

Training questions

Talking to non-believers

1. What common objections are there to **God cursing the world**?
2. Which of **sin** or **curses** would you hesitate more to present to non-Christians? Why?
3. Which of **sin** or **curses** might non-believers already agree with more?

Logic

4. How are the five cards logically related to each other? Fill in the 4 blanks.
5. Why does it matter that *God* cursed the world, as opposed to either:
 - a. humans have ruined the world; or
 - b. the world is passively broken?

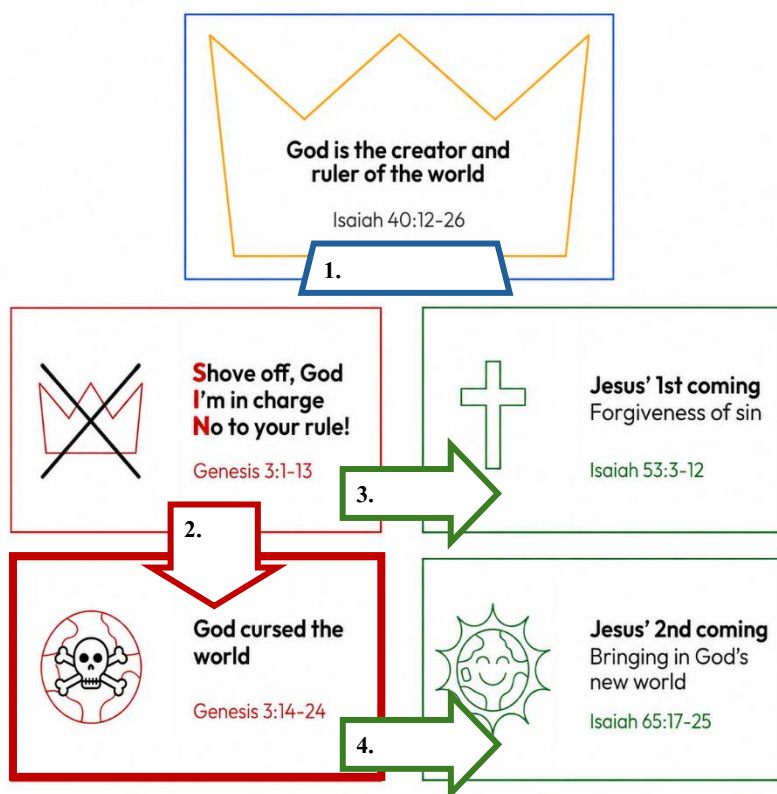
God's wrath vs God's wrath

6. There are two timings of God's wrath:
 - a. the cursedness of our current creation;
 - b. the future fury of the final day.
 In terms of weight of text, what ratio would you guess for a:b? Show some working.
If $a \gg b$, why do people present mainly (b), especially evangelistically?

Sin vs curses

7. What is your ratio of experience in terms of hearing teaching on **sin** vs **curses**?
8. Here are some reasons why **sin** might be more taught/presented than **curses**:
 - a. **curses** risk making God seem cruel or mean, which will put people off
 - b. our relative age/material privilege means we have not (yet) experienced as many **curses** as most people in history
 - c. **Jesus' 1st coming** is far more historically provable than **Jesus' 2nd coming**, so we are biased towards **Jesus' 1st coming** is and the problem it solves, i.e. **sin**
 - d. copying what other people do, e.g. 'this is what we have always done', or 'a sermon should always teach the cross'

What is your opinion of the ratio of a:b:c:d? Why?





Genesis 3:14-24 (NIVUK)

1. Cursed Satan (3:14-15)

a. humiliated

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the snake,

‘Because you have done this,

Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly

and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

b. enmity with humanity

¹⁵ And I will put enmity

between you and the woman,

and between your offspring^a and hers;

he will crush^b your head,

and you will strike his heel.’

2. Cursed Humanity (3:16-24)

a. pain in the family

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

‘I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;

with painful labour you will give birth to children.

Your desire will be for^c your husband,

and he will rule over you.’

b. cursed creation

¹⁷ To Adam he said, ‘Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, “You must not eat from it,”

‘Cursed is the ground because of you;

through painful toil you will eat food from it

all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,

and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow

you will eat your food

c. death

until you return to the ground,

since from it you were taken;

for dust you are

and to dust you will return.’

^a Or *seed*

^b Or *strike*

^c Or *against* (see e.g. Williams’ Hebrew Syntax, §303)

²⁰ Adam^d named his wife Eve,^e because she would become the mother of all the living.

²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, ‘The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live for ever.’

²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^f of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

d. banished from God’s presence

Getting into the text

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Overall shape | 1. What is the literary effect of having both (a) the <i>verdict</i> where God speaks directly in 3:14-19, then the <i>outworking</i> as the narrator takes over for 3:20-24? |
| | 2. Is <i>death</i> the climactic punishment, or is it being <i>banished from God’s presence</i> ? Give reasons. |
| 3:14 | 3. How does the curse lower the snake in status? |
| | 4. Why do you think the <i>snake</i> isn’t questioned by God, unlike the <i>man and woman</i> in 3:9-13? |
| 3:15 | 5. How do we see conflict being widened by the author? |
| | 6. What is the visual effect of the mirrored acts of striking the head and striking the heel? |
| 3:16 | 7. What is the effect of pairing <i>childbirth</i> and <i>marriage</i> in the same verse? |
| | 8. How does the wording of <i>desire</i> and <i>rule</i> being put together create tension? |
| | 9. What is the effect of God’s harsh punishment being described in such few words? |
| 3:17-19a | 10. What is the effect of the <i>ground</i> being cursed, rather than the <i>man</i> directly? |
| | 11. What do you make of the imagery of <i>painful toil, thorns and thistles, and sweat</i> ? |
| | 12. To what extent do you perceive poetic justice around the theme of <i>eating</i> ? |
| 3:19b-22 | 13. What is the literary effect of <i>death</i> being described as <i>a return to dust</i> ? |
| | 14. What is the effect of Adam naming his wife ‘ <i>Living</i> ’ immediately after the judgement speech? |
| | 15. Why do you think the tree of life is mentioned so late in the scene? |
| 3:23-24 | 16. How does the author intensify the sense of expulsion? |
| | 17. How does this final scene create the sense of loss and unresolved longing? |

^d Or *The man*

^e *Eve* probably means *living*.

^f Or *placed in front*

Challenging our worldview

1. Cursedness

Write down ways in which you personally experience cursedness under the categories of Genesis 3:

Enmity with Satan (3:14-15)

-
-

Relationships/family (3:16-17)

-
-
-

Creation/work (3:18-19a)

-
-
-

Death/illness (3:19b-22)

-
-
-

God being absent (3:23-24)

-
-

2. Operational belief

In what ways would your life change if you were more aware of God having cursed the world, i.e. that the brokenness around you is caused by God?

3. God's new world

God promises a perfect world without suffering, see e.g. Isaiah 65:17-25, Revelation 21-22. Write 'NO MORE' before each of the bullets above. To what extent does this help?

4. Sin amplified

How does Genesis 3:14-24 help to amplify the seriousness of humanity's rebellion against God?

5. God's rule amplified

How does Genesis 3:14-24 help to amplify the creator- and ruler-ness of God?

Next meeting (Sun 14 June):

- Gospel logic #4 – Isaiah 53:3-12
- No car parking restrictions

