

Theme: God calls leaders to bless those under their care, passing on the covenant blessings God has promised to His people.

I. Intro - The Missing Blessing

- A. I was at a meeting to see someone becoming an elder
- B. At the end - "See y'all next week!" - I felt robbed!
- C. I am so used to ending worship with a blessing!
- D. Why do we do this? Why is it important?

II. The Aaronic Blessing

- A. The purpose - blessing! (vv23,24,27)

The Lord said to Moses, ²³ "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to **bless** the Israelites. Say to them: ²⁴ ""The Lord **bless** you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."²⁷ "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will **bless** them." Numbers 6:22–27

- 1. This is God's command to His people!
- 2. Bless - 3 times - command; words; fulfillment
- 3. This is why blessing became a regular part of the worship of God's people
- 4. God has commanded that the blessing of His people should be a regular part of worship, and He extends His promised blessings when we do so.

- B. The source and giver of blessing - God Himself

The Lord said to Moses, ²³ "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: ²⁴ ""**The Lord bless you** and keep you; ²⁵ **the Lord** make his face shine upon you and be gracious to

you; ²⁶ **the Lord** turn his face toward you and give you peace."²⁷ "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and **I will bless them.**" Numbers 6:22–27

- 1. The opening phrase - The Lord bless you
- 2. Each line attributes the blessing to the Lord
- 3. "I will bless them" (v27)
- 4. All true blessing finds its source in God Himself.

- C. Leaders are called to speak God's blessing over people
Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: Numbers 6:23

- 1. Aaron and the priests were to speak the blessing to the people of Israel who were under their care
- 2. God is the source and giver of the blessing, but He passes the blessing to us through others as they speak God's Word of blessing over us.
- 3. Normally, leaders are called to speak blessing over those under their care

- a. Aaron and his sons the priests commanded to here

- b. Melchizedek the Priest-King of Salem

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

- 1. Note the worship imagery - bread, wine, tithe
- 2. Melchizedek is King and Priest - and type of Christ
- 3. Hebrews 7 makes much of this event

- c. The Levites were to bless the people

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

- d. David the King blessed the people

After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord Almighty....²⁰ When David returned home to bless his household....” 2 Samuel 6:18, 20

1. As King, David blessed the people under his care
2. As the leader in the home, he blessed those under his care

- e. Jesus’ final act as He ascended - speak the blessing!

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

- f. The apostles speak blessings over the churches

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

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

1. Many epistles begin and end with the apostolic blessing
2. Blessing forms the beginning and the end of instruction in the new covenant!

- g. Believers spoke blessings over Paul’s apostolic team

After spending some time there, they were sent off by the brothers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them. Acts 15:33

- h. The last verse of Scripture is a blessing!

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

4. Leaders have a specific responsibility to speak the blessing of God over those under their care.

III. A Closer Look at the Aaronic Blessing

- A. The form of the blessing

- 24 The Lord bless you and keep you;
- 25 the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
- 26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24–26

1. The blessing is poetry - to add grandeur, gravity
2. Three lines, each with two parts (second explains and expands the effect of the first part)
3. The subject in each line - the LORD
4. Each line gets longer, building to the finale

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיְשַׁמְרֶכָּ
 יְאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶכָּ
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשְׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

- B. The content of the blessing

1. Provision - bless (v24)
The Lord **ble**ss you and keep you; Numbers 6:24
2. Protection - keep (v24)
The Lord bless you and **keep** you; Numbers 6:24

3. Pardon - gracious (v25)
the Lord **make his face shine upon you** and be **gracious** to you; Numbers 6:25
 - a. Face to shine, is to look with favor
 - b. This is expressed in God being gracious to us
 - c. The reason the Gospel is the central blessing is that if we are going to be blessed at all, God must be gracious and forgive our sins which deserve judgment rather than blessing.

4. Presence - face shine, face turn toward (vv25-26)
the Lord **make his face shine upon you** and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord **turn his face toward you** and give you peace.” Numbers 6:25–26

5. Peace - shalom! (v26)
the Lord **make his face shine upon you** and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord **turn his face toward you** and give you **peace**.” Numbers 6:25–26
 - a. Shalom - the ultimate blessing
 - b. Shalom is more than the absence of hostility; it is the presence of all that is right and good
 - c. To experience shalom is to experience life as it was meant to be, in a harmonious relationship with God, others, and creation.
 - d. The experience of full shalom awaits the new heavens and earth, but God’s blessing gives us a foretaste of that shalom now.

- C. The result of the blessing - God’s Name, blessing on us
So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them. Numbers 6:27

1. God promises to put His Name on us, marking us off as His own special people
2. God promises to actually place His blessing on us
 - a. The blessing is not a mere formality, nor is it wishful thinking or positive mental energy.
 - b. God gives His covenant promise to actually place His blessing on us as we receive it in faith
 1. Provision
 2. Protection
 3. Pardon
 4. Presence
 5. Peace

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I receive God’s covenant blessing each week?
 1. This is part of our worship each week because it is prescribed by God for us as His people!
 2. This is part of our worship because it has a rich history in the worship of God’s people across the ages
 3. This is part of our worship because it is a foretaste of the eternal blessing Jesus will speak over us in the new heavens and new earth
 4. But all of God’s promises must be received in faith - they do not work ex opere operato
 5. Do I believe God actually blesses me through the weekly benediction/blessing?

6. Do I pay attention and actively receive the blessing each week?

B. Do I speak God's blessing over others?

1. Leaders are called to do this in the church, but all believers can speak blessing over others
2. We are all priests in the new covenant!
3. It is good to speak blessings over people we love
4. Parents - speak blessings over your children!
5. Spouses - speak and pray blessings over each other
6. You are blessed each week - speak and pass that blessing on to others!

C. The Blessing

The Blessing

Numbers 6:22-27
September 9, 2018

Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26

Teaching keywords: blessing, covenant, leadership, worship

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ
יְיָ אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶךָ
יְשֵׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24–26

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