Up From The Dust

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Links to audio sermon – Windows Media Version is best, MP3 is 2nd best:

**TheOnLineWord.com**
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**AirJesus.com**
MRS. ROBBIE BRONNER: I've got a reason to pray. Tomorrow I embark on a new mission, and I am giving praise to God to give me the opportunity to do this. So if you will, praise Him with me, because as a company we can send up praises. And when the praises go up, the blessings will come down. Hallelujah.

(Song: “Perpetual Praise”)

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Before I speak this morning, I am going to ask my brother, James, to pray. He is to pray as a layperson. From here on out, every prayer that he prays will be inaudible.

BROTHER JAMES: I must say, the Pastor can really catch you off guard. I had already told Brother Calvin, “I need you to pray today, I've got to save up my energy for tomorrow.” Just shows we can never figure God out, because that’s always been the case.

Let us bow.

Oh, Lord, we thank You, oh, Lord, indeed for perpetual praise, God. Lord, You perpetually give us something to praise You for. We thank You, Lord, for every new blessing each day, God. Lord, we just thank You, Father, for keeping us faithful, oh, Lord, for sometimes we don’t appreciate our safety until we drive by and see a car wrapped around a tree. Lord, we thank You for keeping our children in good health, oh, Lord, and teaching them, oh, Lord, according to Your Word, for sometimes we don’t stop to pray for and appreciate their safety, oh, Lord, until they come down with pneumonia, until they have to go to the doctor and we’re waiting in the waiting room, waiting on a report to come. Oh, Lord, we just perpetually praise You this day, oh, God, for all that You’re doing, oh, Lord. Lord, and we even praise You to be able to read Your Word, oh, Lord, and hear it preached freely, oh, Lord, for we don’t ever appreciate that in this country, oh, Lord. But Your Word says there’ll come a day, oh, Lord, when it has to be shut up in our own bellies and we won’t be able to come out in public without breaking the law and proclaim Your Word, oh, Lord. But, Lord, we saw from Your disciples, oh, Lord, that as long as we have Your Spirit, oh, Lord, no law set by man can stop us, oh, God. We thank You, Lord, for just giving us a glimpse of Your glory on the other side, oh, Lord. But, Lord, when we truly get a peek over into Your Kingdom, oh, Lord, no man can no longer threaten us by fear of death anymore, Lord. We just thank You, oh, Lord, for that place that You’ve prepared for us, oh, God, for, Lord, even though there’s been a great work on the third floor, oh, Lord, if we just go up a little higher, oh, Lord, and look at the floor and room that You prepared for us, oh, Lord, it will put it to shame, oh, Lord. It will look like it's still in demolition, oh, God, when we look upon them, oh, Lord, at the rooms that You’ve prepared for us, Lord. And we thank You, oh, Lord. We just ask
that You prepare us, oh, Lord, for that prepared place, oh, Lord, for we are Your prepared people for such a time as this. In Jesus’ Name we pray, amen.

PASTOR NATHANIEL: Amen, amen and amen. As James came forward, he said that I had caught him off guard. You see, people, it’s all right for the world to catch you off guard; just never let the world catch you off God. You can be caught off guard, because the world will throw you some stuff that you just do not expect. But as long as you are on God, it’s all right to be off guard, because, see, you may be off guard; but God is always on guard. But whenever you’re off guard, then you’re automatically going to be off God. So indeed, it just shows you what happens when you stay in the Spirit, that even at the spur of the moment, no matter what happens, whenever you stand on Jesus, no matter what happens, you are ready for it.

On the message today, today is the last Sunday service before Halloween, and Friday was the last Weekend Word before Halloween. That is kind of significant in a way, because most of us sometimes send our kids out, we see the decorations; but we really don’t even understand what Halloween was all about. I’m not going to go into the full detail. I’m just going to give you just a little tidbit of it, so you’ll have a general idea where Halloween really came from.

Halloween began with the Celtics, primarily a group over in Britain and Ireland. The Celtics fundamentally believed that November 1st was their New Year. It was the New Year of the Celtic calendar. They believed that as the New Year came out, the harvest had just been finished and ahead was all of the months of the darkest times of the year. They believed that as November 1st ushered in the dark times of the year, on the eve of November 1st, which is October 31st, the veil between the living and the dead was at its thinnest. They would have their priests, of whom some of you may have heard -- they were called the Druids -- they would have the Druids on the eve of the New Celtic year, which was October 31st, go through ceremonies and prepare things to prepare for the spirits of the dead and the evil spirits to come through the thinnest part of the veil at that time of the year. They believed that there would be spirits of dead relatives, as well as satanic demons that would be coming through.

They believed also that they could get some divination of the future by consulting those spirits when they came through. So they set out lanterns to guide the spirits over. That is where the jack-o’-lanterns come from and that’s where the pumpkin with the face in it with the candle come from. They were set out as lanterns to guide the spirits over from the dead side and the demonic side. They were set as highway markers. So when you set those things out in your yard, you need to understand what they’re for, because we’ve never known.
They believed that as the spirits came over, you had to have something to appease the spirits or else they would get mad at you. So what they did, they prepared food for the spirits, and you'll notice this in many sacrificial rites. They prepared food for the spirits, and when the spirits came they would have food sitting outside their door. They believed and called the food a treat for the spirits, and if you did not provide a treat for the spirits, the spirits would play a trick on you; thus, the origin of trick-or-treat.

