What the Bible Is All About: A Blessing and a Curse

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References: Deuteronomy 11, 2 Chronicles 7:14; Matthew 3:2; John 3:16; Acts 13:36-39

The Conditions for God’s Blessing

So if someone were to say to you, "What's the Bible all about?" you could simply quote that line, couldn't you? It's a beautiful summary of what the Bible's all about.

所以如果有人问你说："圣经讲的是什么？"你可以简单地引用那句歌词，是不是呢？这是对圣经所讲的一切非常优美的总结。

We're going to give you another verse to sing now, and it's: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray..." We're going to sing it, I'm going to explain a little, and then we'll sing it again.

我们现在要给你们另一节经文来唱，就是："这称为我名下的子民，若是自卑、祷告……"我们先唱一次，我稍微解释一下，然后我们再唱一次。

> [2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV] - if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Very good! There are just four things that are required. The Lord says, "I will forgive your sin, I'll heal your land," but there are four things that are to be done. First of all, humble yourself.

非常好！这里只有四件事情要做。主说："我必赦免他们的罪，医治他们的地。"但是有四件事情必须先做。首先，你要谦卑自己。

What do you mean to humble yourself? That means that if somebody says, "Do something," and you don't want to do it, or you don't think it's going to work, you may not do it. Many people say, "God, I know what I'm doing. I'm okay. I don't need Your help." And they're too proud to pray properly. So the first thing is, we've got to humble ourselves and say, "Lord, You are God; I'm not. You've got to help me."

谦卑自己是什么意思呢？意思是如果有人说去做某件事，而你不想做，或者你觉得行不通，你可能就不去做。很多人对神说："神啊，我知道自己在做什么，我很好，我不需要祢的帮助。"他们太骄傲了，以至于不能适当地祷告。所以首先，我们要谦卑自己说："主啊，祢是神，我不是。求祢帮助我。"

And then we pray. Simply, in humility, we ask and say, "Lord, would You help me? Would You do what You promised to do? Would You do it for me?"

然后我们祷告。我们单单带着谦卑祈求说："主啊，求祢帮助我。求祢成就祢所应许的事，求祢为我成就。"

What's the third thing we would have to do? Seek God's face. How do you do that? Have you ever seen God's face? No. How could you seek God's face? You open your Bible, and you say, "Lord, I'm going to read this Book. Would You please speak to me?"

第三件我们要做的什么事呢？寻求神的面。你怎么做呢？你曾见过神的面吗？没有。你怎么寻求神的面呢？你打开圣经，你说："主啊，我要读这本书，求祢对我说话。"

And what's the fourth thing you have to do? You have to obey when you read it, when you hear it: turn from their wicked ways. The only way God can bless us is if we turn away from what's wrong and turn to what's right.

第四件你要做的是什么？你读到、听到的时候就要顺服：转离他们的恶行。神能赐福给我们的唯一途径，就是我们转离错误、归向正确。

These are God's words to Solomon and to us. And He says, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray, seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I'll hear from heaven. I'll forgive their sin, I'll even heal their land and heal their life."

这是神对所罗门说的，也是对我们说的话。祂说，这称为我名下的子民，若是自卑、祷告、寻求我的面、转离他们的恶行，我必从天上垂听，赦免他们的罪，甚至医治他们的地，医治他们的生命。

Now, Lord, we are very thankful for the promises of God. What we've just sung are promises—You made the promise. Our prayer is that each of us will believe the promise and do those four things, and get the blessings that come after. You promise that if we do that, You will bless us. We thank You for the promise. Help us to believe it and do it. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

主啊，我们为了神的应许非常感恩。我们刚才所唱的就是祢的应许——祢立下了这应许。我们的祷告是，愿我们每个人都相信这应许，遵照去行那四件事，并得着随之而来的福分。祢应许如果我们照着做，祢就会赐福给我们。我们感谢祢的应许。求祢帮助我们去相信并遵行。我们奉耶稣的名祈求，阿们。

The Choice: A Blessing and a Curse

I am going to get you to turn in your Bibles, please, to the book of Deuteronomy, Deuteronomy chapter 11. In this session, I keep trying to tell you what the Bible is all about. Deuteronomy chapter 11 gives us a good summary of what much of the Bible is all about. Deuteronomy chapter 11, and we're going to read together verse number 26, is where we'll start.

请大家把圣经翻到申命记第十一章。在这个聚会中，我一直试图告诉大家圣经讲的是什么。申命记第十一章给了我们一个很好的总结，概括了圣经大部分内容的主旨。申命记第十一章，我们要从第二十六节开始读起。

> [Deuteronomy 11:26-28 NKJV] - [26] "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: [27] the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; [28] and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

If you read the book of Deuteronomy, which is really Moses' last sermon to the people before he died, over and over again you read this statement: blessings from God if you obey the words of God; curses from God if you disobey the word of God.

