



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- January 27, 2024

The Lord be with you.

Do you ever wonder why I begin each cab podcast with the words, the Lord be with you? Well, I do that because that is the Bible's way of blessing someone. I don't say those words as a wish for you as a prayer for you, but I say those words as a blessing as a declaration of God's purpose. God's desire to bless you. 'The Lord be with you' is the way that they actually blessed each other in ancient Israel. It would go like this: one person would say the Lord be with you and the other would respond, the Lord bless you. Check it out.

For instance, in the Old Testament Book of Ruth chapter two verse four, where Boaz greets Ruth with the words, the Lord be with you and Ruth answers back the Lord bless you. And, and those words, those blessings, they set in motion, the widow Ruth becoming the great grandmother of the great king David of Israel and Ruth being included in the family tree of Messiah Jesus. Big things can happen as we bless.

Now, in case you, you ever wonder if it is God's purpose, God's will to bless you. I turn to the Old Testament Book of Numbers chapter six. As here we are in the wilderness with Israel. The Israelites have just left Mount Sinai and they are journeying on and in spite of themselves, in spite of their hardness of heart. God's purpose is to bless them. Here it is. I'm, I'm looking at Numbers chapter six verse 22 where I read the Lord said to Moses, tell Aaron and his sons. This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them, the Lord bless you and keep you the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. So they will put my name on the Israelites and I will bless them.

Now, in ancient Israel, the sons of Aaron, they were the priest. They were, if you will the go between standing between God and His people representing God to his people and representing the people to God, they spoke for God and, and here God is commanding the priest to, to speak to the people by pronouncing words of blessing over his people. So this would happen after the morning sacrifice, a priest would go out and he would stand before the people. He would raise his hands and speak God's words of blessing. Please notice here that these words of blessing that they originate with God. They're not positive thinking they're not words of self affirmation. No, the these words are declaring what God wants to do for his people that He wants to bless them. It is significant that in this blessing, the Hebrew word translated you as in God bless you. The word you, it is in the singular.



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So the Lord is blessing you in particular and blessing you and you and you. He is making sure that each and every person is blessed. That's the idea. And then after pronouncing the words of blessing in verse 27 the Lord declares so they will put my name on the Israelites and I will bless them. This is important because in the Bible, a name means so much more than what a name means in today's modern West. In the Bible, a name expresses the essence of a person. A name expresses who the person essentially is in the Bible. A name stands for a lot more than just a label or tag, it stands for the, for the totality of who the person is.

I mean, take just one instance, Moses at the burning bush, Exodus three where Moses asked God, what is your name? Moses is asking God for his very essence, his nature, his being. So you take all that, the name of God means you, you take that and, and you look at verse 27 here as it says. So they will put my name and the Israelites as the words of blessing are spoken over the people. The Lord is putting his name on them. I mean, that means that they get to go around all day wearing the name of God to wear the very character, the very essence to wear all the promises of God to them. I mean, it's all wrapped up in the words of this blessing. So they will put my name on the Israelites and I will bless them. I will do for them. What I declare that I want to do for them.

Now, what, what this means for you and me in the new covenant as New Testament, followers of Jesus. That, that means that, that we receive God's blessing into our hearts and to our very being, the blessing is ours. Now, for instance, the Apostle Paul says in Ephesians chapter one verse three, it says that God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. I mean, it's not a as we preachers sometimes come off as saying, I will, I will bless you if you get your act together. No, it says the Lord bless you and you and I today we, we are living in that blessing.

So let that permeate our very being. It means that we get to go about our day knowing that God wants to bless us. That's what Abraham did. That's what David did. And you know, I, I tell people, I, I say, I expect to be blessed, not because I've earned it. Not because I deserve it because it is God's will. It is God's purpose to bless his people. That is how faith works.

God speaks his blessing and we live into it now as we come to the new, to the New Testament that that time in which we as followers of Jesus get to live. It's no longer the sons of Aaron who are the priest. But, but we as Christians, we are believer priest, listen to First Peter chapter two verse nine where he's writing to Christians. He says, but you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood. We are the ones now who get the bless. And I turn over the page to First Peter chapter three verse nine. And I see that as members of Christ's royal priesthood, we get to bless others.

And I think this gives us a whole new way of looking at other people that as we are receiving God's blessing, we get to pass on that blessing to others. The Lord be with you. I go up for words here. But in Ruth chapter two, when, when Boas said to Ruth, the Lord be with you and Ruth



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answered the Lord bless you. Those words of blessing said in motion, events that change the world.

So I began today and I closed today with words of God's eternal purpose to bless you. The Lord be with you.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening until next time.