



Small Group Guide: Curses And Countdown (Week 8)

Key Takeaways

1. **God's Ultimate Goal:** To fill the earth with image bearers—people who value what He values and do what is good in His eyes.
2. **The Covenant Structure:** Israel agreed to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, representing God to the nations. Obedience brought blessing; disobedience brought discipline.
3. **The Prophets' Role:** Prophets were covenant referees who reminded Israel of their agreement with God and called them to repentance before judgment came.
4. **The Pattern of Discipline:** God's judgment came in increasing measures ("seven times more") to drive His people to repentance, not to destroy them.
5. **The 490 Years:** Daniel's prophecy revealed that 483 years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, the Messiah would come—exactly fulfilled in Jesus' triumphal entry.

Discussion Questions

6. What was Israel's job as "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation"? Why did this matter for the nations around them?
7. Explain the cycle described in Leviticus 26. How does this show both God's justice and His mercy?
8. Why did the judges, priests, and kings all fail? What does this tell us about human leadership and our need for the Messiah?
9. The study emphasized that less than 5% of prophetic writing is about future predictions. What was the prophets' primary message? Why is this important to understand?
10. Read 2 Chronicles 7:13-14. How does this passage summarize the heart of the prophetic message? What does true repentance look like according to this text?

11. Daniel prayed toward Jerusalem even in exile (Daniel 9). What does this teach us about faith, hope, and keeping our focus on God's promises during difficult times?

Key Scriptures for Further Study

- **Leviticus 26:14-45** - The covenant blessings and curses
- **2 Chronicles 7:12-22** - God's response to Solomon's prayer
- **Jeremiah 29:10-14** - God's plans for restoration after 70 years
- **Daniel 9:1-19** - Daniel's prayer of repentance
- **Daniel 9:24-27** - The prophecy of the 70 weeks