如果你读申命记——这基本上是摩西临终前对百姓所讲的最后一篇道——你会一遍又一遍地读到这样的陈述：如果你顺服神的话，就得从神而来的祝福；如果你背逆神的话，就受从神而来的咒诅。

You say to yourself, "That's awful simple. It's logical. God made us. He told us what to do. He loves us, and therefore if we do what He tells us to do, we'll be blessed. And if we say no, and we don't do what He tells us to do, we won't be blessed; we'll be cursed."

你对自己说："这太简单了，这很有逻辑。神造了我们，祂告诉我们当做什么。祂爱我们，因此如果我们遵行祂吩咐我们要做的，就会蒙福；如果我们说不，不去照祂吩咐我们的去做，我们就不会蒙福，反要受咒诅。"

The Old Testament Dilemma

Frankly, that's basically the story of the Old Testament in the Bible: stories of hundreds of people. In some ways they obeyed and God blessed them, and in some ways they disobeyed and they were cursed because of it. And the amazing thing is, most people didn't even try to obey.

坦白说，这基本上就是圣经旧约的故事：成百上千人的故事。在某些方面他们顺服了，神就赐福他们；在某些方面他们悖逆了，就因此受咒诅。令人惊奇的是，大多数人甚至连试都不试着去顺服。

And so the story of the Old Testament is a sad story for two reasons. Number one, most people didn't choose to obey, and therefore the consequences were severe. But the other amazing thing is that people really didn't try to obey. And those of us who say, "Lord, we didn't obey in everything, but at least we could try"—the problem, of course, is that having tried, we found out that we failed.

所以旧约的故事是个悲伤的故事，原因有二：第一，大多数人不选择顺服，因此后果非常严重；但另一件惊人的事是，人们真的没有尽力去顺服。我们有些人说："主啊，我们并没有在凡事上顺服，但至少我们努力尝试了。"然而问题在于，尝试之后，我们发现自己失败了。

And so that's the way the story of the Bible goes: tried and failed, tried and failed, tried and failed. Turn to the last verse in the Old Testament, Malachi chapter 4. What is the very last word of the very last verse in the Old Testament? The word is curse. Frankly, that's not a very good word to end the book with.

这就是圣经故事展现的方式：尝试然后失败，尝试然后失败，尝试然后失败。翻到旧约的最后一节经文，玛拉基书第四章。旧约最后一节经文的最后一个字是什么？是"咒诅"。坦白说，用这个词来结束一本书并不怎么好。

Did you ever note that the Old Testament is not the end of the Bible? The last verse in the Old Testament is that the Lord will strike the earth with a curse. What's the last verse in the New Testament? Is it all about the curse? No, it's all about the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Aren't you glad that the Bible kept on going? We'd be a pretty disappointed people if all we had was the curse.

你有没有注意到，旧约并不是圣经的终局？旧约最后一节说，主要用咒诅击打遍地。新约的最后一节是什么呢？全是关于咒诅吗？不，全是关于我们主耶稣基督的恩惠。圣经继续写下去，难道你不感到欢喜吗？如果我们得到的只有咒诅，那我们真是一群极度绝望的人。

The Call to Repentance

All right, what's the Bible all about? You remember in the New Testament we read about a man whose name was John the Baptist. Matthew chapter 3. Take your time turning to that: Matthew chapter 3. The story is about John the Baptist. He's the one who really begins the message of the New Testament. What's his message? Verse 2:

那么，圣经讲的到底是什么？大家记得在新约里，我们读到一个名叫施洗约翰的人。马太福音第三章。大家翻到那里，马太福音第三章。这是关于施洗约翰的故事，他开启了新约的信息。他的信息是什么？第二节：

> [Matthew 3:2 NKJV] - and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Number one: you get the blessing if you obey, but if you don't, what happens next? Answer: instead of the curse, you repent.

第一：如果你顺服，你就蒙福；但如果你没有顺服，接下来该怎么办呢？答案是：不必承受咒诅，而是应当悔改。

I remember speaking to a man many years ago. I said to him, "When you stand before God, what are you going to say? What are you going to plead? What will be your argument before God?" He said to me, "I am going to plead guilty." And he didn't seem to be worried about that. I said, "Wouldn't you rather plead forgiven?" He said, "I don't really care." So sad.

我记得很多年前曾和一个人谈话。我对他说："当你站在神面前时，你打算说什么？你要怎样为自己申辩？你在神面前的辩词是什么？"他对我说："我会承认自己有罪。"他对此似乎一点也不担心。我说："难道你不想申明自己已被赦免了吗？"他说："我根本不在乎。"何等悲哀。

John the Baptist said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The logic is this: if you repent, something good could follow. Pray and read your Bible according to what we just sang; before that, you humble yourself. And before you get the good things of God, you've got to repent and say, "I am sorry, God. I have gone my own way. I am wrong." John the Baptist said the kingdom of heaven is coming; you'd better repent so that you can get in on the blessings that will come.

