



## [Deuteronomy 27:26](#)

(26) "Cursed is the man who does not uphold the words of this law by carrying them out."

Then all the people shall say, "Amen!"

*New International Version*

This last curse is a clincher, more expansive in scope by far than the others. By its substance as well as its position, it serves to point out that the previous eleven curses serve in aggregate as an encapsulation of all the laws of [God](#). In fact, the curse will come to any person who violates any of the precepts of God's law. There is no room for hypocrisy. The apostle Paul may have had the twelfth curse in mind when he wrote to God's people in Rome: "For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified" ([Romans 2:13](#)).

Confirmation of the law does not take place through word but through works, works of overt obedience. As a second witness, consider God's own orders to His prophet Jeremiah:

The Lord said to me, "Listen to the terms of the covenant. Tell the people of Judah and of Jerusalem that I, the Lord God of Israel, have placed a curse on everyone who does not obey the terms of this covenant. It is the covenant I made with their ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt, the land that was like a blazing furnace to them. I told them to obey Me and to do everything that I had commanded. I told them that if they obeyed, they would be My people and I would be their God. Then I would keep the promise I

made to their ancestors that I would give them the rich and fertile land which they now have.” ([Jeremiah 11:1-5](#), *Good News Translation*)

Through the same prophet, God tells us that appearances do not fool God. He sees through the mask, recognizing reality clearly: “For My eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from Me, nor is their iniquity concealed from My eyes” ([Jeremiah 16:17](#)).

— Charles Whitaker

**To learn more, see:**

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