

## INTRODUCTION

1. Since the question *Indeed has God said?* men have mishandled God's words: for example: *Bless you.* Pope Gregory I - Black Death 1340-1400].
2. *Blessing* us is the last thing Jesus does - Lk 24:50-53.

## 1st: Some Enlarged Perspectives on Biblical Blessing

1. Gen 1:22 - *God blessed them saying, "Be fruitful & multiply..."* Gn 1:28, 1st use often defines the essentials of terms. *Blessing* = life lived w/ God in Sabbath Blessing - Gn 2:3. Goodness of creation & glory of Sabbath.
2. Gn 12:1-3  *Bless* - 5x. *Bless* acquires salvation signif - opposite of *curse* [1st use: serpent & ground & Cain => death as God's wrath on sin]. Ab's *blessing* concerns resurrection life by God who raises the dead [Hb 11:19].
3. "God's Purpose for Nations" - *bless* conveyed thru patriarchal blessings of Isaac, Jacob on to Israel - promise of blessing was privilege of OCov Israel
  - i. Balaam's inability to curse Israel - Num 23:20.
  - ii. Blessing & curse: language of covenantal relationship - Gerizim & Ebal.
4. YHWH's presence w/ His people = their blessing. Life lived w/ YHWH.
  - i. Promise to Jacob *I will be w/ you & bless you* [Gn 26:3,24]. In wilderness [tabernacle]; selects David as Kg & Solomon builds temple
  - ii. Ruth - greetings: *May the Lord be w/ you & May the Lord bless you.*
5. YHWH's blessing is life - life lived in union w/ YHWH the living God.

## 2nd Aaron's Blessing Extended to the World

1. Lk 24:50-53 Jesus acts as Priest: bless worshipers at end of worship.
  - i. Recall - Lev 9:22-24 priestly blessing
  - ii. Num 6:22-27 content of blessing [more in a minute].

2. Ascension is hinge from Jesus earthly ministry to heavenly ministry thru Holy Spirit in Acts in wh/ gospel goes to all the nations [Lk 24:46-47].
3. Extend Aaron's blessing to the nations - Ps 67
  - i. v1 - *be gracious & bless = cause face to shine* = Num 6:25
  - ii. YHWH bless Israel - extend *salvation* nations & result in worldwide worship in a recreated earth w/o the curse: living & fruitful.
  - iii. v7 *the ends of the earth* - OT prophesy re NCov salvation
4. Jesus' blessing brings worldwide salvation.

## 3rd: Atonement Confirmed by the Priest's Blessing

1. Priestly blessing signals the acceptance of sacrificial worship. Recall tension: Zacharias fails to give priestly blessing! Sequence: sac - bless.
2. There was a protocol; sequence w/ each act & word conveying signif.
  - i. Hezekiah restored temple worship & encouraged people w/ prospect of priestly blessing - 2Chr 30:9. Vocab of Num 6:25.
  - ii. Sirach 50:19-21 - sequence: blessing given at conclusion of worship
3. W/o blessing from Zacharias, how wld worshiper know the sacrifice was accepted & sin forgiven? Tension resolved w/ Jesus' priestly blessing. His sacrifice on cross has been accepted - the blessing of life w/ God given!

Applic #1: Do You Appreciate the Bible's Meaning of *Bless*?

1. Biblical definition of *bless*: 1] Life - creation & salvation [res life]; 2] Presence of God 3] Jesus blesses as - sacrifice has been accepted & Lord is with us.
2. Blessing of Num 6:22-27 now extended to the ends of the earth [Ps 67].

## Applic #2: Are You a Recipient of Jesus' Priestly Blessing?

**BLESS YOU - Luke 24:50-53**

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1. Lk 24:50-53 Do you see yourself in this scene? Who is being blessed?  
*They - worshiping Him: fall prostrate - worshipful allegiance. Lev 9:23-24*
  
2. Who would despise this blessing? Receive this blessing - *the Lord longs to be gracious to you - how blessed are all those who long for Him [Isa 30:18].*