How did Satan cause curses to come upon Adam and Eve in the garden? Did Satan have the power or authority to curse them himself? No, he did not, and Satan knew this. He knew that he could not curse what God had blessed.

Genesis 1:27-28
So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Not only did God bless Adam and Eve, He also gave them authority over everything that moves on the earth, which would include that old serpent, the Devil. Satan knew that in order to cause
God’s people whom He had blessed to fall away and become accursed, he would have to be crafty, cunning, and subtle.

Genesis 3:1-5
Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Satan used his own words, his own teaching, to deceive them into believing a lie. It is the tongue of a serpent that tickled their ears causing God’s people to turn away from the truth of God’s commandments, and toward the lies of the false one. The serpent’s method hasn’t changed to do to this day.

2 Timothy 4:2-4 (NASB)
Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

In order to cause a curse to come upon God’s people, whom God had blessed, Satan knew that he could do nothing to them himself. Satan could not curse what God had blessed, he could only use lying words to beguile and seduce Eve into setting aside God’s commands in exchange for his lies. This very doctrine, or deception, is also called “the doctrine of Balaam.” We read about this mysterious doctrine in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 2:12-14
“And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, ‘These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 13 “I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.”

The messenger tells the church of Pergamos that they dwell where Satan’s throne is. Indicating that they dwell where Satan rules, and that they have there those who hold this doctrine of Balaam. What is the doctrine of Balaam? The teaching or doctrine of Balaam says, it is true that no one can curse God’s people whom He has blessed, but I will show you how to cause God’s people whom He has blessed to bring the curse upon themselves.
Deuteronomy 27:15, 26
“‘Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.’
“And all the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen!’”

26 “‘Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law (Torah) by observing them.’ “And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’”

Let’s look at the scriptures where Balaam taught Balak, the gentile king of Moab, how to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel whom God had blessed.

Numbers 23:7-8, 20-21
And he took up his oracle and said:
“Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram,
From the mountains of the east.
‘Come, curse Jacob for me,
And come, denounce Israel!’
8 “How shall I curse whom God has not cursed?
And how shall I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?”

20 “Behold, I have received a command to bless;
He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.
21 “He has not observed iniquity in Jacob,
Nor has He seen wickedness in Israel.
The Lord his God is with him,
And the shout of a King is among them.”

By chapter 25 of Numbers, we see a shift has happened among the children of Israel as they have now joined themselves with the Moabites, which Yehovah had forbidden.

Numbers 25:1-3
Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. 2 They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. 3 So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel.

Later, we learn that it was Balaam who taught Balak how to put this stumbling block before the children of Israel, causing them to bring the curse upon themselves.

Numbers 31:15-16
And Moses said to them: “Have you kept all the women alive? 16 Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord.”
Looking to these patterns in scripture, how then do you suppose that Satan causes God’s people to curse themselves today? He does it in the very same way that he has done from the beginning; by speaking great swelling words of emptiness that appeal to our flesh nature and cause us all like sheep to go astray from the Torah of our Creator, and away from God Himself. Peter speaks of this very doctrine, even comparing those who speak such “evil” things to “brute beasts.” Remember, Satan is a serpent and a beast of the field. When we follow after him, we take on his image, the image of a beast, and not the image of God.

2 Peter 2:12-22
But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, 13 and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, 14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children. 15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man’s voice restrained the madness of the prophet. 17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. 18 For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. 20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

Clearly, the doctrine of Balaam is alive and well today, but why is it still called the doctrine of Balaam in the scriptures when Balaam was just one man in one moment of history? Names in scripture are very important, and it is the meaning of the name of Balaam that is absolutely incredible and remains relevant to this day.

Balaam is a Hebrew name that is made up of two words, H1077 “Bal,” which means not, no, or nothing, and the word H5971 “Am,” which means people or nation. Balaam’s name means, “not a people.” What then is “the doctrine of Balaam?” The doctrine of Balaam is “the doctrine of not a people.” What then is the doctrine of God’s people? It is doctrine that is given to us by God, not men.

Proverbs 4:1-2
Hear, my children, the instruction of a father,
And give attention to know understanding;  
2 For I give you good doctrine:  
Do not forsake my law (Torah).

Yehovah’s Law, His Torah, is His teaching given to His people.

Exodus 24:12  
Then the Lord said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law (Torah) and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them.”

In Hosea chapter 1, Yehovah speaks to Hosea telling him to take for himself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry with her. This was to represent Yehovah’s marriage to the city of unfaithful Jerusalem in the land of Israel, and the children produced symbolized the unfaithful children of Israel who were placed in her.

Hosea 1:2  
When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea:  
“Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry  
And children of harlotry,  
For the land has committed great harlotry  
By departing from the Lord.”