I felt it was appropriate for us to at least understand where that portion came from. There's even some more stuff behind it, that's just the first part of it; I'm not going to get into the rest of it. It's important for us to at least understand a portion of the history of the stuff that we celebrate and the stuff that we allow our children to celebrate so we understand the meaning of it, because, see, all of that stuff still has some power, folks. And for all we know, it does, because there are some spirits out there, believe me! There are spirits, and there are demonic forces. You cannot believe in angels without believing in demons, and that's what Jesus said when casting out. So you can't believe in the Bible if you don't believe in demons, and I'll be doggone if I'm going to put a light for a demon to come into my house! At least if he's going to get there, he is going to have to find his own way through the dark, because I won't show him how to get there.

But it's important for us to understand, and sometimes the world will have Christians setting out guideposts and lanterns to guide demonic spirits straight into our houses. So we just need to understand some things.

But one of the things as God was leading me into this series, the Druids and the Celts believed that the spirits of the dead, of dead relatives, would also come over at this time.

For those of you that were here upon last week, I preached from the subject of “The Passions of Promises”. I told you how, even as you were looking for a mate for marriage, to first check their background and check their credit record. As I was praying after that message, God spoke to me and said, “What about all of the people that don’t have good backgrounds? What about them? It’s fine for you to tell the people to check the other person’s background; but suppose someone that’s listening, suppose their background is bad. Suppose their credit is bad. What about them? You see, Jesus did not come for the well; He came for the sick. What about them? What about the folks who have bad backgrounds? What about those who have in their generational line mess? What about them?”

I was so glad as I heard C. Elijah speak on Friday. He spoke from the subject of “Renewing Your Mind”; but he even got into dealing with generational curses, and as I sat there and listened to him I got so excited. I said, “He’s getting into the same arena that God has directed me. It’s at least letting me know that at least both of us
are hearing from the same Lord. That’s why we’ve even got on our program “Two Brothers, One God.” See, if you’ve got two brothers in the ministry, they ought to be hearing the same thing! Now, oftentimes we may see different sides of the same thing, we may see it from different angles; but we’re hearing the same thing! I got so excited that he was beginning to deal with it. And I had not talked with him; I don’t talk with him about the messages that he’s going to bring, and he never asks me about the messages that I’m going to bring.

But he began in the same arena that God had directed me to go in, and that was the arena of breaking generational curses, because I’ve got news for you, people: there are some heavy-duty generational curses out there, and we don’t know how to break them. We’re born into the world, but we have no idea when we’re born about all of this mess. We have no idea how to break those curses that are upon our lives, and curses are real! I wish they weren’t, but they are. Curses are real, just as blessings are real! You see, you cannot have one without the other; that’s why I said you can’t believe in angels without believing in demons. If you believe in one, it guarantees the existence of another.

I never will forget a movie that I saw years ago. There was a plane flying and they had some artifact down in the cargo hold that they had gotten out of some ancient temple, and the thing had some demons in it. What was happening is that everyone who went down in the cargo hold was dying and then being instantly frozen by going down in the cargo hold.

There was a priest onboard, and the priest got up, saying that he was going down there. The nun that was with him said, “Father, don’t you understand that down in the cargo hold is full of those demons, and everyone that’s going down there is dying and being frozen? Don’t you understand what’s down in the cargo hold?” He said, “I’ve got to go.” She said, “Why?” He said, “Because I have always had a doubt about whether the supernatural stuff really existed.” He said, “If I can see a demon, I at least know angels exist, too, because you can’t have one without the other.”

You cannot have blessings without the curses, because they’re both in God’s Word. So if we have blessings, there are also curses. No one really likes to talk about those curses, because, to be honest about it, no one wants to hear about curses. You don’t want to hear that you’ve got a curse on you! All you want to hear is that you’re blessed. “Blessings are about to come. Blessings, oh, I see some beautiful things about to happen and awesome stuff coming,” and that may be true! But I’m telling you, people, for every one blessing, there are some curses unfolding, too, because you can look around at the world right now and just look around at the folks you know, and you know all of it is not blessings pouring on the people! So there are some curses coming through!
So although we love to just hear about the blessings and we love to hear about all of the
good things and we love to hear about all of the prosperity and all of the great
enlightenment that’s coming our way and all of the grand, grandiose things that are
coming our way, we love to hear about that and we love to hear people preach about
that; but no one wants to talk about the curses. But I’ve got to talk about the curses
for two reasons: number one, God told me to; and, number two, it’s heavily in His
Word.

In Genesis, Chapter 2 -- you don’t have to turn there, because you’ve heard this --
Genesis, Chapter 2, Verse No. 7, reads thus: “And the Lord God formed man of the
dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the Breath of Life; and man
became a living soul.” God took dirt and breathed and put His Spirit upon the dirt,
and the dirt became a living soul.

