

# Elder Vernon Johnson

## Numbers

### Thirteen

#### Ebal - Mount of Cursing

Deu. 11:26 "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; 27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: 28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known. 29 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal. 30 Are they not on the other side Jordan, by the way where the sun goeth down, in the land of the Canaanites, which dwell in the champaign over against Gilgal, beside the plains of Moreh? 31 For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein. 32 And ye shall observe to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day."

God made a covenant with the children of Israel and they were to keep the covenant and his commands. He promised them blessings for obedience to his commands and he promised them a curse if they failed to keep his commands. This was to take place in the land of Canaan which God had promised to them for a possession. When the children of Israel passed over Jordan to enter into Canaan land, they would pass between two mountains. They would pass between Mount Gerizim, the mount of blessing, and Mount Ebal, the mount of cursing. Beginning with verse **thirteen** of Deu. Chapter 27 there were **thirteen curses** pronounced upon the children of Israel if they failed to keep the commandments of God:

"And these shall stand upon mount Ebal to **curse**; Reuben, Gad, and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. And the Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice, **Cursed** be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen. **Cursed** be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen. **Cursed** be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen. **Cursed** be he that maketh the blind to wander out of the

way. And all the people shall say, Amen. **Cursed** be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen.

**Cursed** be he that lieth with his father's wife; because he uncovereth his father's skirt. And all the people shall say, Amen. **Cursed** be he that lieth with any manner of beast. And all the people shall say, Amen. **Cursed** be he that lieth with his sister, the daughter of his father, or the daughter of his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen. **Cursed** be he that lieth with his mother in law. And all the people shall say, Amen. **Cursed** be he that smiteth his neighbour secretly. And all the people shall say, Amen. **Cursed** be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen. **Cursed** be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen."

These blessings and curses did not make the children of Israel God's covenant people, but it did affect their daily lives. While we are not under the law service today, yet in the Lord's church kingdom today, there are blessings for obedience to the commandments of God and a curse for taking away or adding to the word of God pronounced in Rev. chapter 22:14 "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the **plagues** that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Earlier in this chapter, the curse of the law of sin and death had been removed from God's people (And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him), yet there is still a timely curse for disobedience to the word of God.