



Curses upon the beautiful Rainbow Nation

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Then the **Lord** said,
the people have
become as **We**
are, **knowing**
everything, both good
and **evil**. What if
they eat the **fruit** of
the **tree** of **life**?
Then **they** will **live**
forever! so the
Lord banished
Adam and his **wife**
from the **Garden** of
Eden, and **He**
sent **Adam** out to
cultivate the
ground from
which **he** had
been made.



Alive Ministries South Africa

Kees Heijstek

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Curses upon the beautiful Rainbow Nation,

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My fellow South Africans, beloved,

What a blessing: Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life (1 Corinthians 15:22). What a promise and a blessing: No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship Him (Revelation 22:30). Curses are real, also in the New Testament and, in a way, I like that: Satan has been cursed in Genesis 3:14 and became a vacuum cleaner. Finally he will be thrown in the eternal lake of fire (Matthew 25:41). What a blessing: this curse on Satan, his demons and followers guarantees the absence of sin and evil on the new heaven and earth. Thank you Father for sending your beloved Son. Thank You Jesus for becoming a curse for us! In this study we will investigate the impact of curses on both Christians and non Christians in the New Testament. Finally this study is also a search for the eventual relation between witchcraft, captivity in the spiritual realm and the work out in the physical world, the beautiful Rainbow Nation, the Republic of South Africa.

1. First things first, the curse on Ham.

Well, the curse on Ham does **not** exist. This is the curse on Canaan: ²⁴ *When Noah woke up from his stupor, he learned what Ham, his youngest son, had done.* ²⁵ *Then **he cursed Canaan**, the son of Ham: "May Canaan be cursed! May he be the lowest of servants to his relatives."* (Genesis 9:24-25). This is about slavery, Canaan the father of slaves. It is not at all about (dark) colour of skin. It is a curse on the Canaanites (not on Ham), the pre-Israelitic population of Palestine (Judges 1:30, 35). Canaan was the promised land for the Jews, Gods chosen people (Numbers 13:2). **The Canaanites were known as the main representatives of heathen superstition, loathed as idolaters, masters of witchcraft, in whose ordinances Israelites may not walk** (Leviticus 18:3). The Canaanites had to leave their land because of their own sin, for leading and deceiving the Israelites into idolatry (Numbers 25:18, 31:2). The Israelites didn't destroyed the altars of the Canaanites completely, instead they made covenants with them. The Lord punished them, their slaves the Canaanites will stay in Canaan and be a plague and temptation to Israel (Judges 2:1-5). Israel starts worshipping the images of Baal (Judges 2:11). The enemies start winning again. The Lord did all this to test if the people of Israel are faithful (Judges 2:22, 3:4). Well, take your own conclusion: are the Israeli and Palestine people still in the same situation?

In this study you will see a work out of all of this in our lives, the misuse of the curse on Ham for there was no curse on Ham, the descendants link between Canaan and Africa, the interaction between all parties involved and how God is using sins of others for one goal: to test us and purify us, **for there is only One God, NO ONE LIKE THE GOD OF ISRAEL** (Deuteronomy 33:26).

2. Curses are real, even in the New Testament period.

We mentioned already the curse on our opponent Satan: *So the LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.* ¹⁵ *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel* (Genesis 3:14-15). Satan's head has been bruised (crushed) 2000 years ago by the mighty cross of Christ and the curse on Satan will remain during the whole period of the NT period and finally he will be thrown in the eternal lake of fire.

Some people don't like talking about curses and not at all about long term consequences of them. Some people ignore them or just deny, but that wouldn't help you. So, please look again for instance on the curse on men: "**Cursed is; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.**" (Genesis 3:17-19). Because of our sin, we became mortal, and we can't escape from this long term curse. *What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave?* (Psalm 89:48). It is reality! The curse of

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confusing the people with different languages (Genesis 11:6) will also remain till the last day, from Genesis 11 till Jesus second coming.