I want to speak today simply from the subject of “Up From the Dust”, because God
just took dirt and breathed upon it, and the dirt became a living soul. Whenever we
take the Spirit of God out, people, we become dirt. Whenever you’ve got anything, I
don’t care how grand it is, I don’t care how beautiful it is, I don’t care how eloquent
or exquisite or how expensive, I don’t care, whenever you’ve got anything and the
Spirit of the Living God has been taken out of the thing, it’s dirt.

We’ve got so many things that look good to the eye; but because the Spirit of God
has been taken out of them -- and that’s what that “breath” meant, it was “pneumo”,
which means “spirit” -- whenever the breath has been taken out, whenever the
Spirit of God has been taken out, we’ve got dirt.

Now, you can have some fancy-looking dirt. You can have some sweet-smelling dirt.
You can have some dressed-up dirt. You can have some dirt with ribbons on it, you
can have some dirt with gold lace all around it, you can have some dirt with some
diamonds in it. But I don’t care what you put on it, I don’t care what you put over it,
I don’t care what you put in it, without the Spirit of God, it’s dirt. And we have got
to come up from the dirt, because what has happened with so many of us as we have
gone through generation after generation after generation, we are walking around
and we have no breath in us. We are walking around acting like dirt, and we’re
walking around feeling like dirt. We’ve got to get the Spirit of God back into us, and
we’ve got to understand some things.

Now, actually, this whole series is going to be kind of like going to the doctor or
going to the dentist, because if you ever notice that even passing a curse or getting
rid of a curse, it’s never really a real pleasant thing. And sometimes, even you’ll
notice when Jesus dealt with the casting out of demons, that demon went to
shaking and trembling and having the people foam and go into convulsions; it was
never an easy process.
People, it’s not going to be easy getting curses off of you. Just like when you go to the dentist and he has to do some drilling, it’s not a pleasant experience! But, you see, when you walk into the dentist and he has to do some drilling, you are in pain; you’ve been hurting; you’re in agony; and it’s all that little area. Although it may be a small area, it’s got your whole world in excruciating pain. Yet the dentist has to do some things. He has to start drilling to get the old, rotten stuff out and to fill it with some good, wholesome stuff!

So it will be sort of like the dentist as we go through the series of learning how to break these generational curses, because it is not easy and it is not necessarily going to be pleasant. But I want you to understand, people.

In God’s Word, I want you to turn to the Book of Exodus, 20th chapter. And this you know, because you’ve heard this over and over and over again; but there is something about this I want you to see, people, and I want you to understand. Generational curses are very real. There’s no two ways about it, they are very, very real.

In the Book of Exodus, the 20th chapter, beginning at the 5th verse in the King James Version, it is critical that you understand this verse more than any other verse. It is critical that you understand this. I’m getting ready to show it to you from a perspective that you have never seen before. You’ve heard the verse, but you have never understood it from this perspective. Exodus, Chapter 20, Verse 5, reads: “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.”

It is critical, it is essential that you understand some things about this verse. I told you in my last sermon that even when checking credit, it was more important for the man to have good credit than the woman, because if the woman had bad credit and the man is head of the household, he can somewhat control the woman. And there are many instances where men have just had to take a woman’s credit cards, just had to put her on allowance or she would just tear that budget all to pieces. They had bad cases of shop-it is, and everywhere they’d go they go in and buy everything. They had bad cases of shop-itis.

But, see, if you’ve got a man and his credit is bad, you’ve got a problem, because it’s more difficult trying to control that which is supposed to be in authority. That’s why whenever you’ve got the head of an organization out of whack, you’ve got 100 times more problems than if you got somebody under them out of whack, because it is hard to control the head because he is supposed to be the head. If the head is out of whack, if the pastor’s out of whack, people, don’t you know you have a major problem on your hands? You’ve got a major problem! So that’s why I said it was
more important for that man to be straight. God does not even mention the mother; He said He will visit the iniquities of the fathers. But that’s the rule of God from the beginning. Do you know that God never spoke to Eve, He spoke to Adam? And when they ate the fruit, He did not come and ask Eve; He came and asked Adam? He didn’t even ask Eve, because Eve wasn’t in charge. God was saying, “It’s not Eve’s fault. It is the man I put in charge’s fault, and that’s who I’m going to blame.”

I still believe today that’s why men universally all over the world die sooner than women. I don’t care what culture you check, I don’t care what nationality you check, I don’t care what, you can go anywhere on the face of this Earth in any time period in history.

