**The Botch of Egypt**

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**Chiastic Structure**

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ehovah, the author of Scripture, employed many human authors to inscripturate His inspired and therefore inerrant words and to preserve them in the Old Testament Canon (thirty-nine books) and the New Testament Canon (twenty-seven books). He so wrote the Old Testament or *Tanak* using poetic structure with musical notations for worshipful singing. A major feature of the poetic structure is parallelism and a subset of parallelism is the Chiasm. Chiastic structure received its name from the Greek letter *chi* (**C**) which looks like a Roman capital X and fosters the arrangement of a verse, passage, chapter or book allowing for repetitive parallelism of words or concepts brought to the central point and then repeated in reverse order. The pattern is often asymmetric with points A. B. C. B.’ A.’ taking the reader into the center and key point C. and then backing out with parallel points B.’ and A.’ Quite often the parallelism begins and ends with literary “book ends” which employ the same or similar expressions or concepts. The LORD used this structure to inform the reader about His intended focus for interpretative consideration. In the lengthy Chapter Twenty-Eight of Deuteronomy, the Covenant Ratification affirmations that the Lord GOD demanded of Israel at Shechem (Dt. 27-28) may be considered a Triple Chiasm with the one set of Chiasm for the blessings of obedience and the two sets of Chiasm for the cursings of disobedience. The following is an effort to convey the Triple Chiasm and central points.

**Dt. 28:1-14 Blessings**

A. Hearken to the Commandments (vv. 1-2)

B. The Blessings of Obedience (vv. 3-6)

C. The Enemies Smitten (v. 7)

B.’ The Blessings of Obedience (vv. 8-12)

A.’ Hearken to the Commandments (vv. 13-14)

**Dt. 28:15-45 Cursings #1**

A. Not Hearken to the Voice of the LORD (v. 15) > Curses will overtake (v. 2; Ps. 23:6)

 B. The Six Curses of the LORD (vv. 16-19)

B.’ The Twenty-Five Curses of the LORD (vv. 20-44)

A.’ Not Hearken to the Voice of the LORD (v. 45) > Curses will come, pursue, overtake, and destroy.

**Dt. 28:46-68 Cursings #2**

A. Deprivation of Freedom (vv. 46-48)

B. Distant Nations (vv. 49-57)

C. Diminish Population (vv. 58- 59)

D. Diseases of Egypt (vv. 60-61) > Madness

C.’ Diminish Population (v. 62)

B.’ Distant Nations (vv. 63-67)

A.’ Deprivation of Freedom (v. 68)

**The Message of Moses**

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he Message of Moses was quite simple: obey the Lord’s commands and be blessed; disobey and be cursed. As the focus points developed the LORD promised great blessings or great curses for both individual Jews and for the Nation of Israel, dependent upon the reactions of the people. For Chiasm #1 the Lord assured the people that His blessings would pursue after them and they would be an exalted nation (vv. 1-2). They would be blessed nation-wide (v. 3) including great fertility (v. 4), a great food supply (v. 5), and great freedom in travel (v. 6). He focused on the truth that Israel would smite their enemies with great victory (v. 7). Jehovah reiterated His promise of blessings on the food supply (v. 8a), on the Promised Land (v. 8b), with national holiness (v. 9), with a strong national testimony (v. 10), with fecundity on all (v. 11), with seasonal weather (v. 12a), and with wealth to lend (v. 12b). The Chiasm repeated the promise of great blessings of being a leading nation (v. 13) as long as Israel obeyed Him and resisted idolatry (v. 14).

 However, with Chiasm #2 and Chiasm #3 Jehovah gave strong and detailed warnings about disobedience. Whereas the blessing material of Chiasm #1 covered fourteen verses, the cursing material needed fifty-four verses (vv. 15-68), giving a four to one ratio of curses to blessings. Apparently Jehovah wanted Israel to realize the severity of the curses in the *minutiae* of expressions and recognize the judgments were not coincidences which could be attributed to something or someone else!

In Chiasm #2 the LORD gave the literary bookends with the expression *“not hearken unto the voice of the LORD your God”* (cf. v. 15 with v. 45). Sandwiched between the warnings of coming curses was a litany all inclusive judgments on every aspect of life. In verses sixteen to nineteen was the promise of reversals on the blessings in the previous Chiasm #1. God promised to curse the city and the field (v. 16 [v. 3]), the basket and the store (v. 17 [v. 5]), the fertility of persons, of crops, and of animals (v. 18 [v. 4]), and travel (v. 19 [v. 6]). Jehovah warned about the Curse of Vexation (v. 20), the Curse of Pestilence (v. 21), the Curse of Consumption (v. 22), the Curse of Drought (v. 23), the Curse of Dust (v. 24), the Curse of Enemies (v. 25), the Curse of Non-burial (v. 26), the Curse of the Botch of Egypt (v. 27), the Curse of Madness (v. 28), the Curse of Non-prosperity (v. 29), the Curse on the Family (v. 30), the Curse on Livestock (v. 31), the Curse of the Captivity of Children (v. 32), the Curse of Enemy Possession (v. 33), the Curse of Observing Loss of All (v. 34), the Curse on the Body (v. 35), the Curse of Captivity (v. 36), the Curse of Mockery (v. 37), the Curse of Locusts (v. 38), the Curse of Worms (v. 39), the Curse of Crop Failure (v. 40), the Curse of the Captivity of Children (v. 41), the Curse of Locusts (v. 42), the Curse on Social Status (v. 43), and the Curse of Financial Dependence (v. 44).