施洗约翰说："天国近了，你们应当悔改！"其逻辑是：如果你悔改，美事就会随之而来。照我们刚才所唱的去祷告和读经；在此之前，你必须先自卑。在你领受从神而来的美事之前，你必须悔改并说："神啊，我很抱歉，我偏行己路，我做错了。"施洗约翰说天国近了，你们最好悔改，好让你们能承受那将要来的福分。

Grace and Justification Through Jesus Christ

Now, John chapter 3. You'll remember when the Lord Jesus came, we're told that He went about doing good and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil. That's what He did. And then you'll remember He went to the cross and died. That's what He did. And so John chapter 3 and verse 16, which we refer to often, says:

现在看约翰福音第三章。大家记得主耶稣来的时候，圣经告诉我们祂周流四方行善事，医好凡被魔鬼压制的人。这是祂所作的。然后大家记得祂上了十字架受死，这是祂所作的。约翰福音三章十六节——我们常常引用的经文——说：

> [John 3:16 NKJV] - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

That's a wonderful thing. The Old Testament says you don't obey and you'll be cursed. This verse says Jesus came and He died for us, so that if we believe on Him, we won't be cursed and perish; we will have everlasting life.

这是何等奇妙的事。旧约说你不顺服就会受咒诅；这节经文却说耶稣来了，祂为我们受死，叫一切信祂的人不致受咒诅而灭亡，反得永生。

The problem of the Old Testament is it tells you what to do, but you just can't do it. If you and I were perfect, we could just walk into heaven. If Jesus didn't forgive us, we would try to walk into heaven, and the Lord would say, "Sorry, you can't come in here; you're not perfect." So we marvel at the grace of God in making a way for us to get the blessings of God, in spite of the fact that we only deserve the curse of God.

旧约的问题在于它告诉你该做什么，但你根本做不到。如果你我是完美的，我们大可以直接走进天堂。如果耶稣没有赦免我们，当我们试图走进天堂时，主就会说："对不起，你不能进来，因为你不是完美的。"因此，我们对神的恩典赞叹不已，因为祂为我们开辟了一条道路，使我们能得着神的祝福，尽管我们本该承受的只有神的咒诅。

And so the question is: what did the disciples preach? You remember that after Jesus died and rose again and went to heaven, the disciples went around the world preaching. What did they preach? Acts chapter 13, and verse number 36:

那么问题是：使徒们传的是什么？大家记得在耶稣受死、复活并升天之后，使徒们走遍世界去传道。他们传的是什么呢？使徒行传第十三章三十六节：

> [Acts 13:36-38 NKJV] - 36 "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; 37 but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. 38 Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;

What is the message that is preached? What's the message the Bible is all about? It's all about the forgiveness of sins. Is forgiveness important? Only if you've done something wrong. But if you've done a lot of things wrong, to be forgiven is **very** important. Verse 39:

所传的信息是什么？圣经所讲的信息到底是什么？全是关于罪得赦免。赦免重要吗？只有当你做错事时才重要。但如果你做错了很多事，被赦免就**至关重要**了。第三十九节：

> [Acts 13:39 NKJV] - [39] and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

The logic here is wonderful. It says, "By Jesus everyone who believes is justified." The word justified means to be declared to be innocent, or forgiven, or righteous. Because of Jesus, everyone who believes on Jesus is justified from the things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

这里的逻辑何等奇妙。经上说："靠着耶稣，凡信靠的人就都得称义了。"称义这个词的意思是被宣告为无罪、蒙赦免、或是被称为义人。因着耶稣，凡信靠祂的人，在靠摩西律法不能称义的一切事上，都得称义了。

All the law of Moses says is, "If you didn't obey the command, you are guilty; you are to be cursed." But Jesus died, and in so doing, He paid a price to satisfy the heart of God. And therefore, if we believe on Jesus, we can be forgiven, we can be justified, we can be declared to be righteous.

摩西的律法所能说的只是："如果你不顺服命令，你就有罪，你当受咒诅。"但是耶稣死了，祂借着死付上了代价，满足了神的心。因此，如果我们信靠耶稣，我们就能罪得赦免，我们就能称义，我们就能被宣告为义人。

Walking into Heaven

Is that important? Yeah. When you stand before God on judgment day, you say, "I would like to get into Your heaven, please." He says, "Did you ever sin?" You say, "Yeah, I've sinned." Do you expect there's going to be sin in heaven? No. If you've sinned, how are you going to get into heaven? You say, "I'm getting into heaven because Jesus died to pay the price of my sin, so that I could be forgiven and declared to be righteous." You can come in because your sins have been forgiven. God goes so far as to tell us that He will even forget our sins because Jesus died.