3. Definition of a curse.

Wikipedia (English): A curse (also called execration) is any expressed wish that some form of adversity or unhappiness will befall another person or persons. In particular, a wish that harm or hurt will be inflicted by any supernatural power, such as a spell, a prayer, an imprecation, an execration, magic, witchcraft, a god, a natural force, or a spirit. In many belief systems, the curse itself (or accompanying ritual) is considered to have some causative force in the result.

Wikipedia (Dutch translated): To bring evil or injury on; afflict. Motives to curse are anger or a desire to punish or take revenge. The opposite of a curse is a blessing.

4. God's character verses Satan's character.

God's character:

- *Bless those who persecute you; **bless and do not curse** (Romans 12:14). **Christ** has redeemed us from the curse of the law, **having become a curse for us** (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree") (Galatians 3:3).*
- *"Look, today **I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse!**"²⁷ You will be blessed if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today.²⁸ But you will be cursed if you reject the commands of the LORD your God and turn away from him and worship gods you have not known before (Deuteronomy 11:26-28). Our Lord is a Gentleman and respects our own free will. It's your choice!*
- *And **there shall be no more curse**, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him (Revelation 22:3). This situation started 2000 years ago, when Jesus brought His spiritual Kingdom here on earth and will be perfect on the new heaven and new earth after His second coming.*

Satan's character:

- *For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). Satan **loves to do evil things**, he is a **murderer from the beginning**, he **always hated the truth** because **there is no truth in him** and he is a **liar and the father of the lies**.*
- *Satan is **fighting against people made of flesh and blood** (Ephesians 6:12). Be aware, **its wartime!** An important deceive from Satan is **to let you believe its peace and not war**.*
- *Satan is **the biggest thief** of our peace, our time, our joy, our freedom, our marriages, etc. Stand firm and don't let all these gifts steal away from you. *The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, but then **the devil comes and steals** it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved (Luke 8:12).**
- *Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of **the devil, who had the power of death** (Hebrews 2:14). **Satan still wants you to believe that he has the power of the death**, however he lost the battle, 2000 years ago when Jesus took the victory.*
- *Satan will try to **accuse you** regarding your sinful deeds, but he is a liar and not allowed to accuse you anymore after Jesus took the victory as written: "Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself (Romans 8:33)", and "For the accuser of our brothers and sisters (Satan) has been thrown down to earth—the one who accuses them before our God day and night (Revelation 12:10)".*

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- Satan is the **destroyer**:and were destroyed by the destroyer (1 Corinthians 10:10).
- Satan's character perfectly fits in the definition of a curse.
- More information in our study "Know your enemy".

4. Christians and curses.

Christ our Saviour overthrew death (1 Corinthians 15:20-28) by His mighty work on the cross, which brought our eternal salvation. If we accept this we are reborn and going through the gate (Jesus) and entering the Kingdom of God, which started as a spiritual Kingdom on earth. The only curse that has been deleted by the mighty cross is death. In the Old Testament we see also many blessings and protection for God's stubborn people. The Lord did this for the sake of His own name towards the surrounding people.

To penetrate further in the (spiritual) Kingdom already here on earth and to enjoy the benefits (including protection against other curses than death) already here on earth (on this side) you have to shoulder your cross, to give up something as written: "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone **who has given up** house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the Kingdom of God, ³⁰ **will be repaid many times over in this life**, and will have eternal life in the world to come (Luke 18:29-30). This is building on the foundation Jesus as written: ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).

Being born again is a single action, just passing the entrance of the Kingdom, which causes a change of the curse of death into the blessing of eternal life. The more you built on the foundation Jesus the Christ, the more you enter the spiritual Kingdom already here on earth, the more property (land) you are taking back from Satan (in a hostile environment, called the earth, where Satan is the prince of the air) and as a consequence the more curses are turned into blessings, already here on earth, in this very life. If you wait with this process of turning away from sin daily and shouldering your cross, the Lord will not judge you or punish you for this during your life, your eternal stay on the new heaven and new earth is still guaranteed, however you are giving property away to the enemy Satan and coming more under his influence. We have already studied Satan's character versus God's character to be aware of the consequences.