Now, see, we will say, for example, that Methuselah was the oldest person in the Bible; but that’s not true, because they did not tell the ages where the women died. I bet you Mrs. Methuselah was much older than Methuselah. We assume Methuselah was the oldest; but I can just about guarantee you Mrs. Methuselah lived a whole lot longer than Mr. Methuselah did, because that is a principle that has been set forth since the beginning and all through time. Just go out to the cemetery and look and you’ll see husband and wife and husband and wife, and in 85% of the cases you’ll see that wife nearly outlived that man by ten years. I believe it came from that original sin, when Got put Adam in the Garden and He told him what to do and He put him in charge, and he failed and he paid the greater price. And even here, it says, “I will visit the iniquities of the fathers …”

The Bible has never been an equal-opportunity book. Women, it’s just not the case. If you want an equal opportunity, you’ve got to go to another religion, because Christianity frankly is not it. He said, “I will visit the iniquities of the fathers …” because, men, daddies, that’s your responsibility and your sins are going to be visited upon the children. That’s the first principle.

But I want you to understand something about this. He said “… visit the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me.” People, there is hardly anyone that can’t find some serious iniquity within three to four generations in your lives. There’s hardly anyone! See, even if your daddy was straight as an arrow, by the time you go back and look at your daddy’s daddy and then your daddy’s daddy’s daddy, by the time you go back three or four generations -- and for the most part, you really don’t have to go back too far; all you’ve got to do is just know. You really don’t have to go back that far; you just have to know. You see, the reason that sometimes we may think everything is so perfect, we just don’t know! If you knew what was in that closet, whoo-hoo! We just don’t know!
So the iniquities, all of us have iniquities in our family line; so all of us have some stuff three or four generations back or one generation back or even right now. All of us have that.

But you say, “Well, Pastor, God says He’s going to visit the iniquities of the fathers upon the third and the fourth generation and you’re telling me that I’ve got iniquity in my bloodline. How in the world am I ever going to get out from under this if it’s third and fourth generations back? And I know what my daddy did; I don’t even have to go back three or four generations. How am I going to get out from under all of that?”

That’s why you need to understand Verse 6. Verse 6 says: “And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My Commandments.”

Let me read you the NIV Version of that: “But showing love to a thousand \{generations\} of those who love Me and keep My Commandments.”

Now, people, let me give you the impact of that. In modern terms, a generation is considered to be 20 years, because that is about the average age of the average woman when she gives birth to a child is around 20; actually, it’s up a little higher than that now. But we normally consider 20 years to be a generation.

In the old days, the further you go back, the younger and younger the women were when they gave birth. In the old days, and especially around Biblical times, women were about 12 to 14 years old when they got married; so a generation of that time was a much smaller number of years. But let me just take an extreme and just say a generation was 10 years, because we don’t really know the menstrual cycle and when it began on the women of that time. The bodies are different now, so let me just take the extreme and just say that a generation way back in ancient times was half the time that it is now, and a generation was that every 10 years women were giving birth; and that’s stretching it to the extreme.

If we look at history through the Bible, there are two points when we all had a common ancestor. The first point was Adam and Eve, and all of mankind sprang from Adam and Eve. Then men became evil. That’s another part where God says He looked into the hearts of men.

Now, it’s not so much that I’m hard on men; but I want men to understand the responsibility that God has given you, and I also want the women to understand the responsibility that God has given you. See, if Eve had supported the man right and done what the man and God said, they wouldn’t have been into the thing in the first place, you see. So it takes both of you to help each other stay on track.
But ultimately, that responsibility God laid on that man. He said He looked into the hearts of men and saw that they were full of evil; and the Earth was full of violence, and there was only one man that was righteous and just, only one family, and that man was Noah.

And you know the story of the flood. God destroyed every living creature upon the face of the Earth, and there was only Noah and his three sons and their wives. And from that second time, all of us sprang forth again.

From the time of Adam and Eve until now, most theologians agree, is about 5,000 years. If you assume a generation, stretching it, to be 10 years, that’s 500 generations from the time of Adam and Eve until now.

Noah, we know, was a just and a righteous man, for the Bible tells us that. It tells us about Noah in Genesis 6, Verse 8, and says: “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

I couldn’t find that about Adam, so I couldn’t take you back to Adam; but I could find that about Noah. And if you believe the Bible that all of us came from Noah and his three sons, if you look back, at max it’s been 500 generations to Adam and Eve; it’s been less than that since Noah.

But God said that He would show His love and His mercy for a thousand generations down. And even though there may be some iniquity within the last three or four generations, God’s love and mercy is a thousand generations. Folks, that let me know I’ve got at least 700 unused generations of God’s love and mercy. No matter what the iniquities are, I’ve got at least 700 generations of God’s love and mercy.

See, people, if you can’t find your daddy, if your granddaddy wasn’t worth a hoot, if your great-grandfather wasn’t worth a hoot, at least you can go back and say, “Noah!” You can go back and you can say, “Noah was a just man, he was a righteous man who walked with God, and that Noah is my great-great-great-great to maybe the 200th power; that’s my great-great-great-great-great-great times 200 granddaddy, and my great-great-great-great-great-great times 200 granddaddy was a just and a righteous man, and according to this Word of God, God said He would show His love and His mercy a thousand generations deep.” So you’re right in the middle with generations to spare of God’s love and mercy.

