JOURNEY 2
FREEDOM!

DEALING with the GIANTS and STRONGHOLDS

J2F Book 6
Amanda Buys’ Spiritual Covering

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Part 3: Understanding generational and personal curses
Understanding generational and personal curses …

When the subject of a “curse” comes up, what do you generally think of? For most of us, it is a picture of a witch standing over her cauldron making potions, casting spells, and speaking curses.

That’s pretty much all a curse is, right?

It is a great example … but there is so much more! The curses associated with witchcraft and the occult are really only one part [the action as it were] of the full understanding of curses and how they operate in our lives.

Hebrew words for curse.

As we have seen previously, it is necessary to study and understand the original HEBREW words used in the Scriptures, particularly in regards to a specific concept, in order to get the FULL picture of what we are dealing with. To properly understand generational curses and their ROOTS – to clear up the wrong perceptions we have – we need to study the FIVE most commonly used Hebrew words for the ONE English word translated as “curse”.

The FIVE\(^{14}\) Hebrew words are:

- **Qalal** (Strong’s Hebrew 7043)
  - To make slight, to *make less* than that deserved by, or divinely intended for the object or person.
  - To bring into contempt, slander.
  - To set a snare or to prod someone in another direction – to lure or *push someone off his current path*.

- **Arar** (Strong’s Hebrew 779)
  - To bind, to hem in with obstacles, *to render powerless*.

- **Alah** (Strong’s Hebrew 423)
  - The act of uttering a *formula* designed to *undo* its object or person.
  - The act of cursing or denouncing with WORDS, an imprecation.
  - An execration, to adjure, to invoke, *to bring to nought*.

\(^{14}\) Note, there are a few other Hebrew words for “curse”, however these are used perhaps once or twice throughout the Scriptures – and have very much the same definitions as the last three words listed. We have focused on these “top” five as they are the most commonly used.
• Naqab* (Strong's Hebrew 5344)
  ○ To perforate, blaspheme, and/or pierce.
• Qabab* (Strong's Hebrew 6895)
  ○ To scoop out, stab with words, and/or malign.
  ○ To make a hollow empty vessel.

*NOTE, these last three words have the same root meaning and purpose – to make hollow/empty, to undo – and are therefore often used interchangeably and in the same context.

Let’s look at three key examples in the Scriptures and discover just how important it is to know which word is being used where. In this study, we encourage you to keep the above definitions handy as reference.

1. Balak and Balaam …

Balak, the king of Moab, comes to ask Balaam the prophet to “arar” [render powerless] the people of Israel. Balaam then goes to the LORD to ask if he can do as Balak has requested … however, in the Hebrew, we see that when Balaam speaks to the LORD, instead of asking if he can “arar” [render powerless] the Nation of Israel [as Balak wanted], Balaam tells the LORD that he has been asked to “qabab/naqab” [undo as in the action of the occult, as well as to revile someone] the people of Israel.

Numbers 22:5 “5 (Balak) Sent messengers to Balaam [a foreteller of events] son of Beor at Pethor, which is by the [Euphrates] River, even to the land of the children of his people, to say to him, There is a people come out from Egypt; behold, they cover the face of the earth and they have settled down and dwell opposite me. 6 Now come, I beg of you, curse (arar) this people for me, for they are too powerful for me. Perhaps I may be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse (arar) is cursed.”
Numbers 22:10-11 “10 And Balaam said to God, Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying, 11 Behold, the people who came out of Egypt cover the face of the earth; come now, curse [qabab] them for me. Perhaps I shall be able to fight against them and drive them out.”

It was Balak’s intention that Balaam would come and curse [qabab/naqab] the people of Israel. Balak’s messengers flatter Balaam by saying that he knows that whoever Balaam blesses is blessed, and whoever he curses is cursed. This is true! However, it happened exactly opposite to the way Balak intended. As we read on in the account, when Balaam opened his mouth, instead of curses came blessings. What he blessed, was blessed!

Numbers 23:8-11 “8 How can I curse [“naqab” meaning to blaspheme] those God has not cursed? Or how can I [violently] denounce those the Lord has not denounced? 9 For from the top of the rocks I see Israel, and from the hills I behold him. Behold, the people [of Israel] shall dwell alone and shall not be reckoned and esteemed among the nations. 10 Who can count the dust (the descendants) of Jacob and the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous [those who are upright and in right standing with God], and let my last end be like theirs! [Ps. 37:37; Rev. 14:13.] 11 And Balak said to Balaam, What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, and here you have [thoroughly] blessed them instead!”

