



# PROVISION AND PROTECTION *Numbers 6:22-27*

Pastor Jon Las

What does it mean for God to bless and keep us and make His face shine upon us? Understanding the meaning of the word Bless is very important, for without it we will never understand the complete implication of what this divine prayer can do in our lives. If we do not understand this 1st part, we will never appreciate the whole prayer blessing. Today we discover what it really means for God to bless us. Let's get into our study...

## SCRIPTURE:

23 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, *Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,*

*24 The LORD bless you and keep you;*

*25 the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;*

*26 the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

27 "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

- Numbers 6:23-27 (ESV)

## OPENING QUESTIONS

1. What spoke to you or stood out from Pastor Jon's sermon this last weekend?
2. Can you recall a time in your life when a compliment or encouraging word made a big difference to you?
3. What does it look like to bless someone with your words? What does that entail?

## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What do you know about the situation of Israel as a people group when this Blessing was given?
2. Why do you think God gave Aaron and His sons the command to speak this blessing? Why did He command His priests to do this?
3. What was the job of the priest in the Old Testament?
4. What do you think was the purpose of this blessing?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Verse 24 says, *The LORD bless you and keep you;*

1. What did you learn about the name of God from last weekend's sermon?
2. What is the significance of the unpronounceable name YHWH? What names did the ancient Jews use as a substitute for the holy name YHWH?
3. What do you think is the significance of the Name in relation to the blessing? Why is the blessing tied to the name?
4. Read the following: 2 Samuel 7:23, Deuteronomy 33:29, Deuteronomy 4:7-8, Isaiah 49:6. What was the higher purpose of the Blessing?
5. Share what you learned about provision and protection.
  - A. Why are provision and protection important for Israel, the children of Abraham at that point in their lives?
  - B. Pastor Jon said, the Blessing of supernatural provision and protection comes in many forms (fruitfulness, guidelines, rules, etc.). Name some of the ways these blessings are manifested.
  - C. Does the promise of provision and protection still apply to this day for the people of God, the Church? Read Galatians 3:29.
  - D. In the Old Testament, provision and protection were literal. In the New Testament, through Jesus, the blessing is both literal and spiritual. Name some ways God has personally shown you His provision and protection, both literal and spiritual.
  - E. Every relationship has its benefits. For Israel, the blessing was conditional. What were God's conditions? Read Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 15. Do these conditions apply to the modern day church? What does the story of The Prodigal Son teach us about blessing and relationship?
  - F. The Blessing is supposed to be pronounced, and the priests provided the voice of the Blessing. Why is "declaration" important to our faith? (Read Proverbs 18:21). According to 1 Peter 2:9, who are the equivalent of the priests in these modern times?
6. As modern day priests, Pastor Jon encouraged us to be the voice and the vehicle of the LORD's blessing to this very insecure and shaky world. How do you think can we be both the voice and the vehicle of blessing at this time of COVID-19 pandemic? Think of very practical ways.

## PRAYER TIME.