

THE CURSE MOTIF

From Eden's Judgment to Christ's Redemption

1 THE ORIGIN OF THE CURSE — GENESIS 3



• Sin brought divine judgment into creation.



• The serpent was cursed. (Gen. 3:14–15)



• The woman's sorrow was multiplied. (Gen. 3:16)



• The ground was cursed because of Adam. (Gen. 3:17–19)



• Death entered the world through sin. (Rom. 5:12)

“Cursed is the ground because of you.”

— Genesis 3:17

2 THE CURSE SPREADS THROUGH SCRIPTURE



CAIN:
the ground and exile.
(Gen. 4:11–12)



THE FLOOD:
judgment on a corrupted world.
(Gen. 6–8)



BABEL:
confusion and scattering.
(Gen. 11:1–9)



COVENANT CURSES:
disobedience brings judgment.
(Deut. 27–28)



EXILE:
Israel driven from the land.
(2 Kings 17; 25)

The curse motif shows that rebellion against God brings judgment, death, separation, and futility.

3 THEOLOGICAL MEANING OF THE CURSE



GUILT BEFORE GOD
sin is judicial, not merely painful.



DEATH
physical and spiritual ruin follow sin.



FUTILITY
creation is subjected to frustration.
(Rom. 8:20)



EXILE
sinners are cut off from God's presence.



ENMITY
hostility against God and between peoples continues.

The curse is the righteous sentence of a holy God against sin.

4 CHRIST BECAME A CURSE FOR US



Christ bore the curse our sin deserved.
(Gal. 3:13)



He bore our griefs and sorrows.
(Isa. 53:4–6)



The blessing promised to Abraham comes through Christ.
(Gal. 3:14)



He redeemed us from the curse of the law.
(Gal. 3:10–13)



In the cross, judgment and mercy meet.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.”
— Galatians 3:13

5 THE CURSE REVERSED — NEW CREATION



• In Christ there is no condemnation. (Rom. 8:1)



• Creation will be set free. (Rom. 8:21)



• The serpent is finally defeated. (Rev. 20:10)



• The tree of life reappears. (Rev. 22:2)



• “No longer will there be anything accursed.” (Rev. 22:3)

THE STORY IN MOTION



FALL



CURSE



CROSS



RESURRECTION



NEW CREATION

The curse motif traces the Bible's storyline: sin brings judgment, but in Christ the curse is borne, the blessing is secured, and creation will be made new.

KEY TEXTS

Genesis 3 | Deuteronomy 27–28 | Isaiah 53 | Galatians 3:10–14 | Romans 8:18–23 | Revelation 22:1–5