Balaam continues his blessing of Israel …

Numbers 23:20-24 “20 You see, I have received His command to bless Israel. He has blessed, and I cannot reverse or qualify it. 21 [God] has not beheld iniquity in Jacob [for he is forgiven], neither has He seen mischief or perverseness in Israel [for the same reason]. The Lord their God is with Israel, and the shout of praise to their King is among the people. [Rom. 4:7, 8; I John 3:1, 2.] 22 God brought them forth out of Egypt; they have as it were the strength of a wild ox. 23 Surely there is no enchantment with or against Jacob, neither is there any divination with or against Israel. [In due season and even] now it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What has God wrought! 24 Behold, a people! They rise up as a lioness and lift themselves up as a lion; he shall not lie down until he devours the prey and drinks the blood of the slain.”

2. GOD’S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM …

Genesis 12:3 “3 And I will bless those who bless you and bind, hem in with obstacles, and render powerless him who lures you, prods [pushes] you off, or keeps you from My Divine Path and Purpose for your life …”

To properly understand, let’s rewrite the passage with the Hebrew definitions:

Genesis 12:3 “3 And I will bless those who bless you and bind, hem in with obstacles, and render powerless him who lures you, prods [pushes] you off, or keeps you from My Divine Path and Purpose for your life …”

15 *Zaam (Strong’s Hebrew 2194)
This is SUCH a key verse to understand – even in our own lives!

Through Messiah Y’shua, we have been grafted into God’s Covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – as such, this verse has practical implications for us today.

What is God’s Promise? He will bind, hem in, and render powerless those people who push, prod, lure off, and/or keep us from God’s Divine Path and Purpose for us.

Let’s break this down further …

First, what does it mean for someone to push, prod, lure off, or keep us from God’s Path for us [to “qatal” us]? There are so many examples! This could be parents who do not set the example and role-model Godly lifestyles – who do not train their children up in the Ways of the LORD – and who then prevent and keep their children from walking in God’s Purposes for their lives. God says that these parents will be hemmed in, restricted, and rendered powerless in their lives – they will be cursed [God will “arar” them].

Another example could be a pastor/leader who compromises and teaches false doctrine to those who look up to and follow him. If the pastor/leader’s teaching in anyway keeps those who follow after him from their purpose in God, he the pastor/leader will be rendered powerless in his ministry. It is the same for someone with a prophetic ministry – if they falsely [in the flesh] prophesy over someone, and this “prods” them off God’s Path for their life – that prophet will be rendered powerless. Now you can understand why some leaders and/or ministries “come to nothing” over time – they most probably have in someway kept or pushed others off God’s Divine Path for them.

This passage is then both a comfort and blessing to us – and a WARNING!
3. THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY ...

Deuteronomy 30:19 “19 I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live,”

This entire Book of Deuteronomy [and specifically Chapter 28] is focused on blessings and curses, in which the LORD clearly sets before us LIFE and the blessings that will follow – and DEATH and it’s curses/consequences. We must note which Hebrew word the LORD uses in saying we will be cursed – it is “arar”. When we choose DEATH by violating and disobeying God’s Instructions – God says He will hem us in and render us powerless. God is NEVER revengeful or malicious in his dealings with us His Children – as in the understanding of the other four Hebrew words – however, the consequence of choosing against Him and His Ways is that we are simply rendered powerless in every area of our lives – we do not reach the FULLNESS God has for us.

This principle of blessings versus curses is active right up to the End-Times, where it is prophesied that the Son of Man, Y’shua [Jesus], will separate those who are blessed from those who are cursed [arar].

Matthew 25:31-34 “31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory (His majesty and splendor), and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them [the people] from one another as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats; [Ezek. 34:17.] 33 And He will cause the sheep to stand at His right hand, but the goats at His left. 34 Then the King will say to those at His right hand, Come, you blessed of My Father [you favored of God and appointed to eternal salvation], inherit (receive as your own) the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

Matthew 25:41 “41 Then He will say to those at His left hand, Begone from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!”

On His Left Hand: Those who are cursed.
Matthew 25:41

On His Right Hand: Those who are blessed.
Matthew 25:31-34

Matthew 25:41 “41 Then He will say to those at His left hand, Begone from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!”

We must remember that Deuteronomy Chapter 28 was written to a “saved/born-again” people.

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Again, to emphasize, we see that:

- Blessing = obedience = LIFE.
- Curse = disobedience = DEATH.

Of critical importance is that we focus on the RIGHT factor. We should NOT be looking only at the blessing or the curse BUT at a CHOICE between life and death. This choice between life and death was from the very beginning:

Genesis 2:9 “9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight or to be desired—good (suitable, pleasant) for food; the tree of life also in the center of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of [the difference between] good and evil and blessing and calamity.”

