

**SERMON: CURSES--BLESSINGS- MERCIES****GOOD Morning OIC AND WELCOME TO FATHER'S HOUSE**

Today, we will see the history of God's Chosen People, the Israelites, expand further into their Promised Land of Canaan. God had just supernaturally caused the *immovable and invincible* Walls of Jericho to crumble down. The Israelite soldiers conquered the city with Victory over their enemy as God had promised. God's promise to Rahab for helping the Israelite spies was also fulfilled as she was led to safety in the Israelite's camp. Now, we find a very confident Joshua and Army, eager to take all the Promised Land. I shall expand on bringing out the meanings of Old Testament Curses and New Testament Judgments. I also want to encourage us all that our God is always desiring to Bless His Children.

Reading in **(Joshua 6.24-27 ) 24** *Then the Israelites burned the town and everything in it. Only the things made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron were kept for the treasury of the LORD's house. 25 So Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute and her relatives who were with her in the house, because she had hidden the spies Joshua sent to Jericho. And she lives among the Israelites to this day. 26 At that time Joshua invoked this curse:*

*"May the curse of the LORD fall on anyone  
who tries to rebuild the town of Jericho.*

*At the cost of his firstborn son,  
he will lay its foundation.*

*At the cost of his youngest son,  
he will set up its gates."*

*27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his reputation spread throughout the land.*

**BLESSINGS AND CURSES**

We just read how Rahab protected the two spies who were from the Israelite Army, and Joshua made sure that they protected her and her family during the Battle against Jericho. Rahab had blessed "Israel." This set her in line, or in God's favor, with His Promise in **(Numbers 24.9 )** **Blessed is everyone who blesses you, O Israel, and cursed is everyone who curses you."**

Now, in contrast or opposite to Rahab's **BLESSING**, Joshua pronounces a **CURSE** upon anyone who ever rebuilds Jericho. It had such terrible and disgusting sin that God wanted it never to be lived in again! And sad to say, about 530 years later the curse is put into action by God against a rebellious Israelite. This is in **(1 Kings 16.30 & 34) 30** *But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the Lord's sight, even more than any of the kings before him. & (34) It was during his reign that Hiel, a man from Bethel, rebuilt Jericho. When he laid its foundations, it cost him the life of his oldest son, Abiram. And when he completed it and set up its gates, it cost him the life of his youngest son, Segub. This all happened according to the message from the Lord concerning Jericho spoken by Joshua son of Nun.*

**You might say, Pastor Bruce, since Jesus came does God still allow his leaders to pronounce curses? No, He does not.** We see the Apostle Paul making that very clear in **(Romans 12.14)** *Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.* As we boast in Jesus' Cross and thank Him for our salvation, we recall His love for all of us who Crucified Him by our sin. Instead of being cursed, Jesus became the curse for us as it stands written in **( Galatians 3.13 )** *But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree. But He said to those crucifying Him, and to us as well, **Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.**" And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. ( Luke 23.34)*

## **GOD'S ANGER AT SIN – HIS AUTHORITY TO JUDGE**

Jesus displayed God's Love for sinners when He died for them on the Cross. Many people, even Born-again Christians, often take away from God His right to show His just anger. They say He no longer will display this anger to people. **Not True!** Many of you have trouble with this TRUTH. I did as a young Christians also.

### **God's Anger- to the World until Jesus Returns**

God continues to show His anger or wrath against this world of sin. The Bible tells us this in **(Romans 1.18)** *But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.* Just turn on the evening news and this is obviously true. There have been more serious earthquakes **worldwide** in the past 50 years, than the past 500 years.

### **God's Anger-to Christians who sin willfully without repentance**

In Jerusalem. AD 31, we read that the Apostle Peter was made aware of the willful sin of a married couple lying to the Holy Spirit. **Peter did not curse them.** But Peter was the “messenger” of God's judgment. Peter did not deny God the right for a harsh punishment. These people professed to be Believers in Jesus. Maybe they were “false” Christians. But, they must be Believers. God would not punish the devil's children for lying to the Holy Spirit. They are always doing just that! The following Scripture fits this judgment of Believers. Some years later the Apostle Peter wrote regarding the suffering in Christians' lives in **(1 Peter 4.17-18/AMP)** *17 For the time [has arrived] for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will [be] the end of those who do not respect or believe or obey the good news (the Gospel) of God? 18 And if the righteous are barely saved, what will become of the godless and wicked?*