*"Look, today **I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse!**"²⁷ You will be blessed if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today.²⁸ But you will be cursed if you reject the commands of the LORD your God and turn away from him and worship gods you have not known before (Deuteronomy 11:26-28). Be aware these words are spoken to God's own people, you know those who will receive eternal life! They still have to choose in this very life as God's owned people to receive blessings in this very life.*

If you live in the spiritual Kingdom of God here on earth, you are protected as written: ⁸ But how can I curse those whom God has not cursed? How can I condemn those whom the LORD has not condemned? ²³ No curse can touch Jacob; no magic has any power against Israel. (Numbers 23:8,23). Curses on Christians are bouncing back to those who curse you as written: *All who curse you will be cursed, and all who bless you will be blessed.*" (Genesis 27:28-29). Penetrate deep into the spiritual Kingdom of God, here on earth!

5. Non Christians and curses.

We cannot put the Bible and God in a framework and pretend to know all the answers. In our study "God's judgments, the power of His love" we have seen that God both Christians and non-Christians will judge equal according to their works and that many

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blessings are available for non-Christians who are doing works of justice and righteousness. Besides that, our Lord has compassion on all people.

However people who didn't bow down for Jesus the Christ still belong to this world and are under the dominion of the prince of this world, called Satan. We have already studied the character of Satan to be aware of the consequences.

The best protection against curses, to receive blessings is entering the spiritual Kingdom of God by accepting the work of Jesus on the cross and penetrate further into the spiritual Kingdom here on earth, by shouldering your cross.

One recent example from my deliverance ministry: A non-Christian family had a really sinful and criminal grandfather. A relative of this family, who had severe problems with this grandfather, cursed this man and his whole non-Christian family. A son of this cursed family was recently for help in my ministry. He told me that his family was cursed and they were facing many problems. The boy himself had a lot of problems (fear, anger outbursts, suicide, speaking already on his 4th age with ancestor spirits, 34 guided demon spirits within him, etc.). After he gave his life to Jesus on the Youth Alpha course, things really improved. To get rid of the latest influence, grip of Satan, he joined our deliverance ministry, to get free and able to choose to serve the Lord free as written: *...that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days (Luke 1:74-75).*

6. South Africa from historical perspective.

I am very careful and please correct me if I am wrong. This is a lesson I took from the curse on Canaan in chapter 1.

- After the flood in the days of Noah only 8 people were left on the earth. The descendants of Ham filled the earth again, in particular in the direction of the continent Africa.
- Now I am quoting the Jewish encyclopedia: *From rabbinical literature we learn following: When Noah divided the earth among his three sons, Palestine fell to the lot of Shem. Canaan, however, took possession of it, notwithstanding the fact that his father and his children called his attention to the wrong he had committed. They therefore said to him: "Thou art cursed, and cursed wilt thou remain before all the sons of Noah, in accordance with the oath which we took before the Holy Judge [God] and our father Noah" (Book of Jubilees, x., end). Later, when the Jews, the descendants of Shem, drove out the Canaanites from Palestine, the land fell into the hands of its lawful owners. Among the various tribes of the Canaanites were the Girgashites, who, on Joshua's demand, subsequently left Palestine and emigrated to Africa (Yer. Sheb. vi. 36c; Lev. R. xvii.).* **As a consequence the Canaanites mixed with the original inhabitants of Africa and brought the witchcraft in Africa.**
- Long ago we had a tribal system, we owned our own land, we didn't need money and were supplying in our own sustenance. Then according to one of Bishop Desmond Tutu's quotes: "When the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said, 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land." Finally On 10 May 1994, Mandela was sworn in as South Africa's president and the "Apartheid" came officially to an end. **The Europeans have sinned by stealing the land of the Africans. The Lord used this sin to bring the gospel to Africa.**

7. Witchcraft.

The core of witchcraft is written in the book of Revelation: *This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority (Revelation 13:2).* Satan is giving his power to all people who call upon him or those who want to connect to him. Satan don't mind whether people are doing this in ignorance or by purpose. Satan is