So we need to understand some things: that we’re not condemned, we are not locked in to generational curses, and the Bible has the key. But, people, if you are bound and if you are handcuffed, and even if the key is in your back pocket and you don’t know it’s in your back pocket, or if you don’t know how to go back and get it
out of your back pocket, or if you never get it out of your back pocket, you will stay
bound and you will stay shackled, because, people, I’ve got news for you: some folks
like chains and handcuffs. Even some folks in their intimate lives, they want to be
chained up and tied up and have somebody to come out with a bullwhip and beat on
them and all that; some folks like to be chained! Some folks like it!

Do you know we, as a people of color, have a tendency to buy more gold chains than
any other race on the face of the Earth? Do you ever wonder why gold chains sell so
much among us? I mean, what in the world do we need to be buying chains for?
Because we’ve been in chains for so long. Even though the chains are plated with
gold, they’re still chains. And a gold chain will hold you just as tight as an iron
chain! And yet we want to put chains all on us, all on our necks, chains around our
ankles; we want chains everywhere.

You see, there is something back in the generations where our great-great-great-
great-granddaddy and -grandmama were in chains, and something about
those chains carried down to us and there’s something that we don’t even
understand on the inside of us that makes us want to go and pay for the chains!
Make us pay hard-earned money, big money, for chains, because we don’t
understand what’s been done to our minds through the generational curses, trying
to get free, talking about freedom, going and buying chains. No, those chains won’t
physically bind you; but they are symbolic! Just notice who buys all the chains!

These are some things that as you begin to see, you’ve got to understand some truth
to be able to break free of generational curses. But you’ve got to want to break free,
because if you like chains, this message will do you no good. You see, that’s the first
thing. That’s why Jesus asked the man who had been laying at the pool of Bethesda
for 38 years the question He asked him, “Wilt thou be made whole?” He said, “Do
you want to get well?” The man kept giving Jesus all kind of excuses: “Well, Lord
there’s nobody here to put me in the pool,” blah-blah-blah-blah. He said, “Do
you want to get well, Man?” That’s the question: Do you want to break free of your
generational curses? That’s the first question: Do you want to get out of the chains?

Some folks are comfortable: “Chains feel good. I like my chains. I like to be bound
up. Yeah, see, I like a big whip. You know the kind that just cracks? Well, I like it.”
If you like it, you can’t get a person out of that if that’s what they are looking for
and if that’s what they want! If you want to be whipped, you’re going to seek
somebody with a bullwhip, and there’s going to be somebody out there that’s got a
whip for you if that’s what you want. You can never break free of the thing until you
first change your mind to understand that you are still enslaved by this curse and
by this thing, and no matter how pretty that chain may look, it’s a chain!

You see, that’s how the devil operates: He’ll dress it up. He’ll make it look good;
he’ll make it deceptive. He’ll put a fine covering on dirt and make you pay a heavy
price for the dirt! We don’t see it and we don’t understand it, and we walk around in ignorance of the thing.

Turn to the Book of Deuteronomy, the 28th chapter, and it is within this chapter that all of the curses and blessings are enumerated. It’s a long chapter. I really don’t have time to read that whole chapter, because there are too many curses in there even to read all of them. It is a long chapter, and God told me as I began to teach people about breaking generational curses that I have to take each curse and work on each curse one at a time.

As I began to study into it, people, I spent more time studying in the generational curses. First of all, there’s not really any clear material out there on exactly how to break generational curses. It’s not just an easy, cut-and-dried thing. I had a hard time trying to find anything out that was really definitive on how to break through a generational curse. There was some stuff that sounded good; but, really, to give people some meat of what do you really do to break through some of the generational curses, it’s hard to find that material. That’s why still so many people are locked up and bound up and chained up through generational curses.

In the 28th chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy where God enumerates all of the curses and all of the blessings, you’ll find that the first 14 verses deal with the blessings; but Verses 15 to 68 deal with the curses. You’ve got 14 verses that deal with the blessings, and then you’ve got 44 verses that deal with the curses.

I had to ask myself, “Well, why in the world are there over three times more curses than there are blessings?” And the answer was just as clear: because there are over three times as many people walking in curses than blessings. Do you know, even when Jesus came and He gave the parable of the sower and the seed and the four types of ground, in three of those types of ground, the seed never made it to maturity; it was killed early. Those were curses in cursed ground. Only one out of four of the grounds really did not have the curse, and the seed grew to a mature plant and mature fruit.

If you look around in the world and as I read and let you see some of the categories of these curses, you’re going to understand how three out of four people are walking under majority curses. So we need to bring some enlightenment at least to where if you choose to walk under this curse, it’s because you have said, “Look, I like these chains, I like that whip, and that’s where I want to be.” It will not be because you don’t have the mechanism and you don’t have the knowledge to break out of the curses.

As you look through and read through Deuteronomy 28, beginning at that 15th verse, it was normally said that fundamentally curses fell into three categories: the curse of poverty, the curse of disease and the curse of spiritual death. But as I really
began to read and study these curses, the curses actually fall not into three categories; they fall into seven categories. That is why even among the blessings and the curses, the Bible says under the blessings that your enemy will come at you from one direction and flee in seven; but it says under the curses that you’ll go after your enemies in one direction, but you will flee in seven. It has that one into seven. There are seven categories of curses, and I’m going to take and deal with it on a whole message each one of these curses.

