

The Priestly Blessing

Dr. Jay Zinn • River's Edge Church • 6/7/09

Num 6:22-27 - The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

"The LORD bless you and keep you; (Father) – keeps you
the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; (Son) – is gracious to you
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Holy Spirit) – gives you peace
"So they will [invoke] put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them." (Lord-Jesus-Christ)

- to dismiss the people when they assembled together.
- with the elevation of his hands and the three middle fingers extended.

David's version of this *priestly blessing*:

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us." Psalm 67:1

New Testament version of this *priestly blessing* in the greeting of Paul's letters and others:

Romans 1:7 - **Grace** and **peace** to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 1:3 - **Grace** and **peace** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 1:2 - **Grace** and **peace** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Galatians 1:3 - **Grace** and **peace** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 1:2 - **Grace** and **peace** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:2 - **Grace** and **peace** to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Colossians 1:2 - **Grace** and **peace** to you from God our Father.
1 Thessalonians 1:1 - **Grace** and **peace** to you.
2 Thessalonians 1:2 - **Grace** and **peace** to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Timothy 1:2 - **Grace**, **mercy** and **peace** from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
2 Timothy 1:2 - **Grace** and **peace** from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
Titus 1:4 - **Grace** and **peace** from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.
Philemon 3 - **Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Peter 1:2 - **Grace** and **peace** be yours in abundance.
1 Peter 1:2 - **Grace** and **peace** be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
2 John 3 – **Grace**, **mercy** and **peace** from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love.
Jude 2 – **Mercy**, **peace**, and **love** be yours in abundance.

Even the in ending of their letters they invoked a *priestly blessing*:

Romans 16:20 - The **grace** of our Lord Jesus be with you.
1 Corinthians 16:23 - The **grace** of the Lord Jesus be with you.
2 Corinthians 13:14 - May the **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the **love** of God, and the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Galatians 6:18 - The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers.
Ephesians 6:23-24 - **Peace** to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Grace** to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.
Philippians 4:23 - The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
Colossians 4:18 - **Grace** be with you.
1 Thessalonians 5:28 – The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
2 Thessalonians 3:16 – Now may the Lord of **peace** himself give you **peace** at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.
" 3:18 – The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
1 Timothy 6:21 – **Grace** be with you.
2 Timothy 4:22 – The Lord be with your spirit. **Grace** be with you.
Titus 3:15 - **Grace** be with you all.
Philemon 25 - The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
1 Peter 5:13 - **Peace** to all of you who are in Christ.
1 Peter 1:2 - **Grace** and **peace** be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
3 John 14 – **Peace** to you.

Definitions of the Words:

Bless: *to bestow a gift, favor, peace, and protection.*

Grace: (charis) *to bestow pleasure, delight, good will, help, strength and favorable regard.*

Peace: *harmony, unity, security, calm, tranquility of mind and conscience.*

We are called as New Testament priests to invoke a blessing on each other and the world, therefore, the disposition of the priest is: to bless and not curse people.

Gen 22:18 "...through your [natural/spiritual] offspring [Abraham] all nations on earth will be **blessed**." (HOW?)

1 Peter 2:9 "...you are a chosen people, a royal **priesthood**..."

Psalms 118:26 "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD **we bless you**."

Rom 12:14-15 "**Bless** those who persecute you; **bless** and do not curse." (see also: Luke 6:28).

James 3:9-12

"With the tongue we praise [bless] our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come **praise [blessing] and cursing**. My brothers, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water."

Prov 18:21 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." (**James 3** – *the tongue is a flame of fire*)

Col 4:6 "Let your conversation be always full of **grace**, seasoned with **salt**." Light of the world (shine upon you)
Salt of the earth (peace be with you)

Luke 9:51-56

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to **call fire down from heaven to destroy them** even as Elijah did?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them. And he said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of, for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

Do people scatter when you come, for fear of curses called down upon them, or are they drawn to your speech of grace? Do they come to you for a blessing?

THE POWER OF OUR WORDS

Deut 27:12-14

When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to **bless** the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin. And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce **curses**: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali. The Levites shall recite to all the people of Israel in a loud voice..."Cursed is the man who... (Curses were loosed into the atmosphere)

- Water crystal experiment.
- Joshua **commanded** the moon and sun to stand still (Joshua 10:12-13)
- God **said**, let there be light and there was light (Genesis 1:3).
- The universe was formed at God's **command** (Hebrews 11:3).
- Whatever we **bind** on earth [through our words] will be **bound** in heaven (Matthew 18:18).
- Whatever we **loose** on earth [through our words] will be **loosed** in heaven (Matthew 18:18).
- Let his blood be on us and on our children! (Matthew 27:25) - fulfilled in 70 A.D.

Mark 4:35-41

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "**Let us go over to the other side.**" Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "**Quiet [Peace]! Be still!**" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, "**Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?**"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"