

## “Aaronic Blessing!”

### I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Separation? What do we mean?** (Boy in bubble idea?)
1. Name of a church seen in Michigan, “*Original Church of God, Number Two.*”
- B. “We are not to be **isolated but insulated**,” said Vance Havner, “**moving** in the midst of evil but **untouched** by it.”
1. Separation is **contact w/o contamination!**
  2. Jesus was “**holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners**” (Heb. 7:26), **yet** He was “**a friend of tax collectors and sinners**” (Luke 7:34).
- C. **Last week** was provisions made for **purity** of the camp, by the **exclusion of the unclean**.
1. (i.e.) **All infectious diseases; confess w/restitution; expose adultery & false accusations of adultery**
- D. **This week** deals w/**personal & voluntary devotion** to a life of *peculiar separation* to God

### II. **THE NAZARITE!**

- A. **SEPARATION!** (1-12)
- B. Though **all** people were *holy to the Lord*, some Israelites were called to express their desire for **personal & community** holiness in **public formal ways**.
1. There was nothing **monastic** (Gk. “live alone”) in this order, they **did not separate themselves from ordinary life**.
- C. **Three** vows are named for separation: from **wine** (fermented drinks; 3,4); from **haircuts** (must let hair grow; 5); from **dead bodies** (must avoid them; 6,7, no matter how dear).
- D. **Nazarite** means “to dedicate”.
1. Referred to both **men & women** who have totally **dedicated** themselves to God
  2. Could be for a **brief period or a lifetime** (see Judges 13:1-5).
  3. The separation was 2-fold: **to the Lord**(2) & **from what defiled**(3-8).
- E. **Who was the best known Nazarite?** Samson (Judges 13)
1. **How carefully did he keep his vow?** - Touched dead Lion(bee hive); Hair cut.
    - a) Beware of Delilah! *Many are the razors waiting to deprive us of our crown.* Jud16:19
- F. **Paul** was a temporary Nazarite. - Acts 18:19 (he had his hair cut off at Cenchrea).
- G. **John the Baptist** was a lifer. - Lk.1:15 (no wine, nor strong drink).
- H. **Was Jesus a Nazarite?** Nope. A Nazarine (from Naz; Mt.2:23).

- I. (4) From seed to skin - Even the **littlest** of things can defile! (like the skin or seeds)
1. **The little foxes** (S.oS.2:15) - foxes would come & eat the low hanging tender grapes as they harvested.
    - a) These **lil foxes** are the kind of **problems** that can *disturb* or *destroy* a relationship.
    - b) **Tender grapes** could represent **young relationships** that can be easily hurt.
    - c) This urges **diligence** in dealing w/those things that can **harm** the relationship.
    - d) It can also be interpreted “*Let us catch the foxes*” – Speaking of a **mutual decision** to **protect** their relationship.
      - (1) **Q: What lil foxes are spoiling your vine?**
  2. About 10 years ago, a **bacterial disease** killed a third of our **Temecula Wine Country Vineyards** and caused **\$20 million in damage**.
    - a) This disease called **Pierce's disease** kills vineyards by cutting off the vines' water supply. It is spread by the *glassy-winged sharpshooter*(leafhopper), which often lives in citrus groves. Many vineyards in our *Temecula Valley Wine Country* are next door to citrus trees.
    - b) **Temecula Vineyards** were getting wiped out because of a **tiny-tiny insect**.
      - (1) It is often the **little foxes...that cause the biggest problems!**
  3. Spurgeon said, “Eat the grapes of **Sodom** & its only time before you’re drinking the wine if **Gomorrah!**”
    - a) **Be faithful in the little things; a little leaven...; avoid even the appearance of evil.**
- J. (7) **Can’t break even for family** - The kingdom of God must supersede all earthly ties.
- K. (12) If the Nazarite became defiled, **all the days** of the dedication were **lost**.
1. It is a **costly** thing to disobey the Lord.
  2. **How many of our days have we rendered void?**
- L. **TERMINATION!** (13-21)
- M. The Nazarite stated at the beginning **how long** the vow would last.
1. But our separation **to** the Lord must be **for life**.
    - a) However, it is not wrong occasionally to set aside **periods of time** for **special devotion** to the Lord. (e.g. fast)
- N. Even though a Nazarite had lived in separation to the Lord, it was still necessary to bring **sacrifices** to the Lord, for nobody is **perfect** before Him.

O. The **Nazarite** seems to be a **type** of the child of God who is separated *from evil*, that he may be *wholly surrendered & given over* to the divine service.

1. Your God expects of you a **more careful walk** than is required of others.
2. If a **plumber** or **electrician** molests a youth, you rarely hear of it; but if it's a **teacher** or **police officer** it is **immediate news**. **Why is that?**
  - a) We require more of those in authority, those in position of trust.
  - b) How much more of **you**, as a representative of God Himself, to humanity.

