

ZEBRON NCUBE

Overview and Response to Passmore Hachalinga's Paper

- 1 Gen 3:17 mentions the first curse in the Bible when God cursed the ground because Adam and Eve had sinned. Sin resulted in hostility between human beings and the environment.
- 2 Gen 4:11 tells the story of God pronouncing a curse against Cain after he killed his brother Abel. A curse here means condemnation and judgment.
- 3 Gen 12:3 details the covenant (promise) God made with Abram, telling him that God would bless those who bless him and curse those that curse him. In other words, God promised to protect Abram.
- 4 Deut 11:26 lists the blessings and curses God set before Israel. Israel was to choose one or the other. If they obeyed God, blessings would follow. But if they disobeyed God, curses would follow—the land would not produce much. Their enemies would defeat them. In this case, a curse becomes a natural result of rejecting the blessings due to disobedience.
- 5 Job 2:9 narrates the sad story of Job's wife advising Job to curse God and die. Here is a case of the lesser trying to pronounce a curse on the greater. The Bible teaches that we should respect those that are above us—parents, teachers, pastors, rulers, etc.
- 6 Luke 6:28 gives Jesus' instructions to his followers to "bless those who curse you." We should not seek revenge. We must teach people to forgive, even their enemies. We must leave revenge with God.
- 7 1 Cor 4:12 gives Paul's advice: "When we are cursed, we bless." This teaches the way Christians should live. We should be peacemakers, the salt of the earth, and the light of the world.

Important Topics to Teach Adventist Members

1. Teach that the existence of sin allows for misfortune to come on both

the good and the evil. This means that Christians will also suffer in this world. The fact that God allows us to experience these things does not mean he is vindictive.

2. Teach people to trust God even when things are going wrong for them. God allows misfortune in order to test the faith of his people. The absence of misfortune could encourage people to come to God for the wrong reasons such as for prosperity or health.
3. Teach people that even though evil spirits cast spells on them, Jesus Christ is superior and sufficient to meet their needs. As Christians we do not need to supplement our survival by double-dipping from God and from witchcraft (ancestral spirits). Our members double-dip because they are not sure where the best solution will come from.
4. Teach people that Christ is sufficient to supply all their needs. This is what the Book of Hebrews is saying—that Christ is better and greater.
5. Teach people that God will never leave them. He keeps his covenant. Romans 8:38–39 says that nothing will separate us from God’s love.
6. The Adventist Church must create churches that are friendly, welcoming, caring, and supportive. People who experience rejection by their families because they refused to participate in traditional practices that go against biblical principles, should be able to find acceptance, love and a safe place in the church.
7. Teach the Psalms. The Book of Psalms is a gold mine that Christians should read. It addresses human fears triggered by one’s enemies. In it the psalmists in their laments wrestle with their fears but conclude with a note of trust in God because of his loving kindness (*Hebhesed*). The Book of Psalms also deals with imprecatory prayers asking God to punish, shame, judge, repay, or cut off those who harm or abuse (e.g., Ps 137:7–9; Ps 139:19–22). Imprecatory psalms do not give Christians the license to curse or express vendettas against their enemies. Only God has a right to do so. Human beings cannot be trusted with anger because they express it in unjust ways, while God’s anger is always just. In the Psalms imprecations leave room for God to do what he deems best.