In Chiasm #3 Jehovah God gave the literary bookends of “the deprivation of freedom” for Israel, who would serve their enemies including Egypt (cf. vv. 46-48 with v. 68). The people and nation of Israel would receive the curse of foreign and distant nations depriving them of freedom (cf. vv. 49-57 with vv. 63-67). Instead of being a fruitful and multitudinous nation, the Lord would bring the curse of diminished population on His chosen people (cf. vv. 58-59 with v. 62). The focal point of this chiastic section was the curse of the dreadful diseases of Egypt, the ***“botch”*** (boils) of Egypt (vv. 27, 35), which included fearful, cleaving, and all-inclusive diseases of every type, both physical and mental *“madness”* (v. 28). The “endgame” of disobedience is dreadful destruction and excruciating extinction!

**Application**

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he interpretation and context of Dt. 27-28 was the ratification of Jehovah’s covenant with His chosen people Israel as they prepared to enter the Promised Land. Israelites needed to affirm their recognition of the magnitude of obedience to the LORD’s commands for blessing, and to affirm the grave dangers of disobedience to His commands. Since Jehovah is the Creator, Saviour, and Judge of the whole world, His expectation is for mankind to obey the Judeo-Christian truth given to the world. In the past and in the present the world has received divine revelation about heavenly truth, and for the most part has rejected God’s plan for the nations. When mankind rejects biblical truth severe consequences follow. The Christian recognizes that the world is under the curse of sin (Rom. 3:2), and now notices that the magnitude of the curses enumerated in Dt. 27-28 not only fall upon the heathen nations but now upon the former “Christian” nation of America. Obviously, the United States of America is not the Promised Land, but she was built upon the Judeo-Christian principles of the Old and New Testament Scriptures. The nation as a whole, and American Christianity in part, have rejected compliance with God’s word, and now see the curses upon America overwhelming society and the world.

 Without much effort one does notice the enormity of curses upon this country. The leaders of the world and of America for the most part have rejected the truth that the Lord Jesus Christ is the true God and the Christian Scriptures are the truth for life and eternity. The following are applications of the curses upon the world and America.

1. The blessing of the freedoms of the world and America are quickly disappearing.

2. The blessing of abundance and savings is being squandered.

3. The blessing of fertility is being skewed and perverted.

4. The blessing of domestic and international travel is compromised and conflicted.

5. The curse of pestilence falls on the farming industry.

6. The curse of the burning, feverous consumption in the form of COVID is worldwide.

7. The curse of destructive weather rages everywhere.

8. The curse of the threat of enemies is imminent.

9. The curse of non-burial in the form of cremation is prevalent.

10. The curse of new diseases spreading so quickly that science cannot keep up with dealing with symptoms (many diseases such as HIV and Hep. B are being spread by immorality).

11. The curse of madness or mental health permeates the world such that the “experts” have no solution for the predominance of sin/demonism-induced psychosis except to prescribe questionable and strong drugs to deal with the symptoms.

12. The curse of USA children being captured by the perverted public school system and indoctrinated in the filth of hell is widespread.

13. The curse of mockery is on world leaders but especially American politicians who have the one agenda to socialize and enslave America (the 1st and 2nd amendments are realistically gone). By the way, there will be no NRA-Christian militia movement “to take the country back.” This movement doesn’t know a battle has occurred and that they have already lost!

14. The curse of financial dependence fostered by the elite is purposely in place and on the brink of enslaving the middle class along with the poor.

**Conclusion**

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hould any of this be a surprise? Paul warned centuries ago, saying, *“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived”* (II Tim. 3:13). Is this a time to place Christians in political positions to return America to her glory years? American Christianity, engulfed in fundamentalism, had her chance and became too much “American” and too little “Christian.” Christians around the world need to self-reflect on the seriousness of counting the cost of being a Christian in a hostile, antichrist world. As Peter enjoined, *“make your calling and election sure”* (II Pet. 1:10). Assemblies need to recognize that congeniality with society and that the lack of agility will cause terrible compromise and ultimate shame and spiritual tragedy.

What next does the Lord have for this world which has rebelled against His Judeo-Christian truth? Who is the masked statesman, called Caesar, waiting in the wings “to deliver” the world from all of these curses? The Lord Jesus Christ gave the paramount instruction for living in this world, saying, *“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me”* (Lk. 9:23). Moreover, Paul encouraged the believer, saying, *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself”* (Phil. 3:20-21).