The Event that Released God's Anger: Many Christians with property were selling and donating the sale money to the Apostles for the poorer Christians as explained in **(Acts 4.32-37)**: *32 All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. 33 The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. 34 There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them 35 and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need. 36 For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means “Son of Encouragement”). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. 37 He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles.*

Now we know that Satan is a liar, the master of deception. Christians who lie to anyone are committing a sin, letting Satan into their mind and heart. They are acting as if they were still *children of the devil, not of God.* We are so blessed for we read in **(1John 1.9)** *But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*

**But, lying to the Holy Spirit moved God to show His wrath by death of two people as we read in (Acts 5.1-11)** *1 But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. 2 He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest. 3 Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!” 5 As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. 6 Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him. 7 About three*

hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** Peter asked her, “Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?” “Yes,” she replied, “that was the price.” **9** And Peter said, “How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too.” **10** Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. **11 Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.**

In (Acts 5. 3-4 ) .... Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. **4** The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. If they had simply said that they were donating 10% or 50% or any amount they chose, that would not be a sin. God needed the Church to realize that displaying His wrath against His People sinning in the Older testament was not gone. Forgiveness does not mean there is no punishment for unconfessed sins. Now Jesus, who is both LORD and CHRIST, releases God's wrath. **Thus the early Church could no longer think of Jesus as the weak Son of God, but Almighty God.** Jesus has the same power and righteous judgments as in the Older Testament. God had to give some clear events on what many called a “this new Jewish Sect – Jews Believing in Jesus the Messiah.” The punishment by death of Ananias and Sapphira showed the world that Jesus is the same God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the Son of the same, not a “New God.”

I expect that in our deceitful hearts we may lie to the Holy Spirit in our thought life. The Holy Spirit, our Helper, will help us to realize this, and to bring it *immediately* to the Lord Jesus. But the willful display of such a deception by Ananias and Sapphira required Jesus, the Head of the Church, to execute them. **This does not mean that they did not go to heaven.** But many tears when they got there...for sure. We can be sure that Holy Spirit tried to check Ananias and Sapphira before they allowed Satan to not only direct their path, but also fill their hearts with evil, into such a deception! We have God's promise in (James 4.7) *So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

My point here is that God's unconditional Love to His Chosen people, has some limits or conditions. Walking close to Jesus in love makes fear become a holy reverence that affects all that we do. He keeps calling us His “Friend.” But we must remember that He is our loving Creator, and we are His Creation. God's wrath is nothing to joke about. God's wrath is nothing for which we can judge Him for releasing! God loves people more than we ever could! He gave His Son for them!

## **PLEADING FOR MERCY FOR SIN – MOSES**

### **MERCY GIVEN NOT JUDGMENT IN THE OLDER TESTAMENT**

*Christians* can plead with God for sinners or Christians walking away from Jesus! I love how Moses argued for God to show mercy to the Israelites just after they committed gross idolatry, worshiping a *god from Egypt, a calf of gold!* We read of this in **(Exodus 32.7-11)**:

*7 The LORD told Moses, “Quick! Go down the mountain! Your people whom you brought from the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. 8 How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted down gold and made a calf, and they have bowed down and sacrificed to it. They are saying, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.’” 9 Then the LORD said, “I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. 10 Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation.” 11 But Moses tried to pacify the LORD his God. “O LORD!” he said. “Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power and such a strong hand? And, (Exodus 32.14) So the Lord changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people. Moses' argument for God to show mercy prevailed. Moses won the argument against the Lord! Of course, we all should know that God always desires to show and give mercy, but He is the only wise God. It is His, not our choice for others.*

### **JUDGMENT EXECUTED BY GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

**Moving ahead** 3,000 years, the Apostle Peter knew that God was not to relent in His wrath against Ananias and Sapphira. Although the assessment or appraisal of their hearts seems clear as Peter said by the Holy Spirit, .... Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself.” This resulted in both of them dropping dead when their sin was revealed by Peter to the other Believers. God needed to make something clear. Believers have a freedom in their love for Jesus, including a *reverent respect* that honors Him.

### **COMMUNICATING TRUTH CROSS-CULTURALLY**

I learned too late the effect on some Japanese by the word for “curse!” In 2005 Dorothy and I were in a small fishing village in Kyushu visiting a friend. I was giving away an English translation of the Red Sox DVD titled *Reversing The Curse.* This is the testimony of the eleven Born-again Christians on the team that won the world series in 2004. It had been 86 years of “strange” losses by the Red Sox in World Series games. The *curse*, was by the dead spirit of Babe

Ruth. The Red Sox had disrespected him in a trade to the New York Yankees in the 1900's. The devil has power to cause people to fear curses and also to change events to encourage such fear. This is true. But Christians are above all such curses as in **(1 John 4.4)** *...because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.*

In that remote Kyushu fishing village I complained to God that the Japanese should have this DVD in their native language. I walked about 50 meters to hand out another DVD. The Holy Spirit came upon me and I was frozen...! What Lord? About 6 months later God answered my question and my prayer of complaint. How? A small dog ran in front of my racer bicycle. By instinct I slammed on the brakes. This made me flip into the air and onto the cement bike path. This caused a shattered hip bone. The Xrays showed that Death was only 1 centimeter away as the shattered bones were cutting the nerves next to the main blood artery to my left leg. I spent 10 days in the hospital after major surgery. And then I spent 4 weeks unable to walk in the rehab hospital. But, I survived! (you can see that!) And yes, I can walk. I took the insurance money and began at once to pay to translate the English version of *Reversing the Curse* DVD into Japanese.

Then, more miracles of God's hand of power. My first translation was by non-Christian friends who translated for banks in Japan. Jesus intervened when I first made my translation agreement with our non-Christian friends. I was about to say that I would give them the English transcript. Jesus Spirit whispered no on the spot? This cost more money. Then I realized what my missionary friend from Wycliffe Bible Translators taught me. Get the non-Christians to do much work so that they 'hear' the Gospel. Not giving them the transcript meant their seeing and hearing the Christian testimonies before their translation work. So I agreed with their cost of \$1,800 dollars that they asked for.

But next, I wanted a Christian to check out their translation. Miraculously, a retired missionary friend of mine found a Japanese Christian at a **flea market** who translated for a big company. I drove 300 kilometers to visit him. He agreed to do the next translation for FREE.

Then, I Emailed his work to the professional Christian translators for *Athletes in Action* in Tokyo. *Athletes in Action* had given me permission to translate their English version which they created in 2005. The Japanese sister in Christ in Tokyo did the next translation. But just before I released her translation to the audio studio for voice overs of the Red Sox, our daughter Therese said "Wait, Dad!" She reminded me that Japanese men had many words different from Japanese women. I risked offending my sister in Tokyo but she confirmed that I was correct. She also said

that she would ask some men for some Japanese “yakyu” slang for a few parts! Then I sent the final Email attachment DVD with Japanese voice-overs to be “burned” in Texas. It was so wonderful to have 60,000 copies of these DVDs translated into Japanese. In the Spring of 2008 many thousands were handed out in Tokyo as the Red Sox opened their season there. I even found some in a small church in Iwakuni in 2015.

BUT, the final copies had *Reversing the Curse* printed on the cover in Kanji! The word “CURSE” frightened many Japanese away. I found this out too late to change the printing. Because *yakyu* is so precious to the Japanese, I trust that many kept the DVD and watched this amazing victory. Any who watched it heard testimonies in Japanese by the Christians on the 2004 Red Sox team.

So I say of this today to let my Japanese friends know how hard it is to *preach the Truth without injuring some who hear it*. The Kanji word for “curse” evokes a fear response in many Japanese. There are no curses that can stay against any Christian. But this DVD is for evangelism of non-Christians. Only a curse by God Himself can apply to a Child of God. Joshua's curse about Jericho was from God. Ananias and Sapphira were **punished by God** by physical death. If they loved Jesus, they kept spiritual life into heaven. We can be encouraged by God's Word in **(1 Thessalonians 5.9):** *For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us.*

## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Christians are commanded to love their enemies. Therefore, Christians must not curse anyone as in **(Romans 12.14)** *Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them.* We are following our Lord Jesus' example as He forgave His murderers on the Cross. Yet, we cannot take authority away from God. When we see death and disasters either near or far away, as God's Children we must not Judge God, as the non-believers often do. They do this to avoid the fear of God which leads to repentance for sins. The Apostle Paul inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote about “God's Right to chose.” This is in **(Romans 9.15) 15** *For God said to Moses, “I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose.”*

SIN & FAILURE IN THE BATTLE!