Now, first of all, many of you are not going to have curses in all seven areas. But there are not too many people that don’t have a curse in at least one. Not to be braggadocio; but just in reality, the Bronner family is one of the most blessed families that I know, period. And of all the families that I know, we have been more blessed than any family that I know. My mother told me this morning that tears just started flowing down her eyes as she saw three of her sons ministers and another son as a 5,000-member-church minister. That’s a blessing, folks. We are one of the most blessed families that I know; but even the Bronner family has some curses! There’s hardly any family that doesn’t have any. And as I read down this list of categories, you’re going to recognize either one or more of this stuff that you have.

As I went through and categorized the seven categories of curses, these are in the order in which they appear. So this is not my order; this is the order that God named the curses: No. 1 is the category or the curse of money. That’s the first one. I didn’t say that, so I don’t want anybody to go, “Child, he’s talking about …” Nope. That was the first area of cursing was in the area of money.

Now, when you start reading Deuteronomy in that 28th chapter and you start at that 15th verse, actually, it doesn’t really start enumerating the curses; it starts telling you where you are going to be cursed. If you look at it, Verse 15 says: “But it shall come to pass, that thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all His Commandments and His statues which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee.” It says: “Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.” And there’s another verse that says: “Cursed shalt thou be in thy coming in, and cursed shalt thou be in thy going out.” What it says in a nutshell, no matter where you go, you will be cursed.

You see, some folks think that they can pick up and move and leave the curses. They think it’s the city that’s got them cursed: “Well, you know, Child, I’m from over in this city; so this whole city just has a curse. That’s why I’m moving. If I can just get out of this state, if I can just get to New York, if I can just get to New York, I’m going to be doing well. If I can just get out of here and just get up to New York, I’ll get this” -- no! When you are under a curse, God says whether you are in the city, whether you’re in the field, in your coming in and your going out, it said in a
nutshell it is not dependent upon the place; that wherever you go, you are going to carry that curse with you.

The same thing was true of the blessings. It says: “Blessed you’ll be in the city, and blessed you’ll be in the field. Blessed you’ll be in your comings in, and blessed you’ll be in your goings out.” He said, “No matter where you go, you are going to be blessed.”

People, that’s the way I’ve always felt. People go, “What about living here? What about this?” I say, “I don’t care where I go, I’m going to be blessed; I’m going to do well, I don’t care where I go.” When I went to school, everybody was complaining about the area, talking about it’s this and that. It was a blessing to me! I am blessed, I don’t care where I go.

You see, if you are blessed, it is not dependent upon the place! The only time it’s dependent upon the place is if God tells you to go to a particular place and you don’t go. Then you’re walking in disobedience. See, that same thing happened to Lot when God told him to go somewhere and don’t take anybody with him, and he did and he got messed up. So it can happen and the place can become a curse if you are somewhere where God told you not to be or if you don’t go somewhere where God told you to go; but then that’s in the command.

The first category, it says in Verse 17: “Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.” It says in the New International Translation: “You will be cursed with baskets empty of fruit and with kneading bowls empty of bread.” That’s food; that’s provision. That boils down to finance. That boils down to money. You know, I don’t care how severe a famine is, if you’ve got money you can eat. All throughout history, if you had money you could eat. Even you can go over to the deepest famine areas of Africa that are going on right now, if you have some money you can get some food. So it always boils down to that.

See, in that economy, the culture and the whole economic base was an agrarian economy; it was based in farming. That’s why Jesus used so many parables of the farming situation. It was their economy, it was their business, and it says when you’re going to be cursed that your baskets will be empty of fruit and your kneading bowls empty of bread. You know, even today one of the slang terms for “money” is “bread”. That’s a slang term for money. So that first curse was in the arena and in the area of money.

The second one was the loss or lack of children. He says that you will have few children. You see, in that day, as well as in this day, when a woman’s womb was barren, do you know God shut a whole lot of wombs back in that day? He shut the wombs for whatever reason, but that was considered to be a curse. He said, “You will be cursed with few children.” And a lot of the curses as you read through
Deuteronomy, they had to do with the children. They had to do with the destruction of the children or the loss of the children. And do you know, people, whenever you see a nation or a race or a group that is operating out of Divine Will, you’ll start seeing the children becoming destroyers? It will manifest itself in that upcoming generation. That’s the second curse: loss or lack of children.

The third curse is confusion of thought, direction and spirit. God said, “I will bring you confusion and disillusionment, blindness and madness. You will not know which way to turn.” That’s a curse, folks! Sometimes we walk around in the world, and we don’t know what to do. We walk around in confusion, we’re disillusioned with everything, we’re blind; we don’t know where we’re going. That’s why when the children of Israel disobeyed God, they went in the wilderness in circles for 40 years! They walked around, and they had no sense of direction. That’s the third curse: confusion of thought, direction and spirit.

The fourth curse is the curse of disease. God went through and He enumerated some horrible diseases. When you get home, read Chapter 28 of Deuteronomy. He enumerated some horrible diseases! I mean, that stuff, when I just started reading those diseases, I mean, it had me just itching and scratching. I said, “Good gracious, mercy!” When I looked at what God said He was going to do, I mean, it was rough.

Disease is a curse; it’s not a blessing, that’s a curse! And you’ll notice that the curses sometimes have a tendency even to run together; when you get one curse, it looks like another one comes with it. Curses a lot of times don’t even travel by themselves; they travel in packs. But disease was the fourth curse.

The fifth curse was violence and conquering enemies. God said that He would let your enemies come in and rule over you, conquer you and take control and take all your things. It was enemies, and we’ve got enemies even within the land today. Sometimes you’ll wonder why you have an enemy that just seems to be ruling over you, they’re conquering you, they’re taking all your stuff -- it’s a curse! It’s a curse. And although many of us don’t have to deal with actual enemies coming with guns and with swords and actual warfare and battle, we’ve got enemies in other areas. We’ve got enemies, we’ve got devourers that come and destroy and take our stuff.

The sixth area was the loss of honor and respect. God says, “I’ll make you a shameful people in front of all of the other nations of the Earth.” There is a point where when the curses come, we no longer have our self-respect and our honor, and we feel so bad because we no longer have even the honor of even appearing decent before men. There was a loss of honor! That is a curse.

And the last curse, which is the last one to be mentioned in terms of order -- it’s the last curse, but it’s not the least curse -- is bad marriage. That’s a curse. Read Deuteronomy. Read Chapter 28, it’s in there. It tells you what happens when the
husband grows cold, when the wife does; it’s in there: bad marriage. Bad marriage, people, do you all know bad marriage is a curse? I mean, it’s a curse!

And bad marriage can bring all the other six curses on you. Oh, yes, it can. It will mess up your money; it will take your children; it will definitely bring you confusion of thought, direction and spirit; can just about make you sick; can turn you into enemies within your own home; and definitely cause loss of honor and respect. Bad marriage was that seventh curse.

All of the curses that God enumerated here in this book, the 28th chapter of the Book of Deuteronomy, you’ll find that that’s an Old Testament book. But, people, every one of those curses is just as real today as it was back then, because they haven’t changed. Every one of those curses is still active upon this day.

I really was prepared to speak on deliverance from that first category; but to be honest, I’m not going to have time. That first category was the category of money, and I was prepared to show you how to break the generational curse of money. But I don’t have time. So that will have to be the next message.

I won’t be here next Sunday. C. Elijah will be bringing the message and I have asked him to continue, and he will share some things with you on breaking generational curses. They’ll be from a different perspective than mine. But he’s a man of God, and we’re Two Brothers, One God.

So he’ll share some things with you on Sunday, and you don’t need to miss any of this series. There are some of you right now, you know some people that are under generational curses, and you need to have them hearing these services. God told me, “You can’t break those curses in one service. You can’t put out the kind of knowledge that’s necessary. There are too many different areas.”

Now, some of you don’t have curses in all these areas. Some of you only have one or two. Some of you say, “I don’t have any enemies, I’ve got a good marriage; but my money is shot to pieces.” You know, some of you only have one or two of those areas; but it only takes one of those areas to mess you up. So you need to understand.

So today, I just gave you fundamentally the realization of the fact that there are curses. We’ll be beginning to change some thought patterns, which will start breaking some chains.

I just want you even to take a look at the word “generational”. The word “generational” consists of two words; the first four letters, G-E-N-E, is the word “gene”, and for any of you that are familiar with genetics you know what a gene is. The gene is simply the molecular, physical part that all of your physical information is carried about your body. The first word in “generational” is “gene”; the second
word is “rational”, and “rational” simply means a person of clear thinking and clear thought.

So what you have with “generational” is “gene” and “clear thinking.” And do you know, your generational background will determine how you think and whether or not you think clearly? What you will find when you have generational curses, you will always find unclear thinking in the area of those curses.

We’re going to begin clearing up some thinking in those seven areas so that you can have victory over generational curses. It’s not going to be quick; if I could do it in one session, I would’ve done it. But He knew that I couldn’t do it in one session. That’s why He told me to deal with each one of them one at a time. We’ll go through and get all seven of those areas where if you want to get well, you can get well. No matter what your background, no matter who your father was, no matter who your mother was or who your grandmother was, and even if some of you don’t even know who your father was, no matter what, you can get generational curses cleared out of your life.

You see, that’s one of the reasons why Jesus came and Jesus said, “You cannot enter into the Kingdom of Heaven unless” -- what? -- “you are born again.” “Born again” means that you get a new daddy and a new mama. That’s what that was all about, folks, because Jesus knew that people had all of that generational stuff. He said, “You have to get a new daddy, and you have to get a new mama. You must be born all over again!”