### III. **THE AARONIC BLESSING!**

A. **BENEDICTION!** (22-27)

B. Joseph Parker described this portion of scripture, "There is wine in the grape of every syllable; he who presses most in the agony of his need will drink most abundantly & most refreshingly of the wine of God's love!"

C. **The SOURCE of Blessings!** (22,27)

1. **Q: In our text who is this blessing from?** Aaron? Moses?...**Nope!**
  - a) We don't have Aaron say, "Hey Moses, I have a formula of benediction that I think the children of Israel would be pleased with."
  - b) This is **Not man made!** **But 100% God made!** [See 22,27 **The Lord; I will bless them**]
    - (1) This is a **flower** that God brings right out of Paradise itself!
    - (2) **Or, a bar of music** right from heaven's anthem!
2. I've thought in the past... "**who am I to call down a blessing upon someone?**"
  - a) But I realized there's nothing contingent on the "**blesser**" **or** the "**blessee**"! **But from "Him from whom all blessings flow"!**
  - b) **God is always in charge of blessings!** (Balaam in **Deut.23:5**)

D. **The COMMAND to Bless!** (23)

1. This was a **divinely appointed** liturgy of worship!
2. **Note:** This blessing was to the **common man**.
  - a) Let everyone tonight humbly ask, "**Bless me also Lord!**"
    - (1) Don't cheapen this blessing to only material blessings. Oh, it includes that, but **pales in comparison to the spiritual blessings here...of God's gracious smile upon your life!**
    - (2) **His relationship; His favor; His smile; His grace!**
  - b) Let the man/woman **farthest away from Him** this evening say, "**I will arise & go to my Father!**"

## E. The VEHICLE of Blessings! (23)

1. **OT Priests** – How did Aaron do it? – Lev.9:22 “Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings.”
  - a) **Jewish writers** tell us that during this ceremony the high priest not only pronounced the benediction **3 times**, but 3 times w/a **diff accent**.<sup>1</sup>
  - b) He would elevate his hands, shoulder high, & separate out fingers (e.g. Spock) & otuch hands forming the “shin” (Hebrew letter looks like W)
2. **NT Priests** – We believers are Priests! – Rev.1:5,6 “To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests (a kingdom of priests).”
  - a) It thus becomes our business to pronounce this benediction on men wherever we go! (Morgan, Westminster Pulpit; pg.140)
  - b) This is the duty of not just the **preacher** but of **all saints** then.

## F. The SUBSTANCE of Blessings! (24-26)

1. Lets' define His 3-Fold Blessing:
2. **[1]** "The LORD bless you and keep you”
  - a) Means that all the **benefit & protection** come from God.
  - b) The  **blessing** of God is the  **Goodness** of God in action!<sup>2</sup>
3. **[2]** "The LORD make His face shine upon you & be gracious to you”
  - a) The thought here is the face radiant upon you!
  - b) Prov.16:15 “In the light of the king's face is life,”
  - c) **Q:** Have you felt the **warmth** of God’s face shine upon you?
    - (1) Step out of the *world’s cold chill* into His **radiant love**!
4. **[3]** "The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, & give you peace”
  - a) **Countenance & Face** are exactly the same Hebrew word.
    - (1) The difference is between “making the face **shine**” & “lifting it up/**upon**” (“*stoop in active kindness toward me*” Morgan).
    - (2) It’s the **opposite** of God “**looking away**” in displeasure.
    - (3) It’s the **picture** of a **drowning victim** looking to shore & crying for help; when finally he sees the lifeguard “**look up**”...help is on its way!
  - b) The **Beatific Vision** is the promise of the vision of God that carries w/it the ultimate blessedness(Happiness) of the human soul!<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> JFB; pg.527; my paraphrase.

<sup>2</sup> Keil & Delitzsch(quoting Calvin); pg.41

<sup>3</sup> R.C.Sproul; pg.281; Essential Truths of the Christian Faith.

G. **Peace/shalom** - comprehensive word meaning, “completeness, security, health, tranquility, & peace w/God & man.”<sup>4</sup>

1. No matter how trying **your circumstances** may be, you can have **God’s peace** as you live under the blessing of His smile!
2. When **Jesus came** the song was, “**Peace on earth**”; &  
When **He left** His farewell speech was, “**Peace, I leave w/you.**”<sup>5</sup>

H. **Trinity?** - The name Lord is 3 times repeated:

1. The Jews thought there was some mystery behind this. We know what it is... the NT having explained it.
2. We are directed to expect the blessing from **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit**” (2 Cor. 13:14)
  - a) **Jehovah the Father** (the **Source** of all blessing)
  - b) **Jehovah the Son** (the **Channel** of all blessing)
  - c) **Jehovah the Spirit** (the **Imparter** of all blessing)

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<sup>4</sup> Wycliffe Bible commentary; pg. 121

<sup>5</sup> Joseph Parker; pg. 163