这重要吗？是的。当你在审判的日子站在神面前，你说："我想进入祢的天堂。"祂问："你犯过罪吗？"你说："是的，我犯过罪。"你以为天堂里会有罪吗？没有。如果你犯了罪，你怎么进入天堂呢？你说："我能进入天堂，是因为耶稣为我受死，付清了我罪的赎价，使我得以蒙赦免并被宣告为义。"你能进去，是因为你的罪已经得到了赦免。神甚至告诉我们，因着耶稣的死，祂甚至不再记念我们的罪恶。

So we walk into heaven not because we never sinned, not because we don't deserve the curse; we walk into heaven because we have been forgiven, we have been justified by the work of Jesus when He died on the cross. But the only way we get that forgiveness is to believe Him.

所以我们走进天堂，并不是因为我们从未犯过罪，也不是因为我们不该受咒诅；我们能走进天堂，是因为借着耶稣死在十字架上的工作，我们已经蒙了赦免，我们已经得称为义。但我们得着那赦免的唯一途径，就是信靠祂。

When you say, "I believe You, I choose You," we're saying, "I don't choose all those things anymore." You say, "I don't want the pleasures of sin—and there are no true pleasures in sin. I don't want the effects of sin; I want the blessings of Jesus." And we repent, we turn to Jesus, we say, "I choose Jesus!" And because we choose Jesus, we can get into His heaven.

当你说"我相信祢，我选择祢"时，我们其实是在说："我不再选择背后的那些事了。"你说："我不要罪中之乐——而且罪中根本没有真正的喜乐；我不要罪带来的恶果，我要耶稣的福分。"我们悔改，我们转向耶稣，我们说："我选择耶稣！"因着我们选择了耶稣，我们就能进入祂的天堂。

The Old Testament law cannot justify us; all it does is condemn us. But the forgiveness that is in Jesus is ours if we believe Him, if we choose Him, if we come to Him. But if we're indifferent, if we say, "I'm pretty good, I'll get in one way or another because I'm pretty good"—no, that won't work. The only way we can get in is to say: "I believe that when Jesus died, He died for me. I choose Him for my forgiveness. I choose to follow Him. I want to be like Him. I believe Jesus!"

旧约的律法不能称我们为义，它所能做的只是定我们的罪。但只要我们相信祂、选择祂、来到祂面前，在耶稣里的赦免就属于我们。但如果我们漠不关心，如果我们说："我人挺好的，我总能以某种方式进去，因为我相当不错"——不，那是行不通的。我们能够进去的唯一方法就是说："我相信当耶稣受死时，祂是为我而死。我选择祂作我的赦免。我选择跟随祂。我想像祂那样。我相信耶稣！"

What would happen if somebody who didn't believe Jesus got into heaven? Lots of things would happen that are very bad. One of the things is that the person who gets in wouldn't be happy when he was there. He would say, "I don't like this place; I can't even sin here. You can't tell a lie, you can't cheat, you can't even go down the street and buy a drink. I don't want to be in heaven," because they never believed in Jesus.

如果一个不信耶稣的人进了天堂，会发生什么事呢？会发生很多极糟糕的事。其中一件事是，进去的那个人在那里根本不会快乐。他会说："我不喜欢这地方，我在这里甚至不能犯罪。你不能说谎，不能欺诈，甚至不能上街买醉。我不想呆在天堂里"，因为他们从未相信过耶稣。

What would be the other bad thing if that person who didn't believe in Jesus got in? Nobody else would want to be in heaven either, because that bad guy might come down and beat your head in. Heaven is an absolutely wonderful place because all the people who are there are people who believe in Jesus. And by God's grace, we will act like Jesus. And by God's grace, we will have the joy that Jesus has.

如果不信耶稣的人进了天堂，另一件坏事会是什么呢？其他人也都不想呆在天堂了，因为那个坏人可能会跑来打破你的头。天堂之所以是一个绝对美好的地方，是因为那里的所有人都是信靠耶稣的人。借着神的恩典，我们的行事为人会像耶稣；借着神的恩典，我们会拥有耶稣所拥有的喜乐。

Our time is more than gone. Let's pray.

我们的时间已经超了，我们来祷告。

Lord, we want to thank You for the story of the Bible. Our Savior above, in wonderful love, came down to the world to die, that all who believe might pardon receive and live with Him ever in heaven. We thank You; bless us now, we pray. And we give thanks in Jesus' name. Amen.

主啊，我们要为圣经所启示的真道感谢祢。我们在天上的救主，带着何等奇妙的爱，降世受死，叫一切信祂的人都可以得蒙赦免，并与祂永远同住在天上。我们感谢祢；求祢现在赐福给我们，我们如此祷告。我们奉耶稣的名感恩，阿们。

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