

Christian voice Article for the 'Midweek'

### **Epigenetics and the Bible - part 1**

I was praying recently, you know, talking to God. And I thought I heard a voice inside say 'Blessings and curses affect the genes but you can change it'. In my personal quest to be more effective in praying for the sick I had been studying where the roots of sickness came from, but these words really struck me as somehow significant. So I set out to update myself with what is happening today in the field of modern genetics wondering how it might work with my Christian world-view.

Most bible readers would know that Deuteronomy 5:9 reveals that both curses and blessings are intergenerational and passed on from parent to child and so on. They would also know that curses can be broken by studying the New Testament verses such as Galatians 3:13. Blessings are also passed on and the evidence is seen in the genes.

Genetic Scientist Nessa Carey writes in her book 'The Epigenetics Revolution' how modern biology is rewriting our understanding of genetics, disease and inheritance. She describes this new field called Epigenetics as a set of modifications to our genetic material that change the way genes are switched on or off, but which don't alter the genes themselves.

Clair Weaver wrote in February's Women's Weekly magazine entitled 'How You Can Change Your Genes', that outside forces can switch on or off your genes. She reports that 'babies born to women who were pregnant during the 9/11 terror attacks and suffered post-traumatic stress, for example, were far more likely to be stressful and fearful'. Other scientists have noted that sexual abuse causes a genetic change that is passed on to future generations.

Scientists believe a brave and exciting new world of medicine is opening up, but I believe that the Creator has beaten them to it. He said in Jeremiah 30:17 'For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds'. Let's discuss this in Part 2.

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