**What is a curse?**

Looking at the different words for “curse” and their various meanings, we see a common understanding theme … boil all the definitions down, and in simple terms, a curse – and there are MANY specific examples we will study later in this section – is basically a limitation or restriction on our ability to reach our FULLNESS in any/all areas of our life in Messiah Y’shua [Jesus]. Curses can be “big” or “small” [depending on the extent and degree we or our family has violated God’s Commandments] – but they are all the same in that they hinder, block, bind, chain, and stop us from FULLNESS. They can be likened to dark clouds that seem to follow us and our family line, making our “skies” overcast and dreary.

What is another way of defining a curse in our [or our family’s] lives? A curse is a:

- Dark shadow or evil hand over you, possibly from your past.
- A negative atmosphere that surrounds you.

Said differently, a curse is “the Favor of God turned away from you, in that He removes His Promise to uphold all things”.

**How do we cause a curse to "come alight"?**

Proverbs 26:2 “2 Like the sparrow in her wandering, like the swallow in her flying, so the causeless curse does not alight.”

We must understand – as the Proverb says – a curse is not something that just “happens” to us or our family. Curses are very straightforward – they are the direct consequences of disobedience and/or the violation of God’s Instructions [Torah].

As we have learnt in the previous manuals … what is the primary cause of a BLESSING? We listen – SH’MA – God’s Voice and DO what He says, we OBEY His Instructions and Commandments [Torah].
This is the principle of cause and effect. Likewise, what is the primary cause of a CURSE? We do NOT listen – SH’MA – God’s Voice and do NOT do what He says … disobedience.

In studying the Scriptures, we find there are THREE specific violations of God’s Instructions that WILL [guaranteed] bring about curses:

1. Involvement in the OCCULT.
2. Involvement in BLOODSHED.
3. Involvement in SEXUAL INIQUITIES.

In later sections of this manual, it is these three main ROOTS that we will be studying.

What is the nature/medium of a blessing or a curse?

Mainly they take the form of WORDS – written, spoken, or muttered. These words become the containers of supernatural power and they have continual effect until cancelled. Time is not a factor … both blessings and curses spoken can last for generations.

How can we tell if a curse is in operation in our own life, or that of our family?

We look at the fruit!

Again, we will be looking at some specific “fruit” examples later, when we have a look at each of the three main roots … but a general “shortlist” of the fruits of curses are:

17 For additional study on the significance of sound, please see our book “Gateways Of Influence”, available from the website or for order from the office.
• Mental and/or emotional breakdowns.
• Repeated sicknesses – especially those without medical diagnosis.
• Repeated miscarriages and gynecological problems [Deuteronomy 28:18].
• Marital problems and/or alienation in family [Deuteronomy 28:19].
• Financial needs, even when there is sufficient income – poverty.
• Prone to accidents – broken bones, falls, car incidences, and so forth.
• Suicides or unnatural deaths.
• Extreme tiredness – falling asleep in church or when reading Bible.
• Very bad headaches.
• Forgetfulness.
• Struggling for breath.
• Burning in the stomach.
• Cannot keep job.
• Feel as if prayers go against the ceiling – that there is no breakthrough. You experience frustration in many areas of your life – business, relationships, career, health, and so forth. You may achieve a certain level of success, but then fall back and have to start again.
• Can be the blockage to healing or deliverance.

The following is a list of curses and their corresponding Scriptures:

