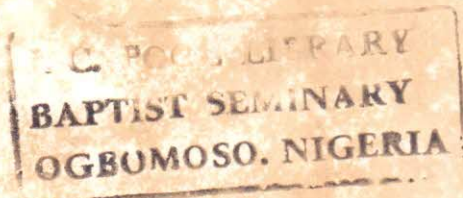


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**CURSE IN THE BIBLICAL
AND EDO CONTEXTS**

A Thesis Presented to the
Faculty of the
Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary
Ogbomoso, Nigeria

In Partial Fulfillment of the
Degree of
Master of Divinity



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ABSTRACT

This writer is motivated by an undeclared debate between various groups of thought as to the existence and efficacy of the thing or event known as 'curse'. There are groups of those who believe that a curse has a biblical root and therefore it is relevant. There are also those who believe that the biblical account in respect of a curse showed that it ought to have been passed into the limbo of historical curiosity.

The Edo people believe in curse and its efficacy. The contemporary Edo Christians use the Jewish concept and practices of curse as justification for the relevance of curse. Curse is seen as a deterrent to the breach of taboos, customs, and conventions in the two cultures. Thus the reverence the Edo people give to the Benin (Edo) Monarch is not so much due to his office but his supposed ability to curse with deadly result.

The writer has set out to examine the Jewish biblical and Edo concepts of curse. The exercise has led him to a historical survey and reference to the Scriptures and other books and literatures. As regards Edo culture, the writer has relied on interviews of important traditionalists and Christians.

The differences and similarities in both cultures have been examined and analyzed. Thereafter a way out for Christians has been proffered.

In summary, the work is divided into four chapters with a brief introduction preceding chapter one. In the introduction, the statement of problems, definition of curse, the methodology adopted in the study, delimitation and purpose are treated. Chapter one deals with curse within the covenantal context - Sinai covenant and counteracting of curse. Curse in Edo context - community curse and counteracting of curse are discussed and evaluated in chapter two. Chapter three deals with comparisons and contrasts. Chapter four is the conclusion, assessment and Christian response.