

Home at Last!
Veritas Class
April 3, 2016
Deuteronomy 27:9-13

C. Securing the Devotion of the People of Yahweh (27:11-26)

1. The Corporate Blessing and Curse Ritual (vv. 11-13)

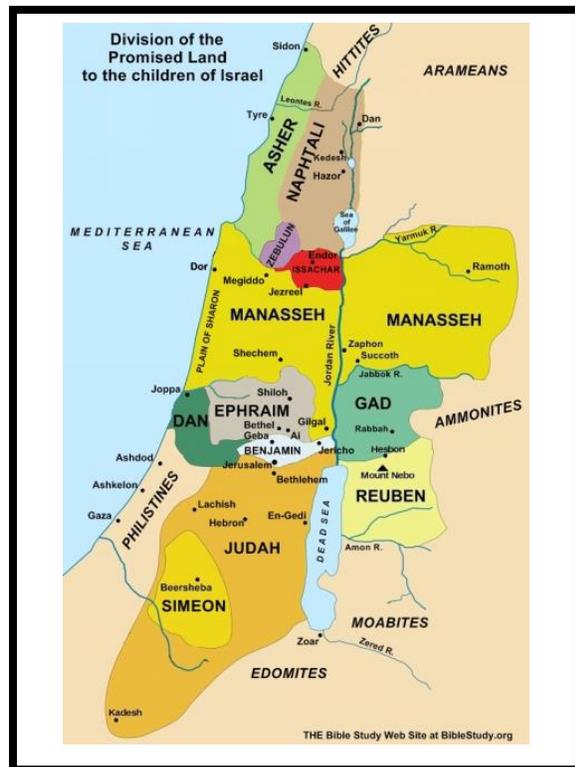
Element	The Gerizimite Tribes	The Ebalite Tribes
Title	These shall stand	And these shall stand
Purpose	for blessing the people (לְבָרֵךְ אֶת־הָעָם)	for the curse (עַל־הַקְּלָלָה)
Location	on Mount Gerizim when you have crossed the Jordan	on Mount Ebal
Tribal Arrangement	2 Simeon (Leah) 3 and Levi (Leah) 4 and Judah (Leah) 9 and Issachar (Leah) 11 and Joseph 12 and Benjamin	1 Reuben (Leah) 7 Gad (Zilpah/L) 8 and Asher (Zilpah/L) 10 and Zebulun (Leah) 5 Dan (Bilhah/R) 6 and Naphtali (Bilhah)

Why on these mountains?

Why this division of the tribes?

Why with a loud voice (v. 14)

What are the blessings and the curses?



The Individualized Curse Ritual (vv. 13–26)

a. The Content and Structure of the Individualized Covenantal Anathemas

Idolatry (secret)	A	Violation of the Supreme Commandment
Dishonoring parents	B	Violation of fundamental domestic order
Moving a neighbor's landmark	C	Violation of a neighbor's rights
Misleading the blind	D	Violation of the rights of the economically marginalized
Perverting the rights of the alien, fatherless and widow		
Having intercourse with one's [step]mother	E	Violation of domestic sexual boundaries
Having intercourse with an animal		
Having intercourse with one's sibling		
Having intercourse with one's mother-in-law		
Striking down a neighbor (secret)	C	Violation of a neighbor's rights
Accepting a bribe in crime against life	B	Violation of fundamental social order
General Disregard of the Torah	A	Violation of the covenant in principle

b. Observations on these Anathemas

- (1) The Greek translation of *'ārûr*: ἐπικατάρατος
- (2) The number: twelve (one for every tribe?)
- (3) The form: Cursed be the one who does . . .
- (4) The addressee: individual (cf. secret)
- (5) The structure: modified chiasm
- (6) The frame: idolatry . . . This whole Torah
- (7) The center of gravity (sexual taboos)
- (8) The pairing
- (9) Some are capital offences elsewhere
- (10) Some call for purging of the land

c. The Significance of the “Amens”

d. How did Israel do on these anathemas?

e. What about “the curse of the law” in Gal 3:10–14?

3. How is Deuteronomy 27 my Scripture? What does it teach me for today?