• Difficult Childbirths,
  ○ *Genesis 3:16*
• Property,
  ○ *Deuteronomy 27:17, 28:16; Job 5:3, 24: 18*
• Slavery,
  ○ *Genesis 9:25; Joshua 9: 23; Deuteronomy 28:33, 36:68*
• Exile (disinheritance),
  ○ *Genesis 49:7; Jeremiah 24:9*
• Idolatry,
  ○ *Deuteronomy 27:15; 1 Samuel 26:19; Jeremiah 44: 12*
• Rebellion against parents,
  ○ *Deuteronomy 27:16*
• Extra-marital, unnatural sex,
  ○ *Deuteronomy 27:20-23*
• Murder,
  ○ *Deuteronomy 27:24-25; 2 Chronicles 19:10*
• Disobedience to Scripture,
  ○ *Deuteronomy 27:26; Jeremiah 11:3; Malachi 2:2*
• Finances,
  o *Deuteronomy 28:17; Psalm 37:22; Jeremiah 49:13*
• Infertility, physical handicaps,
  o *Deuteronomy 28:18, 7:14*
• Misfortune in business,
  o *Deuteronomy 28:18*
• Premature death of children,
  o *Joshua 6:26; 1 Samuel 2:31-32*
• Unfair judgment (of innocent persons),
  o *Proverbs 24:24*
• No Compassion,
  o *Proverbs 28:27*
• Day of birth,
  o *Jeremiah 20:14-15*
• Unfaithfulness,
  o *Jeremiah 48:10; Deuteronomy 28:20, 47, 48*
• Blemished sacrifices,
  o *Malachi 1:14*
• Ignorance about the Bible,
  o *John 7:49; Joshua 1:8*
• False teaching,
  o *Galatians 1:8-9*
• Prostitution, divorce, unfaithfulness, adultery,
  o *Numbers 5:27; Hosea 4:10-13; 2 Peters 2:14*
• Famine, pestilence, war,
  o *Deuteronomy 28:5; Jeremiah 29:18*
• “Veiled heart”,
  o *Lamentations 3:65; Jeremiah 29:18*
• Molestation,
  o *Ezekiel 23:3, 21*
• Childlessness,
  o *Hosea 9:14*
• Dry breasts,
  o *Hosea 9:14, 27*
• Miscarriages,
  o *Psalm 58:9*
• Tumours (Growths),
  o *Deuteronomy 28:27; 1 Samuel 5:6, 9, 12*
• Accidents,
  o Deuteronomy 28:19
• TB, fever, infection,
  o Deuteronomy 28:22
• Inability to hear God’s Voice
  o Deuteronomy 28:23
• Droughts,
  o Deuteronomy 28:24
• Insanity,
  o Deuteronomy 28:34; 28:28
• Blindness,
  o Deuteronomy 28:28
• Confusion (senility),
  o Deuteronomy 28:28
• Thefts,
  o Deuteronomy 28:29, 31
• Marriage partners,
  o Deuteronomy 28:30
• Kidnapping,
  o Deuteronomy 28:32, 41
• Ulcers,
  o Deuteronomy 28:35
• Mocking,
  o Deuteronomy 28:37
• Failed Harvest,
  o Deuteronomy 28:38-40
• Fear,
  o Deuteronomy 28:52, 66
• Sicknesses,
  o Deuteronomy 28:59
• Illegitimate children,
  o Deuteronomy 23:2

Okay so … what is God’s Point of View? Let’s have a look at some additional information regarding generational and personal curses.
God's Point of View …

The twentieth century western mind sees man very individualistically, as if we can look at one man at a time. “It's my life, and I'm responsible for it, period … no one else is affected,” is a typical attitude. This is not how God thinks. God sees man in terms of families. He thinks in terms of generations. How often do we find in Scripture, “I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob”? He sees us not just as individuals, but as a very integral part of a family that has existed over the generations.

At times, He speaks of several hundred years as if it were an extremely short time. One example is when He promises to give Abraham the land of Canaan … this promise was only fulfilled many years later when Joshua led the people into the Land (Genesis 15:7-8, 16; Exodus 12:40-41).

Because He has planned each of us from the foundation of the world, we already existed in His Mind – a very real existence from His point of view – before we were born. The Book of Hebrews portrays Levi as having already tithed because he existed in Abraham’s loins when Abraham tithed. This is representative of God’s view:

*Hebrews 7:9-10* “9 A person might even say that [Levi] himself, who received tithes (the tenth), paid tithes through Abraham, 10 For he was still in the loins of his forefather [Abraham] when Melchizedek met him [Abraham].”

We must look at families as God does. Levi was part of Abraham. In this case, Levi received the blessings of Abraham's actions. They were credited to him, as well as to Abraham. God also sees us this way. We are part of, and credited with, both the blessings and the iniquity of our fathers. We can "shed" the iniquity part of following God's prescription for freedom. This includes sharing his viewpoint. Are we willing to receive HIS View and lay down our own?
God is a God of Mercy ... and also of JUSTICE.

As we think about the effects of the sins of the fathers, it is natural, unless we have already made the paradigm shift, to cry out, "But God, this is unfair. I shouldn't be affected by what others have done. I don't even know most of them." We begin to complain from our point of view, without considering the Nature or Character of God. Let's attempt to shift our perspectives, and see what God says about Himself.

Exodus 34:6-7 “ 6 And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord! the Lord! a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in loving-kindness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy and loving-kindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but Who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children, to the third and fourth generation.”

The NIV translates this last phrase, "He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation." God is always good, merciful, and just. He stands ready to forgive, and will forgive, as soon as His conditions are met. Otherwise, His justice, so basic to His Nature, prevails and the iniquities of the fathers are passed down upon their children. He must punish the guilty.

God's justice results in the children being affected by the pressure of inherited iniquity (perverseness), as well as the pressure of possible curses because of their father's (and mother's) sin. Someone has said that the moral of all of this is that we need to choose our parents carefully!

