

The Lord Bless You; Numbers 6:22-27

- I. From Moses to Us
 - A. The Lord spoke to Moses
 - B. Moses spoke to Aaron
 - C. Aaron spoke to Israel
 - D. The LORD; The God of the Covenant, Yahweh!
 - E. Bless - divine favor; often implying a positive disposition or kind actions toward the recipient; to speak words of excellence
- II. The Source
 - A. God is the source of every blessing
 - B. Genesis 1:1–2; 1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
 - C. After every day of creation God says it was “good”
 1. Having desirable or positive qualities; that which is pleasing or valuable or useful
 2. God blesses mankind with the earth and everything in it and calls it “good”
 3. When God is done with all creation He calls it, “very good”
 4. Genesis 1:26; Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
 - D. God blesses Abraham
 1. With a promise (Genesis 12:1-3)
 2. With his wife (when he went down to Egypt during the famine)
 - a) It wasn't Abraham's finest hour
 - b) He deceived Pharaoh (Genesis 12:10-20)
 3. With a child (Isaac)
 - a) God requires Isaac's sacrifice
 - b) Abraham is called a friend of God
 - E. God blesses Israel
 1. With freedom (the 10 plagues)
 2. With mana
 3. With water
 4. With a covenant
 - a) Not Aaron's finest hour
 - b) While Moses is up on the mountain, Aaron and the people call a golden calf their god
 - c) I cannot imagine what Aaron is thinking when Moses tells him to bless the people with Yahweh's blessing
 - F. James 1:16–18; 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
 1. James tells us the it is not God who tempts us
 2. To the contrary, it is God who blesses us
 3. Don't' be deceived, God does not tempt, He blesses
 - G. God is the source of all blessing
- III. Individually and Collectively

- A. The text is both singular and plural
- B. Verses 23 and 27 are plural “you” speaking of Aaron and his sons
- C. Verses 24-26 are singular, speaking to each person in Israel individually
- D. Collectively
 - 1. The LORD deals with nations as well as individuals
 - 2. Obadiah 18; The house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau stubble; they shall burn them and consume them, and there shall be no survivor for the house of Esau, for the Lord has spoken.
 - 3. There is no historical record, other than Scripture, that details the nation of Edom after Obadiah wrote his prophecy
 - 4. Under the new covenant, the LORD destroyed Israel as a nation because they rejected Him
 - 5. The LORD blessed the nation of Israel over and over (and cursed them as well)
 - 6. In AD 70 Titus marched to Jerusalem and laid siege to the city
 - 7. "The slaughter within was even more dreadful than the spectacle from without. Men and women, old and young, insurgents and priests, those who fought and those who entreated mercy, were hewn down in indiscriminate carnage. The number of the slain exceeded that of the slayers. The legionaries had to clamber over heaps of dead to carry on the work of extermination." Milman, *The History of the Jews*, book 16
 - 8. "Many fled to areas around the Mediterranean. Titus reportedly refused to accept a wreath of victory, saying that the victory did not come through his own efforts but that he had merely served as an instrument of God's wrath." Philostratus *The Life of Appolonius of Tyana*
 - 9. By Josephus' count 1,100,000 Jews were slain during the siege and an additional 97,000 were slain while prisoners
 - 10. While it is hard to say with certainty that any event is the hand of God, we cannot rule it out
- E. Individually
 - 1. Matthew 6:31–33; 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
 - 2. We are valuable to God, we have worth in God's eyes
 - 3. Sometimes we feel we are not valuable to anyone, we feel worthless and hopeless
 - 4. But no matter how you feel, or how others make you feel, you are very important to God
 - 5. Matthew 10:29–33. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. 32 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.
 - 6. But even that illustration pales in comparison to the sacrifice of His Son
 - 7. If you ever question your worth to God just think of Jesus hanging on the cross and know your value
 - 8. I often think of Abraham when he is asked to sacrifice his son as an offering to God; the son of the promise!

9. Genesis 15:1–6; 1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” 2 But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” 5 And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.
 10. Through Isaac Abraham is supposed to have innumerable offspring
 11. Through Isaac Abraham is supposed to receive land
 12. Through Isaac all nations will be blessed
 13. Yet, God requires Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on the altar
 14. Hebrews 11:17–19; 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.
 15. No wonder James calls God the Giver of “every good gift and every perfect gift”
 16. James 1:17; Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
- F. God blesses us individually
- IV. Innumerable and Inexhaustible
- A. Ephesians 1:3; Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
 - B. Without number - innumerable
 1. Data plans on our cell phones or our internet service
 2. From the beginning of time God has blessed His creation (us)
 - a) With life (God breathed the breath of life into man)
 - b) With a companion (God made a helper and created marriage)
 - c) With resources (God gave us the earth and all that is in it)
 - d) With knowledge (God gave us our minds and the ability to discern)
 - e) With ability (God gave us talents to use)
 3. God has blessed you personally
 - a) Think back on your own life and see where God has blessed you
 - b) Count your blessings
 - C. Without end - inexhaustible
 1. Our bank accounts are not without number
 2. If we keep spending at some point in time will will outspend our bank accounts
 3. God cannot outspend his blessings
 4. Malachi 3:10; Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.
 - D. “Speak to Aaron”
 1. Aaron at the foot of the mountain waiting on Moses
 2. The incident with the golden calf is still ringing in Aaron’s ears
 - a) Exodus 32:3–6; 3 So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 And he received the gold from their hand and

fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord." 6 And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

- b) Exodus 32:25–29; 25 And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies), 26 then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, "Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered around him. 27 And he said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor.' " 28 And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day about three thousand men of the people fell. 29 And Moses said, "Today you have been ordained for the service of the Lord, each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, so that he might bestow a blessing upon you this day."
- 3. If I were in that position I would be humbled and sorrowful
- 4. What a blessing God gave to Aaron, to bless the people
- E. God's blessings are without number and without end
- V. The Lord Bless You
 - A. God is the source of all blessings
 - B. God will bless us and you
 - C. God's blessings are without end and without number