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giving everyone who opens him- or herself for him his power, and as a consequence you are becoming dependant on him and under his dominion. He is giving his power to become dependent on him, to take you away from God and finally to destroy you. Be aware of that process! In the same way as the children of God are unable to do miracles in their own power (Acts 3:12), likewise those who applying witchcraft are using the power of Satan: *They are demonic spirits who work miracles (Revelation 16:14)*. Those who practices occultism, are using the 'energeia Satan', 'the works of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders " (2 Thessalonians 2:9, Matthew 24:24, Mark 13:22). This 'energeia' (literally: 'energy' or 'force') has Satan originally from God. After his fall he still owns this supernatural power, but uses it for his own glorification, to deceive people and pull away from God to get them in his own power. The sings and lying wonders are Satan's cunning imitation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the occult followers use (perhaps in ignorance) the occult (demonic) forces, by their commitment to occult spirits. They give their souls and salvation, their strength and power to these demons (Revelation 17:13). Therefore occultism is a sin against the first two of the ten commandments and the consequences (occult tax!) is often felt "unto the third and fourth generation" (Exodus 20:3-5).

There is only One God, **NO ONE LIKE THE GOD OF ISRAEL** (Deuteronomy 33:26). The scripture is teaching us that **our God is a jealous God** as written: ² *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.* ³ *"You shall have no other gods before Me.* ⁴ *"You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;* ⁵ *you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,* ⁶ *but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments (Exodus 20:2-6).*

Our Lord really hates heathen superstition, idolaters, and witchcraft, for by doing this you are approaching directly other "gods". There is only one God, the GREAT I AM, THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES. All other so called "gods" are from the enemy Satan. If humans practising these things they are really giving territory away to Satan and giving him legal grounds to fill the spiritual realm even more with his dark power. You are bringing yourself and others into spiritual captivity. Do you know the work out (symptoms) of this captivity in your life and in your country, the work out of the dark spiritual realm and its power into this physical world, your life and your country? The gifts of Satan: fear, brokenness, loneliness, sadness, restlessness, violence, apathy, uselessness, rejection, depression, war in your mind, doubt, gossip, crime, insecurity, unrest, you don't experience Gods presence, hostility, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, ignorance, frustration, division, envy, abuse, drunkenness, etc.

Consulting the spirits of ancestors is a detestable sin and witchcraft. This is described in 1 Samuel 28. King Saul was consulting the spirit of the prophet Samuel with the help of a medium. On other places in the scripture is written: *I will also turn against those who commit spiritual prostitution by putting their trust in mediums or in those who consult the spirits of the dead. I will cut them off from the community (Leviticus 20:6), And do not let your people practice fortune-telling, or use sorcery, or interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft,* ¹¹ *or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead.* ¹² *Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD. It is because the other nations have done these detestable things that the LORD your God will drive them out ahead of you (Deuteronomy 18:10-11), Manasseh also sacrificed his own sons in the fire in the valley of Ben-Hinnom. He practiced sorcery, divination, and witchcraft, and he consulted with mediums and psychics. He did much that was evil in the LORD's sight, arousing his anger (2 Chronicles 33:6), Someone may say to you, "Let's ask the mediums and those who consult the spirits of the dead. With their whisperings and mutterings, they will tell us what to do." But shouldn't people ask God for guidance?*

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Should the living seek guidance from the dead? ²⁰ *Look to God's instructions and teachings! People who contradict his word are completely in the dark.* ²¹ *They will go from one place to another, weary and hungry. And because they are hungry, they will rage and curse their king and their God. They will look up to heaven ²² and down at the earth, but wherever they look, there will be trouble and anguish and dark despair. They will be thrown out into the darkness (Isaiah 8:19-21).* From experience in my ministry of deliverance I do know this is real and not fake. People who practising witchcraft are absolutely aware of the reality of the powers of darkness, however most of the Christians not. Still many non-Christians and also Christians are practising these things in the Republic of South Africa, for instance on wedding ceremonies. In addition they are also offering animals on this wedding ceremonies to please the spirits of the ancestors. This is a detestable sin and witchcraft and by doing this you are bringing yourself and your own people and country in great danger. And what about Voodoo, rape to satisfy the gods, ritual dances, traditional healers, witch hunting, consulting witchdoctors, juju, etc.

