

“The LORD’s Blessing”
Sermon Notes

We rightly sing in the Doxology, “Praise God from whom all blessings flow”.

We receive such blessings:

1. *The LORD grants and guards your life (24)*
2. *The LORD shines his favor (25)*
3. *The LORD welcomes you to his table as friend (26)*

Next Week: “Kadosh: The Holy One” from Isaiah

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of July 3rd - 9th

Have you ever been blessed by someone else - in your family? In a public, social, or political gathering? What do you understand about the benediction at the end of our church gatherings?

Context

The book of Numbers takes its name from the censuses that are recorded in the book; however, its focus is on the wanderings of the Israelites in the Wilderness. Chapters 1 to 10 address Israel's preparations to set out from Mount Sinai, about 20 days. Numbers 10:11-20:21 detail wanderings from Sinai to Kadesh, about 38 years. Numbers 20:22-36:13 detail wanderings from Kadesh to Moab, about 6 months. The first generation begins the journey (Num 1-25), but the second generation finishes the journey (Num 26-36). Numbers 1-2 is about the census and arrangement of the tribes (i.e. the lay people). Numbers 3-4 is about the number and duties of the Levites (i.e. the priesthood). Numbers 5-6 is about keeping the camp holy: the interaction of the lay people and the priesthood. Holiness matters! How do these themes matter when we come to the instruction for the priestly line of Aaron about blessing the people of the LORD?

Observation and Meaning

Who are the characters in Numbers 6:22-27? What are the main things we should know about Aaron, his sons (see Num 3:2-4, 32) and the priesthood, if we had read Exodus and Leviticus? What new instruction does the LORD give the priests? Consider Lev 9:21-22; Deut 10:8; 21:5 to see how the priests carried out this blessing, or one like it.

"Bless" is a repeated word that bookends the instruction (verse 23 and 27). From whom does the blessing come from - is it really the "Aaronic" blessing? What is the meaning of "blessing" - go back to Genesis 1:28-31 and 12:1-3?

What does it mean for the LORD to keep you (consider Gen 2:15; Psalm 16:1; 121; 1 Sam 2:9)?

What does it mean for the LORD to be gracious to you (consider Exod 33:19; Gen 33:5, 11; Prov 14:31; 19:17; 28:8; Ps 37:21, 26)?

What does it mean for the LORD to give you peace (consider the "covenant of peace" in Num 25:12, as well as Isa 54:10; Ezek 34:25; 37:26; Mal 2:5; also, consider the "peace offerings" throughout Numbers, Leviticus 3:1-17 and 7:11-36)?

What do you learn about the character and work of the LORD from the threefold content of blessings

in verses 24 to 26?

How does the LORD put his name upon his people today?

In a single sentence or two of your own, summarize the main idea of Number 6:22-27.

Application

What is something new you learned about God?

How have your expectations changed about what kind of blessings the LORD gives?

Where is your life faltering and thus, in need of hope for eternal life? Where do you need to repent and seek the LORD's gracious favor? How does the peace and friendship of God encourage and comfort you?

What is one actionable way that your life changes, as you live in response to the LORD from whom all blessings flow?