

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

The Aaronic Blessing Numbers 6:22-27

Priestly Blessing

Numbers 6:22-27

Then the LORD spoke to Moses saying, "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

**The LORD bless you, and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
and give you peace.'**

So they shall invoke my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them."

Priestly Blessing

Context

➤ *Why is this blessing included here?*

- It concludes the section of mainly priestly legislation begun in Leviticus 1:1
- Numbers 7-9 is supplemental material that occurred during the first month of the second year

Priestly Blessing

Context

➤ *Why is this significant?*

- Obedience to the prior regulations is the pathway of enjoying God's abundant blessing
- This blessing is given through the Lord's ordained priests on the basis of their mediating function

Priestly Blessing

Content

➤ *An expression of the Lord's desire and purpose to bless His people*

- a prayer for the Lord's protection of His people
- a prayer for the Lord's gracious presence with His people to do them good
- a prayer for the Lord's delight in His people ("God's smile") that culminates in "*shalom*"

Priestly Blessing

Fulfillment

➤ *This priestly blessing is ultimately mediated by Messiah ("Prince of Peace")*

1. Basis of the blessing

- Jesus' perfect atoning work as our High Priest by which we have "peace" with God
- Only in Christ do we experience preeminently the "smile of God" (He is our "Father")

Priestly Blessing

Fulfillment

➤ **This priestly blessing is ultimately mediated by Messiah (“Prince of Peace”)**

2. Experience of “shalom” (*“here and not yet”*)

- *future* – unhindered satisfaction and fulfillment in the presence of God in the eternal kingdom
- *present* – a settled disposition of peace in the midst of many difficulties

Priestly Blessing

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” (John 14:27)

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

“Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!”
(2 Thessalonians 3:16)