A press release of the relation between 'muti' murder and stealing of dead body parts and ancestor communication in South Africa: *"He began to tell me stories. **His ancestors said that he must kill me and the child so that he can be rich.** When the child was dead, he started to cut all those pieces, the hands, the legs and even the sex organs. We have children going missing every week from our townships, he says. The assumption is that those missing children are being put into prostitution and also that they are being used for 'muti' murder."* **Those so called ancestors are lying spirits (demons)** and people are using these "ancestor believe" to mislead others for their own benefit (to produce potent medicine and get rich). Only in the year 2009 in South Africa nine hundred households (those known) faced stealing of dead body parts of loved ones who died, and at least 300 people are murdered for this purpose in 2009.

Now I am quoting a press article. *A joke is stating that the Japanese people have three religions: They marry as a Christian, live as a Shinto and die as a Buddhist. Culture wise ancestors are playing an important role. If you tell a Japanese that only by believing in Jesus the risen Christ he or she will receive eternal life, the first response will be: and how about my father and mother who didn't believe that message? Evangelists who determine that indeed their parents probably get lost, are facing strong resistance. A Japanese prefers to have an eternal stay in hell together with their ancestors, instead of being alone in heaven. In one of the bigger Japanese churches a different view arose concerning hell and Hades. **The core of this view is that people who died and have lived "well" without knowing the message of Jesus the Christ, still do receive a final offer after death to enter heaven, go through the gate, which is Jesus, and finally bow down for the King of Kings.*** My dear friends, this is so true. All of us will be judged according to our works and if you didn't bow down for Jesus the Christ on this side of life you will receive this offer on the last final day as described in the scripture regarding the judgment of the non-Christians: *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me (Matthew 25:34-36).* Please note your good works as a non-Christian are not the reason to enter eternal life, you still have to bow down for Jesus the Christ, enter the Kingdom through Jesus Who is the door, to receive eternal life on the last day. Christians who accepted Jesus on this side of life are Kingdom citizens from the moment they accepted Jesus and for them it is not necessary to receive the invitation to *inherit the kingdom*, for once you are in (also on this side of life) you never have to leave it. More information in our study "Gods judgments, the power of His love".

Also the fear of witchcraft is pervasive in society and also affects Christians. The fear of witchcraft also causes many Christians to participate in traditional religious practices that

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are less than wholesome. This participation is usually not from conviction, but is done out of fear. If one fails to participate in a certain ritual and misfortune befalls the family or community, the Christians may be accused of having caused it by failing to participate. For example non-participation in certain funeral rites can easily lead to witchcraft allegations which is also one of the fears for persons, for it can lead to isolation, sanctions, suspicion, punishment etc. The Biblical answer is the answer of **Love** and not of fear for there is written: *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love (1 John 4:18).*

Daniel overcame the magicians and astrologers in 10 days: *Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm (Daniel 1:12, 20).* **There is only one God, THE GREAT I AM, THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES!**

¹ *Keep me safe, O God, for I have come to you for refuge.* ² **I said to the LORD, "You are my Master!** Every good thing I have comes from you."³ *The godly people in the land are my true heroes! I take pleasure in them!* ⁴ **Troubles multiply for those who chase after other gods.** *I will not take part in their sacrifices of blood or even speak the names of their gods (Psalm 16:1-4).* David, a man after God's heart, was fully aware that protection and every good thing comes from God, the GREAT I AM, and those who chase after other gods and having rituals (*sacrifices of blood*), their trouble will be multiplied. In some Bible translations is written "*I will not take part anymore*" what should implicate David was involved in these practices.

