

13.07 Ebal and Gerizim (Joshua 8:30–35; Deuteronomy 27; 28)

(The teacher might combine this story with “13.06 Ai Defeated.”)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional needed materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: (Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *plaster*: a soft mixture of lime, sand or cement, and water; when it hardens, it provides a protective coat on the object it covers
- *blessing*: God's favor and protection
- *cursing*: pronouncement resulting in supernatural harm (<https://www.bibleodyssey.org/en/people/related-articles/curses-in-the-hebrew-bible>); in this lesson cursing does not mean swear words
- *sojourner*: a person who lives in a foreign land

Scripture: (ESV)

Joshua 8:30 At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, 31 just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, “an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings. 32 And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. 33 And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. 34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. 35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.

Deuteronomy 27:1 Now Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people, saying, “Keep the whole commandment that I command you today. 2 And on the day you cross over the Jordan to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall set up large stones and plaster them with plaster. 3 And you shall write on them all the words of this law, when you cross over to enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you. 4 And when you have crossed over the Jordan, you shall set up these stones, concerning which I command you today, on Mount Ebal, and you shall plaster them with plaster. 5 And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones. You shall wield no iron tool on them; 6 you shall build an altar to the LORD your God of uncut stones. And you shall offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God, 7 and you shall sacrifice peace offerings and shall eat there, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God. 8 And you shall write on the stones all the words of this law very plainly.”

9 Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel, “Keep silence and hear, O Israel: this day you have become the people of the LORD your God. 10 You shall therefore obey the voice of the LORD your God, keeping his commandments and his statutes, which I command you today.”

11 That day Moses charged the people, saying, 12 “When you have crossed over the Jordan, these shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin. 13 And these

shall stand on Mount Ebal for the curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. 14 And the Levites shall declare to all the men of Israel in a loud voice:

15 ‘Cursed be the man who makes a carved or cast metal image, an abomination to the LORD, a thing made by the hands of a craftsman, and sets it up in secret.’ And all the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen.’ 16 ‘Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ 17 ‘Cursed be anyone who moves his neighbor’s landmark.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ 18 ‘Cursed be anyone who misleads a blind man on the road.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ 19 ‘Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ . . . 24 ‘Cursed be anyone who strikes down his neighbor in secret.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ 25 ‘Cursed be anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ 26 ‘Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.’ And . . . say, ‘Amen.’

28:1 “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.

3 “Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. 4 Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. 5 Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. 6 Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

7 “The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. 8 The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. 9 The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. 10 And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. 11 And the LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. 12 The LORD will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. 13 And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them, 14 and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.” . . .

Introduction/Review:

The setting for today’s lesson is near a city called Shechem, which had some interesting Bible history:

1. It was here that God first promised all of Canaan to Abraham.
2. Jacob later bought some property here. A site called Jacob’s well (John 4:11, 12) is still near the city now named Tel Balata by archaeologists.
3. After the Israelites came out of Egypt, they buried Joseph here.
4. Other biblical events took place here later.

God had miraculously brought all of Israel over the Jordan River into the Promised Land where He gave tremendous victories over the cities of Jericho and Ai. Now it was time to take care of some important business commanded by God through Moses.¹

Story:

Traveling north

The business Moses commanded was a ceremony to be observed when they entered the land to remind the people about God’s law and its importance in their lives. To attend this ceremony, all Israel journeyed north from Ai about thirty miles to an area where two mountains were located. [See photo found at the end of this

lesson.] Mount Gerizim was on the left (the south), and Mount Ebal was on the right (the north). You can see they were about the same size, and the city of Shechem was in the valley between them. Priests carried the ark of the covenant to a place between the two mountains.

Offering sacrifices

Then Joshua built an altar to God in Mount Ebal (on the north) and offered sacrifices to God. God had said, “You shall sacrifice peace offerings and shall eat there, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God.” ✓ I would say this was a perfect time and place to rejoice, for God had brought Israel to the very place where He had first promised this land to Abraham almost five hundred years earlier (1892 B.C. to 1422 B.C.). It was a significant place for a serious observance.

