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Special Series

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Gen.3:14
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[Series: Divine Judgment upon World]
THE DIVINE JUDGMENT UPON THE SERPENT

As a result of Adam's transgression of the Edenic Law (Gen.2:17), God pronounced five divine judgments upon the world, recorded in (Gen.3:14-19).

- These five divine judgments were in addition to the sin-death judgment of Adam (Rom.5:12; 1 Cor.15:22 and John 3:16).
- These five judgments were pronounced because of participation in Adam's fall either directly or indirectly.
- These five judgments affected five areas of life in the world until the Millennial Age (Rev.20).

In our **Introduction lesson**, we learn three important legal clues to these five divine judgments:

- "Lord God Said" Authority
 - "Because" Accusation
 - "Cursed" (arar) Adjudication
- Notice them in Gen.3:14 and 17.**

Today's lesson will study five aspects of Divine Judgment upon the Serpent of the Garden of Eden.

1. In the original divine order of creation, it was:

- The earth (Gen.1:1)
- Satan (Gen.1:1-2; Rev.12:4, 9; Ezek.28:15)
- The Serpent (Gen.1:24-25)
- Adam (Gen.1:26; 2:7)
- Eve (Gen.1:27; 2:21-22)

However, there is a different order of the divine judgments with the fall of Adam:

- The Serpent (Gen.3:14-15)
- Satan (Gen.3:15)
- Eve (Gen.3:16)
- The Ground (Gen.3:17-19)
- Adam (Gen.3:17-19)

NOTE: The Earth and Satan had previous judgments because of Satan's fall (Gen.1:1-2; Matt.25:41; Isa.14:12-14; Ezek.28:11-19).

2. **It is important to understand that the "arar" curse was issued twice (Gen.3:14 and 17) and involved five individuals.**

Two of the five Divine Judgments were issued because of indirect participation in the fall of Adam:

- The earth
- Satan.

Notice that **Satan**, while not mentioned directly in the “arar” curse of (Gen.3:14-15), did participate in the fall of Adam (Rev.12:9-13; 20:2).

“The great deceiver clothed himself as a serpent, one of God’s good creatures. He insinuated a falsehood and portrayed rebellion as clever, but essential innocent, self-interest. Therefore, the devil or Satan is later referred to as the Old Serpent.” (NIV, Gen.3:1; Rev.20:2)

Notice that **the ground** was mentioned in the “arar” curse but did not participate directly in the fall of Adam (Gen.3).

3. The hostility clause of “arar” curse on the serpent (Gen.3:14-15) was applied to both the serpent and satan. It was applied directly to serpent and indirectly to satan.

In (Gen.3:1), we are told that the serpent was “more crafty (arum/ phronimos) (Job 5:13; Matt.10:16) than any of the beast of field” (Gen.1:24-25; 3:14).

Unger: “Ability to discern modes of action with a view to results.” (habitual behavior patterns)

The Serpent was cursed “more than” other animals of day 5-6 (Gen.3:14) [two times].

All other categories of animals, “in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life,” were put under the physical death clause of Adam’s Sin (AOS) because of the serpent (Gen.7:21-23) [The Flood].

The hostility clause will be removed during the Millennium (Rev.20; Gen.1:20-31) [days 5 and 6].

4. Moses connected the hostility of the serpent and satan with the Jewish Age believers rebellion against the Directive Will of God in (Num.21:4-9; 2 Kings 18:4 and Hezekiah’s 700 years).

Jesus declared that the spiritual solution for victory over satan and the rebellion of angelic conflict was the cross of Jesus Christ in (John 3:10-18).

Jesus taught that the bronze serpent on a cross in the 15th century BC was a visual aid of the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ on the cross to all who believed today, in the 21st century AD (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9; Gal.6:14).

On the cross at Golgotha, Jesus Christ defeated the sin-death curse of Adam (Matt.27:33; 2 Cor.5:21; 1 Cor.15:56-57; 1 John 3:5) and Satan (Rom.5:8-11; Col.2:13-15; 1 John 3:8).

5. The serpent crawling on his belly eating dust all the days of his life is a visual aid remember of the serpent’s participation in the fall of Adam (Gen.1:24-28; [rule] Gen.3:1-15) (visual aids: Gen.9; Matt.6:25-34; Rom.1:20; James 4:13-17).

It was classified as unclean in Levitical Law (Lev.11:42).

Micah used it as an example of ultimate defeat of the enemies of God associated with the Second Coming of Christ (Micah 7:11-20) “They will lick the dust like a serpent” (Micah 7:17; Ps.72:9; Isa.49:23).