I am really careful to take conclusions, I stay away from "conspiracy theories", but only searching for the "**WHY QUESTION OF SUFFERING?**" Now I am quoting Reuter News Africa: *"More than half of Haiti's 9 million people are believed to practice voodoo, a religion with roots in Africa. Some 80 percent also are Catholic and most Haitians see no conflict between the two"*. Haiti is on August 14, 1791 officially dedicated to the devil. The Haitian people promised to serve the devil, if they succeed in getting rid of the French suppressors. Shortly after that they did succeed indeed. Since then, the island (only the Haitian part) is under constant disaster and poverty. In Bois Caiman went Boukman voodoo priest in a ritual under a sacred tree where a pig was sacrificed and thousands of his followers drank the blood of the pig. In 1991 the government officially renewed the alliance with the devil and declared even the voodoo cult a cultural heritage. Since that time Haitian Christians are busy in order to break that curse. Thus in 1997 a group of Christians renounced the demons to which the land was dedicated. Until that day the Bois Caiman area remained a sacred place where no one could put one foot, excluding the voodoo priests who every year on August 14 sacrifices to Satan. But on August 14 of that year a large group of Christians in that place came together under that tree and broke the curse and devoted the land to Christ. Since then August 14 for Haitian Christians became the national days of prayer. This battle is still far from over. In April 2003 the "Catholic" president Jean-Bertrand Aristide declared voodoo religion as an official religion. **Don't approach Satan directly (direct or by witchcraft), for by doing that, you are placing yourself under his dark and destructive dominion.**

Vodouisants believe in both a supreme God called Bondye, and many lesser spirits, known as the loa. Because Bondye is considered unreachable, Vodouisants focus their prayer and devotion to lesser entities, spirits known as loa or mistè. The supreme God of the Christians however is approachable and reachable directly as written: *So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the*

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throne of our gracious God. *There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most (Hebrews 4:14-16). The truth is, **you can go directly to the Father and ask Him, and He will grant your request** because you use My name (John 16:23).*

Another reason for people to choose for Voodoo or other witchcraft, besides the pressure from the community is to get things done in their life with help from the "gods or spirits". In Haiti we have seen that Satan indeed was a great helper to get rid of the French suppressors, however with a bitter aftertaste for more than 200 years now. Ritual Voodoo Black Magic spells are used to get rich and indeed sometimes they are really working, however, there is always in a later stage an extra surprise, a bitter aftertaste. This is one of Satan's strategies you should be aware. **Satan promises immediate satisfaction.** Back to Genesis 3, Satan said, "*Eat, it will make you wise.*" It is present, instant, reward. In Hebrews 11:24, the word, "*pleasure*" is used to define sin. No one has ever denied that sin is pleasurable, it is desirable; but what a price to pay. Many reason, "a bird in the hand is worth 2 in the bush." That has always been Satan's message. Look how pleasant it is! We will worry about the hangover tomorrow, let's have our party tonight. Satan's message is, "What's in it for me NOW?" Instant gratification. Do not worry about the consequences, or what might happen tomorrow. **This is short time satisfaction and not long term quality and improvement.** More information in our study "Know your enemy".

¹⁴ So, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols. ¹⁵ You are reasonable people. Decide for yourselves if what I am saying is true. ¹⁶ When we bless the cup at the Lord's Table, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? And when we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body. ¹⁸ Think about the people of Israel. Weren't they united by eating the sacrifices at the altar? ¹⁹ What am I trying to say? Am I saying that food offered to idols has some significance, or that idols are real gods? ²⁰ No, not at all. I am saying that these sacrifices are offered to demons, not to God. And **I don't want you to participate with demons.** ²¹ **You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and from the cup of demons, too.** You cannot eat at the Lord's Table and at the table of demons, too. ²² What? **Do we dare to rouse the Lord's jealousy?** Do you think we are stronger than he is? (1 Corinthians 10:14-22).

Jesus replied, "**The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD** (MARK 12:29).

8. Final word.

My dear friends. The only reason I am writing these studies is my deep rooted love for all the people of the beautiful Rainbow Nation. Things are complicated and interconnected with each other. There is not one solution. History is playing an important role in the situation of today. One of the biggest questions I still do have: why is there still much more suffering in South Africa then in for instance Western Europe? We are all humans, and there is only one God Who has no favourites (except for the poor and needy). Why????????? It makes me cry, but I will not stop to fight and do my part to bring relief and a change in that situation. I hope and pray that this study will starts a process of awareness, openness and honest introspection within the Republic of South Africa, that by doing witchcraft you are stealing your own peace and joy.

*"Look, today **I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse!*** (Deuteronomy 11:26).



Yours in His service,
Kees Heijstek
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