As God had instructed Moses, Joshua set up large stones and plastered them. When the plaster dried, he inscribed on those stones a copy of the Law of Moses. Then, also as God had instructed, Joshua divided up the tribes of Israel to do something quite interesting.

Dividing tribes

God had said six tribes (Simeon; Levi; Judah; Issachar; Joseph, which included Ephraim and Manasseh; and Benjamin) should stand on or in front of Mount Gerizim and the other six tribes (Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali) should stand on or in front of Mount Ebal. Those on Mount Gerizim were to represent God’s blessings for obedience; ² those on Mount Ebal were to represent the curses of God for disobedience. All Israel—dads, moms, children, sojourners, elders, officers, and judges—stood on opposite sides of the ark.

Thinking about commands

Before we get into the actual words spoken on these mountains, let’s stop a moment to discuss some foundational background:

First, how many commandments did God give on Mount Sinai? [Ten.] Did He give other commandments on Mount Sinai? Yes, but the summary of all God’s laws was contained in the Ten Commandments. Are there other commandments in the Bible? Yes, there are many commandments in the Bible. What is a commandment? A law God expects us to obey.

If God expects us to obey His commandments, can we pick and choose which commandments to obey? No. What if a person doesn’t feel like obeying? God’s laws must be obeyed, or punishment will come.

If people obey God’s commandments, what can they expect? Blessing, which is God’s favor, shown in happiness. What can people expect if they disobey God’s commandments? Cursing, which is God’s disfavor, shown in unhappiness and trouble.

Does that mean that whenever we have trouble and unhappiness we are being punished by God? Not necessarily. People know if they are being disobedient. In that case, if trouble comes, they are perhaps being punished. We cannot say whether they are or are not, for we do not have the mind of God. However, we do know that believers will face trials that are not a curse but a means God uses to make them grow in their Christian experience. Trials should produce love and Christ-likeness.

God gives us laws and commandments because He knows what’s best for us. They are an expression of His love for us and His protection of us. Compare household rules. Aren’t they for your good? Sadly, many kids think they can whine their way out of obedience or simply disobey. This isn’t a good practice, for the fifth commandment says we are to obey our parents. What can you expect if you disobey? Punishment—a consequence that punishes.

God knew that Israel would face many temptations to disobey His commandments. In love for them He expected them especially to obey the first four commandments—about worshiping only Him.

Reading curses and blessings

God physically involved His people in learning these blessings and cursings, for they needed to be warned of the exact things they could expect for obedience and disobedience—blessings and cursings. Let’s read them as if we were His people on Mount Gerizim or Mount Ebal. First, we will read curses; second, blessings; and third, a long list of more curses.

[Teacher, divide students into two groups, Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. Put the Gerizim group at the left end of the room and the Ebal group at the right end. Give the Gerizim students copies of the “Blessings” and the Ebal group copies of the “Cursings.” These pages are found below. First, have the group on “Ebal” read loudly the first section of curses with the “Gerizim” students answering, “Amen,” after each cursing. Then have the “Gerizim” group read the blessings. The second set of cursings that “Ebal” students will read are lengthy, but they have important statements that predict future events for Israel. If the class is mostly non-readers, ask students to repeat a few blessings and curses after the teacher. If the teacher chooses to shorten the lists for older students, items with an asterisk (*) should be included.]

Summarizing the ceremony

[After the curses and blessings are read, the teacher should continue with the following.] It was Joshua who read all the Law to all the people. In summary, he said, “All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed when you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God to keep his commandments with joyfulness and gladness of heart.” How good it is to obey parents and God “with joyfulness and gladness of heart”! We can choose if we want to be cranky or cooperative when we’ve been told to do something by God or parents. Blessing comes in keeping commandment with joyfulness of heart.

