

Nasso “Make an accounting”

Numbers 4:21–7:89

Judges 13:2–25

A Blessing For His People

Anyone who has been a part of the restoration of Torah for very long has heard the Aaronic blessing of Numbers 6. It is used to close out services and conferences; it is spoken over people and congregations and has become a sort of benediction to those who desire to follow Torah. Many of us have heard it and spoken it so many times though that the words can become repetitious and a bit too familiar.

My own journey of learning the meaning of this verse began many years ago in a Messianic congregation in Jacksonville FL. During the Shabbat service that Friday night the leader spoke on these verses. He had my total attention that evening when as an introduction he said, "Everything one would ever need in life is found in the words of this blessing." Let's spend a moment and see if this is true by looking at each part of the verse.

"May YH VH bless you and keep you"

The thought that the Holy One would look upon each of us, turning His attention to us and would provide the blessings and protection we each need to walk through this life is a thought beyond this humans comprehension. He does desire to bring forth spiritual, emotional and physical blessings in the lives of all of His children, but is bound by His word to only bless those who are obedient. In desiring to bless us, his first thought is that we would be obedient. This in itself is a great blessing. We can also be assured that every circumstance of our lives is directed and protected by Him. We understand in the words of keeping us that the safest place on earth is in the center of His will.

"May YH VH make His face shine on you and show you His favor."

I see this verse like a smile on the face of a father to loving and obedient children. We can learn about this verse from our own children. When they are making you proud of your name, which they bare, it is so much easier to say yes to a desire of their heart. You take pleasure in giving special gifts and favors to them.

May YH VH lift up His face toward you and give you shalom.

The first part of the verse is similar to the last verse, but takes the blessing to a new level. To lift up your face is to throw your shoulders back in pride allow not only the person, but those around to see the love and admiration you have for the person. To bring forth shalom in their lives is not the same as the word peace in English. Peace is simply the absence of a war that could begin at any moment. Peace is an external word. Shalom is a security which goes deep into ones heart and produces and assurance that no matter how things look on the outside, you are coming through as a victor.

This is a brief look at the meaning of the verses as we read them in English. It is nothing compared to their Hebrew meaning!

One more thought on the verse. As I stated earlier, the Aaronic blessing has been used in many ways through the years. It is used to speak a blessing over anyone and everyone these days. Is this how HaShem intended the verse to be used? His word tells us the answer to this question is no. In verse 27 He told Moshe and Aharon to use it to put His name on the people of Israel. This is not a blessing to be spoken over just anyone. It is a blessing reserved only for His people, those who are the Children of Israel. It is a blessing invoking the name of the Most Holy One on His people. Simply put, you have to have His name before you can have His blessing! If you are outside of the family of God, these words are not for you, they are only for His children. The good news is found this week in our readings in John 3:16 that He desires all to come to Him, have His name upon them and receive the wonderful blessings of Numbers 6 in the Aaronic blessing.

So let's take these words and their use a bit more serious in the future. Let us understand that these words are private words. They are to only be used upon people who are truly His and not just thrown around wherever one may feel. These are words given to us by our Father and help us to realize how great His love for us is and how much He desires to be a part of our lives.

Learn these words, memorize these words, but do not do so only in the language you normally speak. Make it a point to learn these words in Hebrew. You just never know when you may be called as Aharon was, to impart the name and blessings of YH VH upon His people.