

**Into the Depths of Mordor**  
**The Curses of the Covenant**  
**(Deuteronomy 28:1–69 [English 28:1–29:1])**  
**Veritas Class**  
**October 2, 2016**

**Introduction to Deuteronomy 28:15–69[ET 29:12]**

**A. How should we interpret troubling texts like this?**

- 1. Recognize that they would not have troubled ancient audiences.**
  - a. They were part of all ancient treaty documents.
  - b. The specific terms recall the Esarhaddon Succession Treaty Texts.
  - c. The non-Israelite Job utters similar curses against himself (Job 31).
- 2. Recognize that they come after unbelievably profuse blessings (vv. 1–14).**
- 3. Recognize that YHWH acts directly against his people.**
  - a. Unlike other ANE texts, Israel’s demise involves no other deities.
  - b. Moses clearly declares YHWH’s intentions.
  - c. Moses highlights Israel’s hopelessness.
  - d. Moses lists a shuddering list of secondary agents.
  - e. Moses reminds the people repeatedly of the causes of YHWH’s fury.
- 4. Recognize the pastoral function of this text.**
  - a. It is driven by YHWH’s passion (קנָאָה) for his people.
  - b. Its goal is to keep the Israelites on the divinely intended spiritual course for the cause of the mission.
  - c. Its ultimate goal is redemptive.
- 5. Recognize that this divine fury does not end with the First Testament (Jesus’ woes)**
- 6. Recognize the clear structure of the text: it consists of three literary panels—three volleys of doom: vv. 20–46; 47–57; 58–68**

**B. The Dark Road to Mordor: Exposition**

1. The First Volley (vv. 20–46)
  - a. The Frame (vv. 20; 45–56)
  - b. The Three Alarm Warning
    - (1) The First Alarm (vv. 21–26)
    - (2) The Second Alarm (vv. 27–34)
    - (3) The Third Alarm (vv. 35–44)