Joshua continued, “These words shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever because you did not serve the Lord your God when you had an abundance of all things.” When we have “an abundance of all things,” as most of us do today, we tend to think we don’t need God. But that’s the time we must be extra careful to obey God.

One last thing Joshua said was, “You must be careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book so that you may fear the glorious and awesome name of the Lord your God.” Fearing God is a good thing. Obedience to God’s Word causes us to “fear the glorious and awesome name of the Lord our God.”

¹Some think the Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal story does not fit chronologically here and should have been recorded later in the book of Joshua. The reasoning is that the distance from Ai (30 miles) was too great for all of Israel to travel for only this ceremony. However, God said it was to take place “on the day you cross over the Jordan to the land that the LORD your God is giving you” (Deuteronomy 27:2). Matthew Henry comments on this issue at <https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/joshua/8.html>.

² “[I]t is here only said that they should bless the people, for the blessing was that which was first and chiefly intended, and which God designed in giving the law. If they fell under the curse, that was their own fault. And it was really a blessing to the people that they had this matter laid so plainly before them, life and death, good and evil” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/joshua/8.html>).

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:
“[Joshua’s] altar was erected on Mount Ebal, the mount on which the curse was put (Deu. 11:29) . . . [B]y Christ’s sacrifice of himself for us . . . he has redeemed us from the curse of the law by being made a curse for us, Gal. 3:13” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/joshua/8.html>).
- We tend to think mostly about God's blessings, but we also need to be aware that God gives consequences for disobedience.
- God blessed our nation (set us “high above all the nations of the earth”) when we obeyed Him.

- Each of us personally must obey God’s laws.

Activities:

- Play dough: stones on which the law was written; altar; two mountains
- Snack: White Chocolate (think *plaster*) Snack Mix. A recipe is at <https://www.allrecipes.com/video/3546/white-chocolate-snack-mix/>.
- Sing “How Did Moses/Joshua Cross . . .,” Jericho songs, and “Jehovah Noticed.”
- If not playing the “Review questions” game during the review, then play it here.
- Review questions: (Game: If using a pocket chart, print on colored cardstock and cut out the blessings and cursing boxes found below. If using a flannel board, print the boxes on colored paper, back with paper towel, and cut out. The student who answers a question correctly randomly picks a box without looking at the words. After reading it aloud, the student places the box under the correct heading.)
 1. Israel journeyed to what place? [Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal; north.]
 2. Which city was between these two mountains? [Shechem.]
 3. Identify which mountain was the mountain of blessing? [Gerizim.]
 4. Which mountain was the mountain of cursing? [Ebal.]
 5. What was the first thing Joshua did at Mount Ebal? [Erected an altar and offered sacrifices.]
 6. What was the second thing Joshua did at Mount Ebal? [Set up large stones; plastered them; wrote the Law on them.]
 7. Who read the all the Law? [Joshua.]
 8. Who was included in the audience? [All the men, women, little ones, elders, judges, and sojourners.]
 9. True or false. God gave laws to make life hard for His people. [False.]
 10. Correct the statement in question #9. “God gave laws because _____.” [He loved his people, or He wanted to protect them, or He wanted the best for His people.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Joshua 1:6, 7: Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.

Handwork:

- Paint a thin layer of Plaster of Paris (recipe can be found at <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Plaster-of-Paris>) on small flat stones (about 3” to 4” in diameter). Allow the plaster to dry. (Since drying may take several minutes, it might be wise to paint the stones early in the lesson.) Have students use a nail to inscribe a short command on the stone; *e.g.*, “No other gods”; “Don’t steal.”

plaster

blessing

cursing

sojourner

Mount Gerizim (blessing)	Mount Ebal (cursing)
Simeon	Reuben
Levi	Gad
Judah	Asher
Issachar	Zebulun
Ephraim	Dan
Manasseh	Naphtali
Benjamin	

Cursings

The students on “Mount Ebal” will proclaim these curses from Deuteronomy 27:15-26 in a loud voice. After each curse in the first section, all the other students will say a hearty, “Amen!” These first curses are for those who practice injustice.