The bad news is that we are affected by our parents' sins. The good news is that God has provided the way for our freedom from all the effects of their iniquity.

Ezekiel 18:4-9 “4 Behold, all souls are Mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is Mine; the soul that sins, it shall die. 5 But if a man is [uncompromisingly] righteous (upright and in right standing with God) and does what is lawful and right, 6 And has not eaten [at the idol shrines] upon the mountains nor lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, has not defiled his neighbor’s wife nor come near to a woman in her time of impurity, 7 And has not wronged anyone but has restored to the debtor his pledge, has taken nothing by robbery but has given his bread to the hungry and has covered the naked with a garment, 8 Who does not charge interest or percentage of increase on what he lends [in compassion], who withholds his hand from iniquity, who executes true justice between man and man, 9 Who has walked in My statutes and kept My ordinances, to deal justly; [then] he is [truly] righteous; he shall surely live, says the Lord God.
The following verses are an example of a **wicked** son:

**Ezekiel 18:10** “If he begets a son who is a robber or a shedder of blood, who does to a brother either of these sins of violence, 11  And leaves undone all of the duties [of a righteous man], and has even eaten [the food set before idols] on the mountains and defiled his neighbor’s wife, 12  Has wronged the poor and needy, has taken by robbery, has not restored [to the debtor] his pledge, has lifted up his eyes to the **idols**, has committed **abomination** (things hateful and exceedingly vile in the eyes of God), 13  And has charged interest or percentage of increase on what he has loaned [in supposed compassion]; shall he then live? **He shall not live!** He has done all these abominations; he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him.”

The following verses are an example of a **good** son:

**Ezekiel 18:14-18** “14  But if this wicked man begets a son who sees all the sins which his father has committed, and considers and fears [God] and does not do like his father, 15  Who has not eaten [food set before idols] upon the mountains nor has lifted up his eyes to the **idols** of the house of Israel, has not defiled his neighbor’s wife, 16  Nor wronged anyone, nor has taken anything in pledge, nor has taken by robbery **but has given his bread to the hungry and has covered the naked with a garment**, 17  Who has withdrawn his hand from [oppressing] the poor, who has not received interest or increase [from the needy] but has executed My ordinances and has walked in My **statutes**; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father; **he shall surely live**. 18  As for his father, because he cruelly oppressed, robbed his brother, and did that which is not good among his people, behold, he shall die for his iniquity and guilt.”

**What God requires ... GOD provides.**

Since the time that God instituted His Requirement of the sacrificial system, He has provided a way, His Way, for man's sins to be forgiven and his guilt to be cleansed. God's Plan culminated in Y'shua [Jesus], the "**Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**" (Revelation 13:8) – exactly what is needed is for man to confess his sins and turn from it.

When the father has sinned, that sin stands in need of being confessed, if not by him, then by his children. That sin is "outstanding", hanging out there impacting the man's descendants, until it is addressed through confession and repentance, and cleared away. Confession and repentance (when appropriate) are God's Requirement.

1 John 1:9 “9 If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action].”

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God is ALWAYS the same – He does NOT change!

There are some who contend that God's Requirements were just for the Israelites, and that they only apply to them, since it was with them that He entered into the covenant with the Ten Commandments and the Law. We feel that the evidence is clearly against this position, and that all the nations of the earth are "weighed" with the same scales.

Just in case you are not sure about this, let us remind you that the Books of the Prophets contain many "oracles" against the nations surrounding Israel, as well as oracles directed toward Israel. In these, God spoke forth judgment when sin exceeded the limits and there is no indication of repentant hearts.

Y’shua [Jesus] talked about the sheep and the goat nations (Matthew 25:32-33), showing that there were, and would be, Godly and un-Godly groups of people that would be judged by His Standards.

We believe that God's Word, both Old and New Testament, clearly shows forth His Character and Nature, as well as His Mercy and Justice. Since we are made in His Image (Genesis 1:26-27), He expects us to have the same character and nature, regardless of our nationality. Old or New Testament, God is the same. We read in Hebrews and in James:

**Hebrews 13:8** “8 Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is [always] the same, yesterday, today, [yes] and forever (to the ages).”

**James 1:17** “17 Every good gift and every perfect (free, large, full) gift is from above; it comes down from the Father of all [that gives] light, in [the shining of] Whom there can be no variation [rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [as in an eclipse].”

The conclusion is that all of us are subject to God's Laws: the blessings and the curses. All we have to do is to look around and we see them in operation.

**The importance of appropriation.**

But wait, someone will say, "Why do we have to go and dredge up all this stuff from the past? Didn't Y’shua [Jesus] pay the price for all of this, for the required justice?"

