

Theme: God calls leaders to bless those under their care, and He promises to respond to those blessings with His covenant Presence and provision.

I. Intro – The Half-Ham and Benedictions

- A. Bob Mumford – ham cut in half – why?
- B. Grandmother – oven not wide enough!
- C. Benedictions/blessing – why do we do this?

II. The Aaronic Benediction

- A. The purpose – blessing (v23, 24, 27)
 - 1. Stated 3 times (v23, 24, 27)
 - 2. Rich history of blessing
 - a. Gen 1:22 – first blessing
 - b. Gen 1:28 – God blesses humanity
 - c. Gen 14:19 – Melchizedek blesses Abram
 - d. Lev 9:22-23 – Moses & Aaron bless people
- B. The giver of blessing – God
 - 1. The Lord is the blessing (v24, 25, 26, 27)
 - 2. God blessed humanity (Gen 1:28)
- C. The blessing usually given through leaders
 - 1. Aaron and sons – v23

- 2. Melchizedek – Gen 14:18-20
- 3. Key part of Levites job – Deut 10:8 (early)
- 4. Key part of Priests job – 1 Chron 23:13 (late)
- 5. Jesus blessed as final act – Luke 24:50
- 6. Apostolic blessing (2 Cor 1:2; 2 Cor 13:14)
- 7. Last verse of Scripture (Rev 22:21)

III. A Closer Look At the Blessing

- A. Form of blessing (poetry; 3 lines/2 parts; LORD; longer)
 - 1. It is poetry – adds grandeur, solemnity
 - 2. Three lines, each with 2 parts
 - 3. The LORD in each line
 - 4. Each line gets longer – building to finale
- B. The content of the blessing
 - 1. Provision – bless – v24
 - 2. Protection – keep – v24
 - 3. Pardon – gracious – v25 (favor; mercy)
 - 4. Presence – face shine toward – v25,26
 - 5. Peace – shalom! – v26

C. The outcome of the blessing – name and blessing

1. God puts His name on the people (v27) – mark/seal
2. The people are blessed! (v27)
3. Not a talisman – covenant blessing

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do we see the importance of the blessing?

1. This is prescribed by God!
2. The rich history – creation to consummation!
3. Key part of the worship of God's people
4. Next week – elders bless next generation

B. Do you receive the blessing from Christ each week?

1. God promised to bless through benediction
2. Christ speaks the benediction through leader
3. Must be received by faith – then praise God!

The Covenant Blessing

Numbers 6:23-27

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Doxology

Numbers 6

22 God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." Genesis 1:22

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:28

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. Genesis 14:18-19

22 Then Aaron lifted his hands toward the people and blessed them. And having sacrificed the sin offering, the burnt offering and the fellowship offering, he stepped down. 23 Moses and Aaron then went into the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people. Leviticus 9:22-23

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:28

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. Genesis 14:18-20

8 At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister and to pronounce blessings in his name, as they still do today. Deuteronomy 10:8

13 The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron was set apart, he and his descendants forever, to consecrate the most holy things, to offer sacrifices before the LORD, to minister before him and to pronounce blessings in his name forever. 1 Chronicles 23:13

50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Luke 24:50-51

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:2

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. Revelation 22:21

The Content of the Blessing

- Provision – “bless” (v24)
- Protection – “keep” (v24)
- Pardon – “gracious” (v25)
- Presence – “face” (v25,26)
- Peace – shalom! (v26)

יְבָרֵכְךָ יְהוָה וַיְשַׁמְרֵךְ
יְאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְךָ
יֵשֵׁא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׁם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם