

GENERATIONAL ANSWERS EX. 20:4-6

Shame, marital intimacy woes, emotional baggage, emotions and life out of control...

These things don't just happen!

I. There is such a thing as a generational curse.

What do we know about this?

➤ **This is found clearly & repeatedly in Scripture.**

Exodus 20:4-6 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Exodus 34:5-7 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

Numbers 14:18-19 The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation*. Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

Deuteronomy 5:8-10 Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me, And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

➤ **This lasts 3 to 4generations**

➤ **This reminds us that our choices do matter & they matter a lot!**

For most people, there seems to be 3 levels of chaos:

1. The fall

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Ephesians 2:1-4 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, **Ephesians 4:17-19** This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind. Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

2. The sins of the fathers

3. Personal sins

II. There is also such a thing as generational blessing.

➤ **This is found even more often in Scripture!**

Exodus 20:4-6 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; **And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.**

Exodus 34:7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

Deuteronomy 5:9-10 Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me, **And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.**

Deuteronomy 7:9-11 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments **to a thousand generations**; And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face. Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.

Jeremiah 32:18 Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name,

- **This last 1,000 ...generations?!**
- **This reminds us that our choices do matter.**
- **This also reminds us that God is **much more** willing to bless than curse.**

III. There is, above all, such a thing as personal responsibility.

People love to find excuses → such as

What we have learned could have been used to explain some things & then as a place to begin obeying Christ.
Shame secrets generational curse arrested development

We tend to use the information in the one way the Bible

Jeremiah 31:29-30 In those days they shall say **no more**. The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge. But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge.

Ezekiel 18:1-4 The word of the LORD came unto me again, saying, What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, **ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel**. Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: **the soul that sinneth, it shall die**.

Implications:

- 1. The past can explain but not excuse.**
- 2. The past is the beginning not the end.**
- 3. The past helps us understand → where God needs to work & what God needs to do.**
- 4. The past must not pull us back but propel us forward.**
- 5. The past show us where to begin not whom to blame.**
- 6. The past calls not for blaming & excuse-making but for obeying.**
- 7. The past demands action not passive acceptance.**

Philippians 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.