Praise be to God! Yes, Y’shua [Jesus] did take the judgment and wrath of God that is due us (Romans 5:9-10, Ephesians 2:5, 1 Thessalonians 5:9). The correct question to ask is, "Have we appropriated, personally received and applied, what He has done for us?" We need to receive the freedom Y’shua [Jesus] bought for us by meeting God's Conditions – by confessing the sins of our fathers and our own sin, and then breaking their power to keep affecting us.

Salvation has been available for nearly two thousand years, yet none of us are automatically "born again" at our birth. We must by faith "receive" – appropriate by possessing our land – salvation for ourselves.
The same is true for physical healing, deliverance, finances, direction, gifts of the Spirit, love, and so forth. All are received by faith, by believing the Promises of God. So until we know about these promises and provisions, we cannot, by faith, receive what Messiah has provided for us (Mark 4:3-20). The good soil received and "grew" the Word. This is true for everything else that we receive from God. We must receive and apply the wonderful freedoms gained for us at the Cross. We receive by faith. Sometimes by somebody else's faith, sometimes by our own, but it is always by faith (Hebrews 11:6). We break the effects of generational sins by faith that the promise in God's Word are true, that Y'shua [Jesus] has indeed:

**Colossians 2:14** "14 Having cancelled and blotted out and wiped away the handwriting of the note (bond) with its legal decrees and demands which was in force and stood against us (hostile to us). This [note with its regulations, decrees, and demands] He set aside and cleared completely out of our way by nailing it to [His] cross."

This is the good news. We receive it and by faith apply it, breaking the power of the sins of the fathers on the basis of the Truth of the Word.

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**The fairness issue.**

As we mentioned above, there are those of us who want to say, "It's not fair, the world is not fair". For those of us who think it should be fair, all we can say is, "Sorry". Things haven't been "fair" since the Garden of Eden, when sin entered into the world. Y'shua [Jesus] has made a way for victory to be enforced in our own individual lives and those of our families, but life and the world still isn't "fair".
The only "fairness" comes from God, in that He has provided the "payment" for the penalty of sin, if we choose to use it. We can use the Cross to break the effects of the sins of the fathers coming down our family line and start a new family line, so that the consequences of sin do not continue on to our descendants. This is the greatest inheritance that we can pass on to our children and their children, and so forth.

FATHERS.

Of course, when the Scriptures use "fathers" as in Exodus 20:5, the meaning not only includes the actual father of a person, but also the parents, even the entire family line. Both fathers and mothers, grandparents, and so forth, all have contributed to the iniquity and sin passed onto the children. We see this Scripturally, and we see it experientially as this curse has its "outworking" in this world.

Ahab and Jezebel . . .

There is one Scripture that explicitly names both the father and the mother as the source of their son's sin. In 1 Kings we read how Ahab marries "outside of the family," with disastrous consequences for Israel:

1 Kings 16:30-31 “30 And Ahab son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all before him. 31 As if it had been a light thing for Ahab to walk in the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, he took for a wife Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and served Baal and worshiped him.”

Ahab is credited with doing even more evil than the "fathers" before him. Then, to top it off, he marries Jezebel, who comes from a Baal-worshipping family, the king of Zidon (Sidon). Sidon was known for their worship of the goddess Ashtoreth. This city is named after "Sidon", the firstborn of Canaan (Genesis 10:15), whom Noah cursed (Genesis 9:25-27).

Thus, Ahab added to the problems that Israel was already having by marrying into an idolatrous family line and setting up his descendants to have to contend with even more curses as they struggled with the iniquity of their fathers (and mothers). We see the fruit of this marriage further on in 1 Kings:

1 Kings 22:51-53  “51 Ahaziah son of Ahab began his two-year reign over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah. 52 He did evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the ways of his father [Ahab] and of his mother [Jezebel] and of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who made Israel sin. 53 He served Baal and worshiped him and provoked the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger in all the ways his father had done.”

Jezebel has the "honor" of being so bad, and causing so much evil in Israel, that she is mentioned in the above passage along with Ahaziah's father (Ahab) and Jeroboam, one of Ahaziah's forefathers. Truly, Ahaziah, was an example of the sins of the fathers and mothers at work in a family line.
Do only fathers contribute to our iniquity? Let’s look at the following examples …

Mary the mother of Y’shua [Jesus].

We want to comment on one “theory” that we have heard that has been used to “prove” that the mothers are not contributors to the iniquity being passed onto their children, but only the fathers contribute. This theory states that since Y’shua [Jesus] had a human mother and “yet was without sin”, that clearly Mary’s iniquity and/or sin were not passed on to Him. All that He inherited was from His Father, who, of course, being God, had no sin. Yet if this were the case, then Jesus would not have experienced any temptation. Remember, iniquity is the tendency to sin, the pressure to rebel and enter into sin. As we stated earlier, this doesn't automatically mean that we have to sin. Just that we are likely to.

The Scriptures tell us that Y’shua [Jesus] was "tempted in every way, yet was without sin":

**Hebrews 4:15** “15 For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sin”:

Having God as His Father did not make it easier for Him. Hebrews also states:

**Hebrews 2:14, 17-18** “14 Since, therefore, [these His] children share in flesh and blood [in the physical nature of human beings], He [Himself] in a similar manner partook of the same [nature], that by [going through] death He might bring to nought and make of no effect him who had the power of death—that is, the devil—17 So it is evident that it was essential that He be made like His brethren in every respect, in order that He might become a merciful (sympathetic) and faithful High Priest in the things related to God, to make atonement and propitiation for the people’s sins. 18 For because He Himself [in His humanity] has suffered in being tempted (tested and tried), He is able [immediately] to run to the cry of (assist, relieve) those who are being tempted and tested and tried [and who therefore are being exposed to suffering].”

We feel that these passages as well as the ones in the Gospels describing Y’shua’s [Jesus’] temptation by the devil (Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:13 Luke 4:2,13), actually support the opposite theory – that Y’shua [Jesus] was able to be tempted precisely because He did have a human mother and did receive the iniquity of the Israelite family line through Mary.
It was because He entered "the sheep pen by the gate" (John 10:1), by being born through the womb of a woman, that He "legally" entered the domain of Adam and so could be the second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45-47). He could be "made like His brothers in every way", including having the ability to be tempted, to suffer in temptation, to be pressured by the iniquity of His mother. Yet He did not sin, He chose not to sin, in spite of the iniquity inherited from Mary.

**Law of Judgment.**

The last passage in the first group of verses is from Exodus:

**Exodus 21:23-25**  
"But if any damage follows, then you shall give life for life, 24 Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 Burn for burn, wound for wound, and lash for lash."

Here we see the Law of Sowing and Reaping used to establish restitution for injury. This is the terrible Law of Judgment that expresses the "just" side of God's Nature. This is God's expression of "fairness". He has arranged the universe so that every evil results in more evil, just as every good results in more good.

Since He knew that we would all be helpless (Romans 5:6; Ephesians 2:12), unable to get free of this Law, His "mercy" side sent Y'shua [Jesus] to provide a way to get free of this Law. Y'shua [Jesus] fulfilled this Law on our behalf. Again, the key to freedom from this Law is to appropriate by faith the Truth that Y'shua [Jesus] has already suffered (paid) the judgment for our sin.

Let's end this section with the last three verses in Ezekiel 18, where God shares His heart, desiring mercy rather than justice.

**Ezekiel 18:30-32**  
"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin and so shall they not be a stumbling block to you. 31 Cast away from you all your transgressions by which you have transgressed against Me, and make you a new mind and heart and a new spirit. For why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him who dies, says the Lord God. Therefore turn (be converted) and live!"

**Messiah Y’shua [Jesus] and curses…**

Does Y’shua [Jesus] confirm the Old Testament’s understanding of generational and personal curses? You bet! Let’s have a look …

Y’shua [Jesus] tells us that:

- He never added to NOR,
- Took away from the Torah [God’s Instructions and Word].
Matthew 5:17 “17 Do not think that I have come to do away with or undo the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to do away with or undo but to complete and fulfill them.”

When man rejects the Torah (first five Books of the Bible) – when he says he is not “under the law” and only studies and follows the New Testament, he will end up in deception and go off the Pathway of Life.

If we keep this in the back of our minds, while we return to our understanding of the meaning of the word INIQUITY, we will find that there are TWO definite routes to idolatry.

1. Cultural assimilation.
   a. This is when we become a part of another nation and take on their habits, cultures, and belief systems – instead of keeping to God’s Instructions and His Ways. In this process we break the God’s Commandment – the First of the Ten Commandments:

Deuteronomy 5:6 “6 I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.”

2. Worship in an inappropriate manner – spiritual confusion.
   a. An example of this is man’s effort to make an “image” which represents God – like the story of the Golden Calf and the similar images made by Kingdom of Israel, after they separated from Judah. This second “way” is when we add to or take away from God’s Words and His Way of worship – conforming and changing God’s Way so that they “suit” us more.
Deuteronomy 5:8 “8 You shall not make for yourself [to worship] a graven image or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.”

b. Another way to define how we get there is to say that it comes by tolerating the influence of other cultures that live around us – any worldly icon/image which has a higher status than God Word and His Holy Spirit. Before we think only in terms of the physical, let us make sure that our acceptance of “false prophecy” in today’s time is also a picture of these images.

Mark 13:22 “22 False Christs (Messiahs) and false prophets will arise and show signs and [work] miracles to deceive and lead astray, if possible, even the elect (those God has chosen out for Himself).”

Let us summarize from the ROOT cause:

This in turn produces IDOLATRY, which leads to:

- Involvement in the OCCULT.
- Involvement in BLOODSHED.
- Involvement in SEXUAL INIQUITIES.
Conclusion:

Let's look at a number of related and relevant topics, that will help increase our understanding of Sins of the Fathers and how they operate.

- Number of people involved in four generations.

One of the staggering aspects of "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generations" (Exodus 20:5 is the foundational verse setting forth God’s punishment for idolatry) is the number of people involved. Adding up two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, and sixteen great-great-grandparents gives a total of thirty people! Thirty human beings, with all of their mixture of fleshly and Godly desires, actions, beliefs, stumbling, falls, and besetting sins, are passing their iniquity onto each of us.

If there has been divorce and remarriage, perhaps adoption, there are even more people within four generations. But the greater tragedy is that our parents also each had thirty people whose sin affected them, and the four grandparents each had thirty people, and so forth. In other words, if we really trace it back, we inherit the iniquity of all past generations back to Noah and sons, and they inherited from all of their generations back to Adam and Eve. This is the source of the innate, sinful nature of man. There would clearly be no escape from all of this, if God had not planned from the beginning – the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8) for our release, healing, and freedom.

Our inheritance of physical characteristics may be by far the least of what we receive from our ancestors. Soul and spirit sins, iniquities, hurts, and oppressions probably have a far greater impact on our lives.

There are some inconsistencies in the way that generational sins operate and affect people. We sometimes see them skip a generation, maybe even two, and sometimes we see what appears to be a concentration or amplification of them in a particular individual. It is as if he is a focus of the iniquity. This is particularly true in relation to the occult.

We have seen occult focuses on one or more individuals in the family line, who will be really oppressed. But other family members will not seem to be much affected at all. The occult iniquity keeps bouncing from here to there, having its impact. But always, somewhere within three or four generations, somebody will have been affected. He will have received the iniquity, taken it for his own, and then he will pass it on down four more generations.
Mechanism transmitting the sins of the fathers.

“What are the dynamics ... how does it happen ... what mechanism is at work here that causes the sins of the fathers to come on down the family line?” Let us start out by saying “We don't know, at least, not for sure”. What we are about to present is certainly not a “Thus saith the Lord”, but rather it is in the realm of speculation and/or strong possibility.

Genes and DNA.

The main role of DNA molecules is the long-term storage of information. DNA is often compared to a set of blueprints, like a recipe or a code, since it contains the instructions needed to construct other components of cells, such as proteins and RNA molecules. The DNA segments that carry this genetic information are called genes, but other DNA sequences have structural purposes, or are involved in regulating the use of this genetic information.

Sins of the fathers may be passed down through the genes. They could even affect the genes themselves, causing alterations to the gene structure and order. Many physical and/or mental disorders are the result from this.
○ Environment.

Sins of the fathers could be partly propagated through the emotional and spiritual environment of our home, both while we are being formed in the womb and also in our early, growing up years. This is when we form our core beliefs and values in terms of how we are treated and the patterns of our parents’ lives.

○ Law of Sowing and Reaping.

Also, as the sins of the fathers are being passed down, they bring into action the Law of Sowing and Reaping, or more accurately, the Law of Judgment, with "like evil" reproducing after its own kind (Genesis 1). Seeds of family violence, co-dependence, incest, occult involvement, and so forth, clearly produce fruit of like nature generation after generation.

○ Demons.

Finally, we suspect that demons themselves help propagate the sin and iniquity. Besides the obvious demons such as anger, rejection, and so forth, there are also many testimonies of children or grandchildren receiving demons from their parents or grandparents.

For example, we have heard on numerous occasions of a granddaughter experiencing the entrance of her grandmother’s occult or disease demons at the time of the grandmother’s death, if it hadn’t already happened during a formal, ritualistic ceremony. Many times the child inheriting the demons have the same name as the forbearer.

Finally …

The most likely situation is that a combination of the above factors is working in concern with each other. They probably occur with different combinations and frequencies within different people. So, the likely main factors that are transmitting the sins of the fathers from one generation to the next and helping the outworking of the curses are the:

⇒ Genes.
⇒ Grow-up Environment.
⇒ Law of Sowing and Reaping.
⇒ Demonic Oppression.