## Ai Defeats the Israelites

**(Joshua 7.1)** *But Israel violated the instructions about the things set apart for the LORD. A man named Achan had stolen some of these dedicated things, so the LORD was very angry with the Israelites. Achan was the son of Carmi, a descendant of Zimri son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah.*

As Solomon said in **(Ecclesiastes 1.9-10)** *9 History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new. 10 Sometimes people say, "Here is something new!" But actually it is old; nothing is ever truly new.* Of course, modern technology and advances in science seen worldwide are new. But mankind is still basically the same, sinful. The format of the Book of Ecclesiastes is writings of the wisest man who ever lived. He wrote truths limited to human life, not God controlled life. What Solomon said about "nothing new under the sun" is seen in the likeness of two events 3,000 years apart. They are the evil acts of Achan and of Ananias & Sapphira! In my next Message we will see similar results for these evil actions. But for today, I want to now focus on Israel's *fearless leader*, Joshua.

Reading next in **(Joshua 7.2- 5)** *2 Joshua sent some of his men from Jericho to spy out the town of Ai, east of Bethel, near Beth-aven. 3 When they returned, they told Joshua, "There's no need for all of us to go up there; it won't take more than two or three thousand men to attack Ai. Since there are so few of them, don't make all our people struggle to go up there." 4 So approximately 3,000 warriors were sent, but they were soundly defeated. The men of Ai 5 chased the Israelites from the town gate as far as the quarries, and they killed about thirty-six who were retreating down the slope. The Israelites were paralyzed with fear at this turn of events, and their courage melted away.*

Now we find the Israelite soldiers retreating down a slope, not fearlessly running up slope into Jericho. Why? Well, human endeavors for only human results would calculate the size of the opposing soldiers, like two Sumo wrestlers. We might compare the skill sets of each army. This is like comparing a normal baseball player to Shohei Ohtani. But, Israel is God's Nation of God's People. It was the power of the Lord, not of their abilities, that gave them Victory. In their last battle God had supernaturally removed the Jericho Army's biggest weapon, the *Immovable Wall*. Sin must be behind such a glaring defeat at Ai. "God did not **show up!**"

**We know what sin caused this defeat at Ai. At that time, Joshua did not know! We read the history written by Joshua many years later which says in (Joshua 7.1)** *But Israel violated the instructions about the things set apart for the LORD. A man named Achan had stolen some of these dedicated things, so the LORD was very angry with the Israelites. Achan was the son of Carmi, a descendant of Zimri son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah.* This is Joshua's first defeat as the Leader of Israel. So after the defeat at Ai Joshua is blaming the failure on himself, and questioning what He "thought" God had said!



## JOSHUA'S MELTDOWN

*6 Joshua and the elders of Israel tore their clothing in dismay, threw dust on their heads, and bowed face down to the ground before the Ark of the LORD until evening. 7 Then Joshua cried out, “Oh, Sovereign LORD, why did you bring us across the Jordan River if you are going to let the Amorites kill us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side! 8 Lord, what can I say now that Israel has fled from its enemies? 9 For when the Canaanites and all the other people living in the land hear about it, they will surround us and wipe our name off the face of the earth. And then what will happen to the honor of your great name?”*

Joshua and the elders knew that God did not give them the victory. His supernatural power had been in every soldier's sword and fight. Yes! The superheroes we see in movies and anime, were what real Israelite soldiers and heroes had done in battle. God chose to empower these over any human ability to resist them. Samson, who was a judge for Israel in 1075BC, about 350 years after Joshua, had such power from God. We read in **(Judges 15.14-15)** *14 As Samson arrived at Lehi, the Philistines came shouting in triumph. But the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon Samson, and he snapped the ropes on his arms as if they were burnt strands of flax, and they fell from his wrists. 15 Then he found the jawbone of a recently killed donkey. He picked it up and killed 1,000 Philistines with it.*

Joshua is really discouraged as in **(Joshua 7.7)** *7 Then Joshua cried out, “Oh, Sovereign LORD, why did you bring us across the Jordan River if you are going to let the Amorites kill us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side!* The Bible does not hide the weaknesses of God's chosen people or leaders. Joshua first heard God's call to be the leader of Israel in **(Joshua 1.6)** *“Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them.* The Lord repeated ***Be strong and courageous three times*** in His call to Joshua. Note also that God prophesied, in saying that Joshua **would , not could,** *lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them.* And, in **(Joshua 1.9)** *This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*

