

# **Elder Vernon Johnson**

## **Numbers**

### **Thirteen**

## **Curse Overview**

The bible number thirteen is often associated with the bible subject of curse. This association begins in the book of Genesis when the words, curse, cursed, and curseth appear a total of thirteen times. It begins after Adam's transgression in the Garden of Eden where God cursed the serpent above all cattle and every beast of the field. Then God cursed the ground for man's sake, telling the man, "cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Next, we find that Ham, the thirteenth person named in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis committed a grievous sin against his father, Noah. At which time Noah under the inspiration of the Spirit of God pronounced a curse on the son of Ham, Canaan. Ham the son of Noah committed the sin and Canaan the son of Ham suffered the curse. The pattern parallels our situation as elect sons of God. We committed the sins and Christ the Son of man bore the curse for our sins:

1. Gal. 3:10 "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them." Certainly, it can be said of all of us, that we have not continued in all things, which are written in the book of the law to do them. Therefore, we were under the curse of God because of sin.

2. Gal. 3:13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Thus Christ was made a curse for us so as to redeem us from the curse of the law.

3. 2 Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

When the children of Israel were to pass over into the land of Canaan they were to pass between two mountains: Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. Mount Gerizim was the mount of blessing and Mount Ebal was the mount of cursing. The Lord had the princes of six of the tribes of Israel to stand on Mount Gerizim and bless the children of Israel when they entered into Canaan and he had the princes of six of the tribes to pronounce curses upon the children of Israel when they passed into the land of Canaan.

Beginning with the thirteenth verse of Deu., Chapter 27, the Lord had the Levites to pronounce thirteen curses on the children of Israel for disobedience to the commandments of God. So long as the children of Israel kept the commandments of God they would be blessed, but when they disobeyed the commandments of God they would bear the curse. This is consistent with what we read in Is. 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. 19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: 20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."

We are blessed in this life when we willingly follow and obey the Lord. We are cursed in our walk when we refuse to obey and rebel against the service of God.

Rebellion brings a curse upon the rebellious. Nimrod the thirteenth from Adam led the children of men in a rebellion against the commandment of God to go forth and be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. Nimrod began to be a mighty one in the earth and he led the children of men to build a city and a tower let them be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth. Because of this rebellion, God confounded the language of all the earth so that the children of men were scattered abroad upon the face of the earth.

In Galatians chapter 4 there is an allegory involving the two sons of the two wives of Abraham. The bondwoman Hagar had a child after the flesh and his name was Ishmael and this represented the covenant of the works of the law. The freewoman Sarah had a son by promise, Isaac, and this represent the covenant of grace. Isaac was circumcised when he was eight days old. Eight is associated with new beginnings. Ishmael was circumcised when he was thirteen years

old. Thirteen, as we have seen, is associated with a curse. Those who worship today under a works system are under the curse of bondage. Furthermore, they preach a cursed gospel: Gal. 1:8 "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

The Lord's church is called the bride of Christ and is spoken of by her husband as being beautiful and greatly blessed and a virgin. In contrast, the Devil's bride is spoken of in Rev. 17:5 as follows: "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Thus in thirteen words this cursed harlot is described.