That’s what C. Elijah began with Friday. It begins with the renewing of that mind. You must be born again before you’ll ever begin to break generational curses, and right now at least you’ve got one thing out of this. When you go out and see chains around people’s necks, it’s going to change the way you’re thinking, because, you see, people, now, the chain sounds silly; but, you see, things happen in the natural often and then move to the spiritual.

That’s why you were made to sit in the back of the bus. There was no power or there was no economic thing that a person sitting in the back was going to be more or less prosperous than another person. It’s a mind thing! If you have to go to the back, there’s something about it that makes you feel like you need to be in the back. And when they make you ride on the back of the bus, you feel you need to be in the back of everything else. “I’m not supposed to be up front. I’m supposed to be way back in the back. Yep, my finances are just supposed to be back here. Yep, my relationship is supposed to be back here. My education is supposed to be back here.” See, once you can ever get something physical, it will make you that way in the spiritual.
That’s why you have to be cautious of symbolism. That’s why God had a lot of symbolism on His tabernacle and on the robes of the priests and all. It was full of symbolism! The symbol had no power, but it indicated some things.

So at least if nothing else, if somebody asks you, “What did he preach on, what’d he tell you?” “Well, he told me about the chains, and I’m not going to put any more chains around my neck and around my ankle.” At least you got that much that you can start to begin breaking the physical symbolism.

You see, they turned us into slaves in so many ways. Do you know how they identified a slave in the old days? How many of you know, raise your hand? They identified a slave by punching a hole in the ear and putting a ring through it.

Notice what the men are wearing these days. Serious. Take our minds. Give us symbolism that will make us say we’re slaves, and we’re chained up and we don’t even know it. Then make it popular, then make you pay for it. I’ve got to admit, that’s pretty smart. See, at least in the old days, at least they had to bring you struggling and screaming and they had to buy their own chains. Now, they make you pay for it! And you don’t even know it, but it’s a mental thing that starts to bind your spirit.

That’s why Halloween has the symbolism. It’s a mental thing that will affect your spirit if you start changing the gene, which you cannot change; but you can change the rational. You can’t change what your physical makeup is. You can’t change your genetic DNA. That is there, you can’t change that. But you can change that rational, you can change the thinking, because most of what we get, to be honest with you, is not even genetics; it’s in those environments and all of the things that we have seen all around us for all of our lives that are shaping us and making us what and who we are.

Be here, people, for these next sessions as we begin to go through and to shed some light and to begin breaking generational curses in our lives. In those seven areas, if you know you’re bound, tied up, chained up, locked up and not free from stuff of your past and your parents’ past and the household that you were born in, don’t you know God wants you free? But to get you free, we’re going to have to do some drilling, and you’ve got to go to the doctor.

To be born again, birth itself is not a pleasant process; do you all know that? Women who have had kids, do you know birth is not a pleasant process? There is some hollering and some screaming and some agony that goes on in birth, and the same thing will happen. First of all, even for you to shed your chains, do you know that’s a painful process?
First of all, the stuff is expensive. Don’t throw it in the trash, go and sell it. I mean, that’s a painful process! But once you understand it, it’s still painful! I don’t care if you do understand it, it’s still painful. “I look good in this. It’s my style, this is my earring. I’m sharp and cool.” It’s a painful process!

Birth is always painful. But it is necessary, and you will never enter into the Kingdom of Heaven unless you are born again, and I don’t know of any birth that’s pleasant and easy unless you’re just flat knocked out. Now, in some cases with modern medicine, I guess they can give you enough; but, you know, even with an epidural, that thing still isn’t pleasant.

So, people, it’s going to take some things within us. But although the thing may be painful, there is nothing more precious to a woman than her children ... nothing. And although my wife screamed and hollered to high heaven, if she was a cursing woman she’d have cursed the doctor to high heaven, I mean, she hollered up and down about the pain of that process. But there is nothing in her life now, including me, that’s more precious than those children. She would die for those children, because she nearly died trying to bring them here.

So it will be with your rebirth as you start breaking the chains and breaking away from generational curses.

Bow your heads.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love and for Your mercy that has gone down a thousand generations. And no matter what we have in our pasts and no matter what we have in our bloodline, dear Father, we thank You for that love and for that mercy. And we thank You that You have sent Your Son for us to be born again, to be born of the water and to be born of the spirit; that all of the things of the past and all of the curses can be shed and we can walk away as new creatures for the Kingdom of Heaven. And, dear Father, it’s been tough for so many of us, because the chains have been so heavy; the enemies have been so cruel; the baskets of fruit and the loaves of bread have run so scarce; the disease that has wracked our bodies has been so painful and aggravating and frustrating; our children have run wild, and it has been so heartbreaking; our marriages have given us so much turmoil. Dear Father, You know what we have gone through. You know what we go through. But You also know the way through. And we thank You in advance for taking us through the land of the iniquities of our fathers and our forefathers, from one, two, three and four generations back. We thank You, dear Father, for giving us clear direction to get through to the other side, to the Promised Land, to the Kingdom of Heaven. In Thy Son Jesus’ Name we pray.