1st

- *Cursed be the man who makes a carved or cast metal image, an abomination to the LORD, a thing made by the hands of a craftsman, and sets it up in secret. (“Amen.”)
*Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother. (“Amen.”)
- Cursed be anyone who moves his neighbor’s landmark. (“Amen.”)
Cursed be anyone who misleads a blind man on the road. (“Amen.”)
- *Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. (“Amen.”)
*Cursed be anyone who strikes down his neighbor in secret. (“Amen.”)
- *Cursed be anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood. (“Amen.”)
*Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them. (“Amen.”)

2nd

[The tribes on “Mount Gerizim” read the blessings from Deuteronomy 28:1–14, found on a separate page, before the following curses are pronounced.]

3rd

[Teacher, read this paragraph] Moses had commanded, “But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you” (Deuteronomy 28:16–68):

- Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field.
- Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.
- Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.
- Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.
- The LORD will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me.
- *The LORD will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Drought and blight and mildew shall pursue you until you perish.
- The LORD will strike you with diseases: all the diseases of Egypt of which you were afraid, fever, inflammation, fiery heat, the boils of Egypt, tumors, scabs, and itch, of which you cannot be healed. The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind, and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. Every sickness also and every affliction that is not recorded in the book of this law, the LORD will bring upon you, until you are destroyed.
- *And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed.
- *The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away. You shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.

- A nation that you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your ground and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually so that you are driven mad by the sights that your eyes see. You shall be oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to help you.
- You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall marry her. You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it.
- You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm shall eat them. You shall carry much seed into the field and shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it. You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil, for your olives shall drop off. The [locust] shall possess all your trees and the fruit of your ground.
- Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat any of it. Your donkey shall be seized before your face but shall not be restored to you. Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, but there shall be no one to help you. A conquering nation shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish.
- *Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless. You shall father sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity.
- *The LORD will bring you and your king whom you set over you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone. And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the LORD will lead you away.
- *The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand, a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young. They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the LORD your God has given you.
- *And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.
- Your life shall hang in doubt before you. Night and day you shall be in dread and have no assurance of your life. In the morning you shall say, "If only it were evening!" and at evening you shall say, "If only it were morning!" because of the dread that your heart shall feel, and the sights that your eyes shall see. And the LORD will bring you back in ships to Egypt, a journey that I promised that you should never make again; and there you shall offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer.
- The sojourner who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. He shall lend to you, and you shall not lend to him. He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.
- *The LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions and sicknesses grievous and lasting. Whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you shall be left few in number because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God. As the LORD took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the LORD will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. You shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

*If making the list shorter, read this item.

Blessings

2nd

[Teacher, read this paragraph.] “If you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.”

The students on “Mount Gerizim” proclaim these blessings from Deuteronomy 28:3-14.

- Blessed shall you be in the city.
- Blessed shall you be in the field.
- Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.
- Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.
- Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.
- *The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.
- *The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
- *The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you.
- *And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.
- And the LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.
- *The LORD will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands.
- And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.
- *And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them.

*If making the list shorter, read this item.



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Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph [Ephraim and Manasseh], Benjamin

Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali



Mount Gerizim (blessings) on left, and Mount Ebal (cursings) on right; city of Shechem in middle

Blessings	Cursings
You shall only go up and not down if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God.	Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother.
The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you.	The LORD will bring you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known.
The LORD will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.	The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away that shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young.
The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you.	The LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions and sicknesses grievous and lasting.
The LORD will give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands.	The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies.

Key:

Blessings: You shall only go up and not down if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God. The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. The LORD will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you. The LORD will give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands.

Cursings: Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother. The LORD will bring you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away that shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young. The LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions and sicknesses grievous and lasting. The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies.