

## Reverse The Curse

### Romans 5:12 – Death in Adam, Life in Christ

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one-man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

**It was called the “curse of the Bambino.” It was a curse that lasted for 86 years.**

**THIS SO CALLED CURSE HAD TO DO WITH A BASEBALL TEAM CALLED THE BOSTON RED SOX...**

- ***The Boston Red Sox won the World Series 4 times between 1912 and 1918.***

1912 --- Boston Red Sox Win World Series

1915 --- Red Sox Win Again

1916 --- Red Sox Repeat as World Champions

1918 --- Red Sox Win For The Last Time

1914-1919 --- Babe Ruth played for Boston. He pitched and played left field. His bat and his arm help the Sox to three World Championships in four years. Boston was the best team in baseball and Babe Ruth was a priceless asset of the team.

1920 --- Prior to the season, The "Babe" is sold to the Yankees for \$100,000. The Yankees, who until then had never won a championship, go on to win 26 of them. The Red Sox appear in 4. They lose in game 7 each time.

### **The Curse of the Bambino**

But ***finally***, in... 2004 --- **The RED SOX WIN!!** After being down three games to none in the ALCS, the Red Sox roar back and beat the Yankees in the next four games. This is the beginning of the end of the curse. The Sox go on to beat the Cardinals in four straight to become World Champions.

- It was a long 86 years but the Curse of the Bambino is over.

**THE RED SOX FINALLY WON THE WORLD SERIES AGAIN!!**

**THE CURSE WAS REVERSED**

**The Apostle Paul** in our text told the church at Rome; ***“by one-man sin entered into the world...”***

We know that sin entered into the world ***because of the sin of one man, Adam.***

**One crucial decision ... gone horribly, irreparably wrong.**

***Think back with me for a moment to mankind’s most horrific hour,***

- Adam and Eve failed God in the Garden of Eden,
- Effectively dragging all their descendents down with them into sin.

**A tragic transgression frozen forever in a split second of failure!**

**The Bible informs us that God gave only one command to Adam and Eve**

- **Yet they still disobeyed Him** by eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that grew in the Garden.

**Genesis 2:16-17** - <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

**Genesis 3:6** - <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

**As a result of Adam’s disobedience the curse of sin began.**

**Gen 3:23-24** - <sup>23</sup> therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

**The curse of sin brought about a separation between man and God!**

**SIN ALWAYS SEPARATES!**

***Although Adam sinned and set in motion a curse*** that would seemingly last through the ages, there was someone that would **“Reverse The Curse!”**

Paul said in our text: **Romans 5:21** - <sup>21</sup> so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In that awful instant, they knew that they were naked before God & each other –

- **Their own bodies** would now be a hindrance to them in their relationship with a holy God.
- **The knowledge** that had looked so desirable only a moment before suddenly lost its attractiveness
- **Moral responsibility** now fell on the frail shoulders of fallen humanity.

The Bible doesn't tell us directly what kind of tree our first parents ate from **when they disobeyed God**, but it does give us a strong hint.

Ask yourself this question:

When **Adam and Eve immediately grasped in desperation for a covering** for their nakedness, **what was it that their hands fell upon?** That's right – **FIG LEAVES**.

**Genesis 3:7** - <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

**Man was attempting to cover his fallen nature with the fruit of the tree of KNOWLEDGE – his own thinking!!!**

- How to **achieve righteousness** before God
- And conquer the evil now throbbing within his own heart.
- Mankind has been trying in vain to sew "fig leaves" together ever since.
- **With** hundreds of religions, thousands of self-help projects and millions of righteous deeds.

But **the answer will never be found** in our garments of goodness, our clothing of competency or our aprons of accomplishment.

**In actual fact, it is this very desire to jealously guard our right to choose** in matters of **good and evil** that has been our undoing.

**Mankind was felled by a fig tree!** It is well documented in ancient Jewish literature that ***the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*** was a fig tree.

**But wait!** There's a SECOND fig tree in this tale!

Both *Matthew and Mark* **record a strange event in their gospels** that has always puzzled Bible scholars ...

**Mark 11:13-14** - And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. <sup>14</sup> In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again."

**Mark 11:20-21** - Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. <sup>21</sup> And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

**The dilemma scholars find in these verses is quite simple –**

- Jesus **cannot** be teaching a lesson about the consequences of unfruitfulness here, as is ***often assumed*** –
- Because it would be **clearly unreasonable** to expect figs from a fig tree when "the time of figs was not yet."
- There is **no seemingly sensible explanation** for His curse on an innocently barren fig tree.

***But could it be that there is something much more momentous happening in this mysterious passage?***

**Could it be - *Jesus is making an* eternal statement as He walks into Jerusalem, ***only four days before his crucifixion.*****

Might God be looking back to another fateful day in history as ***He now stands in*** ***flesh*** before a tree **just like the one that started man's slide into sin?**

That would explain Jesus' otherwise unjustified curse, if He is now bringing judgment on the **same type of tree** that Adam and Eve first ate of, ***the one that brought sin and death to humanity.***

**Jesus curses the root cause of man's problem, leaving it withered and dead – for when the God-Man speaks, the curse is cursed!**

**The first Adam ate the fruit of the tree and brought death -**

The **second Adam** – Jesus Christ – could not find any figs to eat. **He did not partake of sin!**

**Hebrews 4:15** - For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was **in all points tempted** as *we are*, **yet without sin.**

**SECOND ADAM** – **1 Corinthians 15:45-47** - And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.

<sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

<sup>47</sup> The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven.

### **“Second Beats First”**

- The first Adam cursed us; the second Adam blessed us.
- The first Adam hurt us; the second Adam healed us.
- The first Adam put us out; the second Adam brought us in.
- The first Adam put us down; the second Adam lifted us up.
- The first Adam put us on the road to Hell; the second Adam put us on the road to Heaven.
- The first Adam ate off of a tree; the second Adam died on a tree.

The **SECOND ADAM** brought us the **SECOND BIRTH** so we could **avoid the SECOND DEATH** and be ready for **the SECOND COMING**.

**SECOND BIRTH** – **John 3:4-5** - Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

**SECOND DEATH** – **Revelation 21:8** - <sup>8</sup> **But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”**

**SECOND COMING** – **Hebrews 9:28** - so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

In cursing the fig tree so that it withered and died, Jesus was illustrating His victory over all the factors in the Garden of Eden around which the first Adam failed.

- ***No man would ever be able to eat from the cursed fig tree again; and after Calvary,***
- No person would ever ***have to rely on their own insufficient power*** to know good and evil ever again.

**CLOSE: Jesus was saying in effect, “I am about to ‘reverse the curse’ that has bound my creation.”**

**YOU HAVE A SECOND CHANCE!**

**No matter what** your life has been like up until this point, ***you have a chance to reverse the curse of sin*** that ***you have carried*** since you came into this world.

- ***If you are born once, you’ll die twice!***
- But ***if you are born twice, you’ll only die once!***

**You must be born again, because only your second birth can cancel out your second funeral!**

- You think your first funeral is sad? It only lasts an hour
- Your second funeral **will last for all eternity!**

**The truth is the second Adam “Reversed The Curse!”**

- There is **no reason** for anyone to be living under a curse!
- It is **God’s will** for the curse to be reversed in your life!
- In 2022 the curse **can be reversed!**

**No one is excluded from the curse being reversed!**

- **The Boston Red Sox** had to deal with 86 years of baseball futility!
- **Has anyone here** had 86 years of failure?
- Has anyone here faced 86 years of spiritual futility? **I seriously doubt it!**

But many have had ***habitual struggle*** and it ***seems*** that ***there's no way out*** of your circumstance.

**The good news is that you can reverse the curse!**

***How?*** - The same way the Red Sox did... NEVER GIVE UP!

**The Message - *Philippians 3:14* - *I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.***  
***Phi 3:15* So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision--you'll see it yet!**

- Paul said ***"I'm focused, and I'm not turning back!"***
- Paul was saying **the curse has been reversed!**

**The truth** concerning the so-called curse of the Bambino is that ***it really did not exist...*** it was not really a curse!

**The truth today** is also this... **The curse of sin no longer exists!**  
**JESUS CHRIST has "Reversed The Curse"**

- The curse of futility in your life does not have to exist!
- Reversing the curse begins when we **change our THINKING!**

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

**The Message - *Phi 4:13* "Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am."**