

WONDERFUL BLESSING FROM GOD (Numbers 6:22-27)

I. The Lord's provision (vs. 24).

- A. In this first blessing, God shows to His people that He will provide for them.
 - 1. His blessing, as Calvin once wrote, is the goodness of God in action.
 - 2. The word "keep" means to provide and care.
- B. God promised numerous times to bless the children of Israel, but those promises were conditional upon their obedience (Deuteronomy 28:1-6).
 - 1. We know that God blessed Israel greatly.
 - a. He provided them a way out of Egypt.
 - b. He provided them food and water in the wilderness.
 - c. He would provide them a beautiful land.
 - 2. Sadly, they lost out on the blessings eventually because they failed to be obedient (Deuteronomy 28:15-19).
- C. God watched over and provided for His people in a wonderful way, as the Psalmist described (Psalm 121:1-8).
- D. Today, God still provides for His people.
 - 1. He is the giver of every good and every perfect gift (James 1:17).
 - 2. He is the bestower of all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3).
 - 3. He has provided all we need to be godly (2 Peter 1:3).
 - 4. He provided for us a perfect sacrifice for our sins (1 Peter 2:22-24).
- E. On and on we could go with all of the things that God provides for us, but we must realize that God cares deeply for us to give us these things.

II. The Lord's presence (vs. 25).

- A. The face of God represents God's personality toward man.
 - 1. In this case, it represents His favor being shown to Israel.
 - 2. The Psalmist wanted God's face to shine on Him to help him understand the statutes of God (Psalm 119:135).
- B. In order for God to be gracious towards someone, and for His face to shine on them, they must be in the Lord's presence.
 - 1. God was with the children of Israel all throughout their journey through the wilderness, so much so that He didn't allow their clothes or shoes to wear out (Deuteronomy 29:5).
 - 2. He was with them in the form of the fire by night and cloud by day.
 - 3. He would go before them to drive out the inhabitants of Canaan (Exodus 23:30).
 - 4. His presence was in the tabernacle as well as later in the temple.
- C. God is still with His people today.
 - 1. Matthew 18:20.
 - 2. Hebrews 13:5.
 - 3. The words of the Psalmist ring true today (Psalm 46:1).
 - 4. We are allowed to come before His presence in prayer (Hebrews 4:16).

D. The Lord never leaves us and we must make sure that we never leave Him.

III. The Lord's promise (vs. 26).

A. The Lord smiles upon those He loves and who are in His presence.

B. Peace is the absence of conflict with God, not man.

1. This had been promised to Israel if they were faithful (Leviticus 23:3 & 6).

2. There was also peace promised to the individual who was faithful (Isaiah 26:3).

C. Under the New Testament, peace is promised to the one's who are in Christ (Romans 5:1).

D. The message of Christ is a message of peace (Acts 10:36; Ephesians 2:17).

E. Jesus allows for peace with God today.

1. Ephesians 2:14-15.

2. Colossians 1:20.

F. God's promise to man is that there will be peace with Him when He is obeyed through faith in Christ.

G. Peace is maintained and provided through prayer and faithfulness (Philippians 4:6-7).