Yehovah then instructs Hosea to give his children specific names. He was to name one of his children Lo-Ruhamah, which means “No Mercy” in Hebrew, and another Lo-Ammi, which means... “Not My People.”

Hosea 1:6-8  
And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then God said to him:  
“Call her name Lo-Ruhamah (No Mercy),  
For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel,  
But I will utterly take them away.  
7 Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah,  
Will save them by the Lord their God,  
And will not save them by bow,  
Nor by sword or battle,  
By horses or horsemen.”  
8 Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. 9 Then God said:  
“Call his name Lo-Ammi (Not My People),  
For you are not My people,  
And I will not be your God.”

The children of Israel were compared to these children of harlotry. Children born of a land that has departed from the living God and from His Torah. As a result of their departure from Him,
He tells the children of Israel that He will call them “No Mercy,” and “Not My People,” because just as we saw in the book of Numbers at the counsel of Balaam, they had become to Him like the gentile nations that surrounded them. However, Yehovah then goes on to tell them of a future hope and restoration. We who were once called “gentiles,” or “not a people,” will again be received as sons of the living God, and Judah and Israel will be gathered together again in Jerusalem and appoint for themselves one Head.

Hosea 1:10-11
“Yet the number of the children of Israel
Shall be as the sand of the sea,
Which cannot be measured or numbered.
And it shall come to pass
In the place where it was said to them,
‘You are not My people,’
There it shall be said to them,
‘You are sons of the living God.’
11 Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel
Shall be gathered together,
And appoint for themselves one head;
And they shall come up out of the land,
For great will be the day of Jezreel!”

The Head that God’s people will appoint for themselves is Yehoshua the Messiah.

Colossians 2:8-10
Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

In 1 Peter 2, Peter speaks of God’s special people who were once disobedient, but now they are obedient to His Word through His spirit. He then goes on to talk about what causes God’s people to stumble; speaking of those who were once “not a people” of “no mercy,” now becoming a chosen, holy, and obedient nation unto Yehovah. These key phrases indicate that Peter is referencing the prophetic scripture that we read in Hosea.

1 Peter 2:1-10
Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion
A chief cornerstone, elect, precious,
And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”
7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient,
“The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone,”
8 and
“A stone of stumbling
And a rock of offense.”
They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.
9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people,
that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Hosea 2:23
“Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth,
And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy;
Then I will say to those who were not My people,
‘You are My people!’
And they shall say, ‘You are my God!’”

Remember that the doctrine of Balaam taught Balak how to throw a stumbling block before God’s people. Here, Peter plainly stated that we stumble by being disobedient to the word of God. However, to those who obey His word, Yehoshua is precious. Are you beginning to see the difference between God’s people and those who are not His people? God’s people are those who desire to hear and obey God’s words. Just as Messiah said, if we do not hear God’s words then we are not His people.

John 8:47
“He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.”

Let’s look at some more scriptural witnesses that reveal who God’s people are.

Jeremiah 24:7
“Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.”

God’s people are those who have a heart to know Him, and who have returned to Him with their whole heart.

Jeremiah 31:33
“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law (Torah) in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

God’s people are those who have entered into covenant with Him alone, who have received His Torah written in their hearts and minds by His spirit.

Jeremiah 32:37-40
“Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely. 38 They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me.”

God’s people are those who have been gathered as one man, with one heart, who follow one way, who fear Him, and do not depart from Him.

Ezekiel 11:17-20
Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.” ’ 18 And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there. 19 Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, 20 that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.”

God’s people have one heart, and have received a new spirit within them. They walk in His statutes and keep His judgments and do them.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16
Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:
“I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”

And God’s people do not join themselves with unbelievers, or with the lawless, or with darkness or worthlessness, or idols, because God’s people know that to do so would cause them to stray away from God as it is written.
In these Scriptures, we see that those whom God calls “His people” are those who have been given a new heart to fear Yehovah and keeps His commandments always, as it was intended for us from the beginning.

Deuteronomy 5:29
“Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!”

In other words, God’s people are people after God’s own heart, who will do His will.

1 Samuel 13:13-14
And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you."

Psalm 40:8
“I delight to do Your will, O my God,
And Your law (Torah) is within my heart.”

What I desperately want you to understand here is that God’s people are a blessed people. And if you are a blessed child of the living God, no one, and I mean no one, can curse you or harm you. The only way we as children of the living God can become accursed, is if we bring that curse upon ourselves through our own disobedience and rebellion to God and His word by going astray after the doctrine and tradition of sinful men. We stumble being disobedient to the good doctrine that our Father has given to us.

Psalm 119:165
Great peace have those who love Your law (Torah),
And nothing causes them to stumble.

May we always have a heart to hear, keep, and do His Torah through He who strengthens us to do all things.