



III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

A. On Land

1. Initially (Genesis 3:17-18)
 - a. Cursed is the ground (Genesis 3:17)
 - (1) Not because the ground sinned
 - (2) But “for thy [Adam’s] sake”
 - b. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth (Genesis 3:18)
 - c. Note: There is much debate today about man’s impact upon the planet.
 - (1) While some reject the notion that a valid debate exists, it should be understood that man has negatively impacted the planet; however, not in the manner in which one might think.
 - (2) In God’s initial plan, a cursed ground bringing forth weeds, thorns, thistles, and other deterrents of growth was noticeably absent.
2. Ongoing
 - a. It should be understood that labour is not the result of the fall of man or of the curse.
 - (1) Genesis 2:5 and Genesis 2:8 make it clear that labour was part of God’s plan for man prior to the fall and Revelation 22:3 makes it equally clear that labour will continue when the curse is fully removed.
 - (2) That being said, the curse was placed upon and continues to be on the ground upon which man labours.
 - b. As it pertains to the ground, the initial curse pronounced from the sin of Adam and Eve continues to this day. This curse manifests itself in many ways (i.e., complications in soil, corruption of produce) and can be further complicated by various forces instituted by God as a result of man’s sin.
 - c. One manner in which God testifies of the ongoing curse involves land being defiled as a result of man’s ongoing practice of sin (Leviticus 18:24-30; Numbers 35:30-34; Deuteronomy 21:23; Deuteronomy 24:4; Psalm 106:34-38; Isaiah 24:1-12; Jeremiah 2:7; Jeremiah 3:1-3).
3. Cessation
 - a. Certain blessings will come in the millennial kingdom, but without removing the curse.
 - (1) In the kingdom, “the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose” (Isaiah 35:1) and “the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely” (Isaiah 4:2).
 - (2) At the same time, rain can be withheld as a means of judgment creating problems in the produce (Zechariah 14:17-18).
 - b. The curse is not fully removed until after the conclusion of the millennial kingdom and upon entering eternity (Revelation 22:3).



B. On Animals

1. Initially (Genesis 3:14)
 - a. For the serpent
 - (1) Cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field
 - (2) Upon his belly he would go and dust would he eat ALL the days of his life
 - b. For the others
 - (1) For the scripture to state that the serpent would be cursed ABOVE all cattle and every beast of the field would seem to suggest that all bore some of the impact of the curse.
 - (2) There is limited information as to what took place in the animal kingdom prior to the fall. We know of God's creation and of Adam's task in naming the animals, but not much else is known.
 - (3) Apparently, immediately following the fall, an animal died (Genesis 3:21). This makes one question whether or not animals died prior to the fall.
2. Ongoing
 - a. For the serpent (Isaiah 65:25; Micah 7:17)
 - (1) In the millennial kingdom, the wolf and the lamb will feed together and the lion will eat straw like the bullock.
 - (2) Even with all those changes, the serpent's meat will continue to be dust.
 - b. For the others
 - (1) In judgment
 - a) As a result of the sin of Noah's day, the flood was promised to and did "destroy...both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air" (Genesis 6:7; Genesis 7:21).
 - b) At various times, God's anger or wrath was poured out upon a land and the animals were partakers of the wrath (Jeremiah 7:20; Jeremiah 21:6; Jeremiah 51:62).
 - (2) In sacrifices
 - a) As a result of Cain's sin, God promised the availability of a sin offering lying at the door identified as a him, most certainly pointing to an animal (Genesis 4:6-7).
 - b) As a result of Pharaoh's sin, beasts in Egypt suffered through the plagues (see Exodus 8:17; Exodus 12:12).
 - c) As a result of Israel's sins, God instituted a sacrificial system which cost the lives of innumerable animals (Isaiah 1:11).
 - (3) In general—According to Romans 8:22, "the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain." This includes the creature who "shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption" (Romans 8:21).



C. On Man

1. Initially (Genesis 3:7-19)
 - a. Generally
 - (1) Knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:7)
 - (2) Broken fellowship (Genesis 3:8, 10)
 - b. Woman specific (Genesis 3:16)
 - (1) Multiplied sorrow and specifically in conception
 - (2) Submission to the husband
 - c. Man specific (Genesis 3:17-19)
 - (1) Multiplied sorrow in eating of the ground all the days of his life (Genesis 3:17)
 - (2) Multiplied sorrow and difficulty in labour (Genesis 3:18-19)
2. Ongoing
 - a. In life
 - (1) Societal judgments
 - a) God brought a worldwide flood to deal with mass sin (Genesis 6:5-7).
 - b) God sent confusion of tongues to separate the people from the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-8).
 - c) God sent fire and brimstone to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:24-25).
 - (2) Personal judgments
 - a) Physical consequences
 - i) Physical plagues and troubles (Leviticus 26:14-33)
 - ii) Physical ailments (Psalm 31:9-10; Psalm 38:3)
 - iii) Death (1 Corinthians 11:29-30)
 - b) Mental consequences
 - i) Reprobate minds (Romans 1:28)
 - ii) Blinded minds (2 Corinthians 4:4)
 - iii) Corrupted minds (2 Corinthians 11:3)
 - c) Spiritual consequences
 - i) For the unsaved—one becomes dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1)
 - ii) For the unsaved—one can become past feeling (Ephesians 4:19)
 - iii) For the saved—one can go so far as to become a castaway (1 Corinthians 9:27)
 - b. In death
 - (1) For the unbeliever
 - a) A place in hell (Psalm 9:17)
 - b) The great white throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-13)
 - c) A place in the lake of fire; this is identified as “the second death” (Revelation 20:14)
 - (2) For the believer—loss of rewards (1 Corinthians 3:11-15; Colossians 2:18; 2 John 1:8; Revelation 3:11)