

## Blessing through Curse! (Hear the Words of God's Peace!)

"In fact, the cross is the very antithesis of the priestly benediction. Did God the Father bless Jesus and keep him when he was on the cross? No, he handed him over into the power of those who hated him and wanted to kill him. Did God the Father make his face shine upon Jesus on the cross? No, he poured out his wrath and his crushing anger against sin upon him. Did God the Father turn his face toward Jesus on the cross and give him peace? No, he turned his face away from him, so that Jesus cried out in agony, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" As Jesus lifted his eyes toward Heaven, for the first time in all eternity there was no answering light from the Father's face. Even the sun turned away its countenance from Jesus, as if the universe itself could no longer bear to look upon him. At that moment for Jesus there was no peace. He was bruised for our iniquity; he was broken for our sin; he was abandoned for our faithlessness; he was cursed for our blessing. ...

Now I know that nothing in all creation can separate me from the love of God (Romans 8:38, 39). Now I know that the Father looks on me with pleasure, and his face lights up every time he sees me because he sees me through Jesus. The Father sees me in his Son whom he loves."<sup>iv</sup>

### Key Idea:

Jesus, (the living Word), absorbed our curse so we could enjoy the light of God's smile, the same smile He gives to Jesus.

<sup>i</sup> Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness* (p. 68). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid. (Kindle Locations 1455-1458).

<sup>iii</sup> Gordon J. Wenham (2008-04-18). *TOTC Numbers* (Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries) (Kindle Locations 1458-1460). Inter-Varsity Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>iv</sup> Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness* (p. 93). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

## In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

*Getting Ready to Fight for the Promised Land: Part 5, The Light of God's Smiling Face!* – Numbers 1:1–10:36

**Sermon Outline** – May 10, 2015

### Children's Sermon/Introduction

- ❖ Dad's Smiling Face...
- ❖ Talking with God made Moses Shine

#### Exodus 34:29

<sup>29</sup> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, **Moses** did not know that ***the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.***

*Getting Israel Ready to Fight for the Promised Land...  
The Light of God's Smiling Face!*

### BIG PICTURE: A SNAPSHOT OF GOD'S BLESSING

REVIEW: "Why is the story line of the journey through the wilderness constantly being interrupted by a sequence of laws?"<sup>i</sup>

ISRAEL NUMBERED AND ORDERED (1–2)

LEVITES NUMBERED AND ORDERED (3–4)

CONSECRATION OF ISRAEL'S CAMP (5:1–7:27)

CONSECRATION OF THE TABERNACLE (6:22–8:4)

1. AARON'S BLESSING (6:22–27)
2. OFFERINGS AT THE TABERNACLE'S CONSECRATION (7:1–88)
3. MOSES HEARS THE LORD FROM OVER THE MERCY SEAT (7:89)
4. THE SEVEN LAMPS (8:1–4)

CONSECRATION OF THE LEVITES (8:5–26)

### Today's Key Idea:

Our greatest blessing is when God looks at us with favor and transforms us with His Word.

### God's Blessing Proclaimed (Numbers 6:22–27)

**True Blessing & Protection Comes from God** (LORD 3x; 12 other words)

<sup>23</sup> ... Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

<sup>24</sup> **The Lord** bless you and keep you (Guard – Cf. Psalm 121); <sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

<sup>27</sup> “So shall they *put my name upon the people of Israel*, and *I will bless them*.”

### A Blessing not a Request (Benediction)

❖ After Purification & Sanctification...

❖ God Smile: Blesses & Protects

- ✓ God’s ‘**shining**’ face means He is pleased with His people
- ✓ When God **lifts up His eyes or face** this means He is paying attention to His people

“When God smiles on his people, they can be sure that he will be gracious to them, that is, he will deliver them from all their troubles. He will answer their prayers and save them from their enemies, sickness and sin (Pss. 4: 1; 6: 2; 41: 4; 51: 1).”<sup>ii</sup>

❖ God’s Shalom

“**Peace** (šālôm in Hebrew) means more than the absence of war. It means well-being, health, prosperity and salvation: in short, the sum total of all God’s good gifts to his people.”<sup>iii</sup>

#### Key Picture #1:

Aaron proclaims God’s approving smile on Israel imparting His blessing, protection and peace (Shalom).

**But... Sin...**

**Jeremiah 2:13**

...my people have committed **two evils**: *they have forsaken me*, the fountain of living waters, and *hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns* that can hold no water.

✓ Blessings & Curses of the Old Covenant (Cf. Deuteronomy 30:15–20)

**But... Jesus... (God was Pleased with Jesus!)**

**Jesus Baptism – Matthew 3:17** “*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*”)

“Protection” in the Wilderness – **Matthew 4:1–11**

**Psalm 91:9–14**

<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge— <sup>10</sup> *no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.* <sup>11</sup> For *he will command his angels* concerning you to guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup> ***On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.***

**The Transfiguration** – Luke 9:28–36; Matthew 17:1–8; Mark 9:2–8

**Mark 9:7** And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “***This is my beloved Son; listen to him.***”

## The Picture of God’s Blessing (Numbers 8:1-4)

**The Lampstand**

“...hammered work of gold. ...” “according to the pattern that the Lord had shown Moses”

“the seven lamps shall **give light in front of the lampstand.**”

#### Key Picture #2:

The light of God’s blessing (lampstand) shines on Israel who had visibly dedicated their lives to Him (12 loaves of bread).

## The Source of God’s Blessing (Numbers 7:89)

**The Lord’s ‘Light’ comes through His Word**

<sup>89</sup> And when Moses went into the tent of meeting *to speak with the Lord, he heard the voice speaking to him* from **above the mercy seat** that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim; *and it spoke to him.*

**Psalm 119** “***Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.***” (v. 105) “***The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.***” (v. 130)

#### Key Picture #3:

God brings His throne down to live in the tabernacle where the light of His blessing is communicated by speaking with Moses.

### Further Meditation on these Gospel Pictures

**Jesus is the Word Made Flesh** (John 1:1–3, 14)

**Jesus is the True Lampstand: “God with Us”** (Matthew 1:23)

**Jesus is the Light** (John 1:4–5, 9-10)

**John 3:18–19**

<sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed *in the name* of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: ***the light has come into the world***, and *people loved the darkness rather than the light* because their works were evil.

**May You be Given Eyes to See!**

**2 Corinthians 4:6**

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give ***the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.***