

Sermon: **The Blessing**; Delivered by Senior High School Pastor **Zach Fallon**, on January 3, 2021

Bible text explored: Numbers 6:22-27

²²The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²³“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,
²⁴The LORD bless you and keep you;
²⁵the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
²⁶the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
²⁷“So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.” [ESV]

Review and application:

God has redeemed his covenant people from slavery in Egypt and delivered the Ten Instructions (or commandments) to Moses on Mount Sinai. An anxious people camped at the base of the mountain, are about to embark into the hazards of the wilderness. So now—for delivery through the priests God has commissioned—he provides a tangible assurance of his eternal intention.

1. To whom (verses 22-23) was God’s blessing limited?
What had qualified them to obtain his blessing?
(See *Exodus 12:3, 6-7, 13.*)
2. What would be the instinctive reaction of unholy people facing a holy God? (See *Isaiah 6:5.*)
So how did God arrange to dwell in the midst of an unholy people?
(See *Exodus 40:1-2, 34-35.*)
3. How did cleansing through the sacrificial system of the Tabernacle foreshadow the new covenant? (See *Hebrews 12:2; 13:12-16.*)
4. How would the first element of the blessing (verse 24) provide confidence in God’s provision and protection?
5. In the second blessing (verse 25), can you picture God as smiling at you?
How should this serve as a burden lifter to those fearful of judgment?
(See *Luke 15:20.*)
How does this blessing apply to those who belong to Christ?
(See *John 19:28-30.*)
6. In the final blessing (verse 26), how does the turning of God’s face toward you assure you of his favorable attention?
(See also *Isaiah 49:15-16a.*)
Shalom, the Hebrew word translated “peace,” goes well beyond absence of conflict, to include well-being and wholeness. If you feel overwhelmed with today’s utter chaos, how can God’s blessing of peace bring calm?
7. How (verse 27) does God’s blessing stamp his people with a distinctive brand?
How can we become “brand ambassadors,” increasing the number that God will bless?