God chooses and calls leaders for His people. They are all imperfect and very human. When disaster strikes, like at Ai, they often forget what God promised them in their life of leadership. Joshua knew **(verse 9)** *For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”* **But this did not happen at the Battle for Ai.** Joshua was blaming himself, in part. The Lord was still with Joshua but not with the Israelite Army! We never want to let disaster or temptations have us forget

God's Word. Eve kept listening to Satan in a snake as he planted seeds of doubt in her memory. In **(Genesis 3.1)** *Now the snake was more able to fool others than any animal of the field which the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God say** that you should not eat from any tree in the garden?”* We are also very very human. We should stay strong in faith yet humble as it says in **(2 Corinthians 4.7)** *But we have this treasure in **earthen vessels**, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

Next, we see Joshua was a good student! For he remembered what his mentor and teacher Moses taught him. Recall how Moses got the Lord to change His mind and not destroy all of Israel for their stubborn gross sin of idolatry, worshiping the *Golden Calf*. We see this in **(Exodus 32.11)** *But Moses tried to pacify the LORD his God. “O LORD!” he said. “Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power and such a strong hand?”* Then Moses appealed to God's reputation with Mankind on Earth. Moses also reminded God of His oath with the Father of the Faith, Abraham, and his sons. For Moses said in **(Exodus 32.12-13)** *12 Why let the Egyptians say, ‘Their God rescued them with the evil intention of slaughtering them in the mountains and wiping them from the face of the earth’? Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind about this terrible disaster you have threatened against your people! 13 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You bound yourself with an oath to them, saying, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. And I will give them all of this land that I have promised to your descendants, and they will possess it forever.’”*

Now Joshua, appeals to God's reputation as Moses had in **(Joshua 7. 9)** *For when the Canaanites and all the other people living in the land hear about it, they will surround us and wipe our name off the face of the earth. And then **what will happen to the honor of your great name?**”*

At first glance, God seems to be egotistical! Well. As God, He has a right to be as the perfect God who existed before time itself. But, it does not take much meditation on these verses to realize that His reputation with Men was important for their future salvation. Especially when we see Moses' appeal in *I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven*. God knew that this was the path to the Cross of Jesus, the Salvation of Many, and the Creation of His Church in all the Earth.

## **NEW TESTAMENT LIVING FOR JESUS' GLORY – GOD'S MERCY FOR CHRISTIANS**

Since Jesus bought us with His Blood, God gives Christians very special privileges. Not the least of these is **prayer**. As Children of God we have free entrance into God's Presence and Mercy Seat.

We are thus much encouraged to pray with faith that we are really **heard** in **(Hebrews 4.15-16/NASB1995) 15** *For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One {Jesus}who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* Even as Children of God with free Entrance to the Presence of God, we must remember that Jesus imputed or put His righteousness on us. This makes our acceptance possible and pleasing to God the Father. So, like Moses and Joshua, we boldly ask God to defend His name on earth. Yes. New Testament Believers can boldly ask for God's powerful acts to give Glory to Jesus on Earth. For Jesus said in **(John 14.12-14 ) 12** *Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.* As Christians mature they learn to be consumed by the desire to give Jesus glory on Earth, and have our part in the Father being glorified in the Son.

**We Christians are those twinkling stars that Abraham saw in the heart of God as he gazed on the visible stars in the sky. Every time we pray in the name of Jesus, God acts to respond to us even as He did with Moses and Joshua. Jesus' name deserves the BEST here and now. We just find ourselves asking even the *impossible* that will give glory to Jesus on Earth. When we consider how God stoops low to make us great, we might think twice before we question His judgments in life and death events. He could have destroyed Mankind at many places in History where we had worshiped false gods, especially ourselves. If He had, He would still be Holy and Blameless. He chooses to save many people from every tribe and nation who will give honor to Him through their relationship with His Son Jesus. The Bible says in (1 John 4.8) *But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.* Remember only the One who is Love should have such authority as to choose when to Curse- to Bless- and to Give Mercy.**

***Let Us Pray,***

## **REFERENCES**

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