

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Presence: Blessings &amp; Punishment</b> <b>Leviticus 26</b></p>
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## INTRODUCTION

### The Blessings (vv.1-13)

1. Instruction (**vv.1-2**)
  - a. No idols or graven images (negative)
  - b. **Deut.4:15-19**
  - c. Keep Sabbaths and reverence (positive)
  - d. One God
2. Condition (**v.3**)
  - a. Simple - Keep the Word of God
  - b. Walk and observe
3. Consequence (**vv.4-13**)
  - a. Physical provision (**vv.4-5**)
  - b. Peace and safety (**vv.6-8**)
    - i. From man and beast
    - ii. In battle
  - c. Confirm the covenant (**vv.9-13**)
    - i. With children
    - ii. Through provision of preserved food
    - iii. Dwelling in the midst
      1. As the only God to be worshipped (2 Cor.6:16)
      2. As the redeemer of His people -- freed from slavery
      3. Grace -- The root of the relationship between God and His people

### The Punishments (vv.14-39)

1. Condition 1: Neglecting the Word of God (**vv.14-15**)
  - a. Do not listen / Do not do
  - b. Spurn / abhor

2. Consequence 1: Breaking the people (**vv.16-17**)
  - a. Panic -- remove peace
  - b. Physical hardship -- disease, illness, fruitless labor
  - c. Conquered -- enemies rule
3. Condition 2: Refusing to respond to Consequence 1 (**v.18a**)
4. Consequence 2: Breaking pride of the people (**vv.18b-20**)
  - a. Make the elements hard (rain / land)
  - b. Remove physical strength through labor & fruitlessness
5. Condition 3: Refusing to respond to Consequence 2 (**v.21a**)
6. Consequence 3: Striking the people (**vv.21b-22**)
  - a. Wild beasts (that were held back) shall attack
  - b. Decreasing their numbers (removing more pride)
7. Condition 4: Refusing to respond to Consequence 3 (**v.23**)
8. Consequence 4: Countering the people (**vv.24-26**)
  - a. Enemies will conquer and kill (due to breaking covenant -- this is a root sin, deserving death -- **Rom.3:23; 6:23**)
  - b. No escape in hiding -- pestilence goes where enemies of men cannot
  - c. Cut off supplies -- provision, but unsatisfying (no satisfaction apart from God)
9. Condition 5: Refusing to respond to Consequence 4 (**v.27**)
10. Consequence 5: Heating up with fury (**vv.28-39**)
  - a. Starvation, cannibalism, destruction -- God alone, though in fury
  - b. Worship attempts refused
  - c. Scatter the people -- losing identity
  - d. The land shall still experience a Sabbath rest during this dispersion of the people
  - e. Complete helplessness & desolation

## Extended Grace (vv.40-46)

1. Condition: Confessing sins (v.40-41)
  - a. Agreeing with God
  - b. Acknowledging guilt before God
  - c. Accepting consequences -- including the ones to come if unrepentant (through avoidance)
  - d. Humility
    - i. Sincerity of Heart (not external show)
    - ii. **Romans 2:29**
2. Consequence: Restoring the people (vv.42-46)
  - a. Remembering the covenant
  - b. Prescribing restitution
  - c. Sustaining them in the midst of consequences
  - d. Reestablishing worship
  - e. Means of Ultimate redemption
    - i. Why did God preserve them remembering His covenant?
    - ii. **Charles Simeon**, *"If we saw more clearly the nature and necessity of the covenant which God entered into with his only dear Son for the redemption of a ruined world, we should form a far better estimate of the malignity of sin, and of our obligations to the mercy of God."*
    - iii. Ultimately because of Christ
    - iv. **Galatians 3:16-22**
3. The Grace of God is shown in His desire to dwell in the midst of His people. He has given laws and statutes that reveal His holy requirements for men to be in their presence. Only Jesus Christ can keep all of these promises (and did) on behalf of His people. (v.46)

## Conclusion

1. Do you see the blessings, both positive and negative?
2. What pervades them both is grace. God is holy and perfect and good. We are none of that, yet He longs to dwell in the midst of His people to be their God!

3. The blessings associated with obedience to His Word are plentiful.
4. The blessings associated with disobedience to His Word are that He warns and disciplines again and again (like the perfect, divine parent that He is). While there is real loss, He still offers forgiveness for His people. If you are breathing, regardless of how far you've gone, there is hope.
5. **Hebrews 12:7-17**
6. Graduate, what have you just received that will guarantee a place in God's kingdom? What are you launching into that gives you greater excitement than pursuing Christ? See, as you step into a world of greater (seeming) independence, take the warnings of Leviticus 26 like the parting words of a loving, godly parent: The more independent you grow from God, the more He will make you dependent upon Him...even through painful means. Rely on Him, Christian graduate. If you don't know Him, cling to Him now as your only hope: education, marriage, children, savings, even great benevolent work, will accomplish nothing in making you acceptable to Christ. This chapter 26 shows us what we deserve as sinners, pointing to Christ as the only true keeper of these laws and sacrifice for His own people who could not keep them.
7. If you are not trusting Christ to bear the weight of sin and it's consequences in your place, come to Him today. Do not wait! Trust Him as the one who did perfectly keep the laws and statutes of God. Who perfectly sacrificed Himself for the sin of His people in every generation for all time. Who, as the offering priest, lives on interceding for His own, therefore we have the assurance of living with Him forever.