2) We should not presume on covenant blessings based on ancestry
- 3) Trusting in the Lord is the only way to escape THE generational curse

 1) We should turn from idols and doing so will be a great blessing to our children


■ **Deuteronomy 6:1a, 2**

Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you,. . . so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

 2) We should not presume on covenant blessings based on ancestry


■ **Deuteronomy 32:19, 20**

The LORD saw this, and spurned them
Because of the provocation of His sons and daughters. Then He said, "I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end shall be; For they are a perverse generation, Sons in whom is no faithfulness."

 3) Trusting in the Lord is the only way to escape THE generational curse


■ **1Corinthians 15:22**

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

 3) Trusting in the Lord is the only way to escape THE generational curse

■ **Jeremiah 17:5, 7**

Thus says the LORD, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the Lord. . . . Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD."



For More Information on Generational Curses
see Critical Issues Commentary Issue 68
<http://cicministry.org/commentary/issue68.htm>
For Radio shows on the topic
http://cicministry.org/radio_series.php?series=gencurses