

GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR YOU

Romans 10:12-13: *For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

Introduction

God offers blessings to everyone who seeks Him and tries to please Him. He has shown His love to many people in many ways but now He is specially blessing us when we choose to follow His son, Jesus Christ. Christians have blessings now AND they are promised eternal life in the future.

Key Points

- God made us, loves us and has a plan for us.
- God's face shines with pleasure on the people who love Him.
- God looks with grace on His people and blesses them.
- Israel was God's special people in the Old Testament but the New Testament explains that Christians have become "the Israel of God" and also receive blessings.
- God blesses His people with life and peace when they put their faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour.



Discussion

In the beginning God blessed mankind and gave them special skills and responsibilities (Genesis 1:26-2:25). Later He chose individuals to be His special servants and blessed them when they were faithful to Him.

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

After the nation of Israel became God's specially chosen people God told Moses to share these words with Aaron, the first High Priest, so that they would be used as a blessing for all the people.





What do you think?

- In Numbers 6:24-26 how can 'peace' be a blessing? What do we mean when we ask the Lord to 'keep' his people?
- In Genesis 1:28 we read "**God blessed them** and said to them Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Do you think that humans have honoured God after these blessings?

Further Reading

- James 1:17 - Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father of the heavenly lights who does not change like shifting shadows.
- Matthew 11:28 - Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.
- Philippians 4:19 - And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

This "Aaronic" blessing is perhaps the most famous in the Bible and the words have been set to music many times.

While it is an Old Testament blessing, it applies to Christians too because they have become God's people, "the Israel of God" (Galatians 6:16), thanks to the work of Jesus.

The Bible explains that Jesus died for us to save us from our sins and give us eternal life (John 3:16-17).

Think about what has been good in your life so far. What are the blessings which God has given you?

Can you look back on a challenging time and see how a blessing came out of it? Many people have died because they trusted in Jesus. Where is the blessing for them?

The story of Job demonstrates that even when life is very difficult, God still blesses us. Because Job remained faithful through his difficulties God blessed him enormously. He received many blessings in his own lifetime and also looked forward to being resurrected to a better life in the future (Job 19:26).

So we see that God has always blessed His people. While life is sometimes very difficult, God knows about our challenges and gives us the strength we need.

Let us always rejoice and be thankful for all God's blessings, especially the promise of eternal life in the future. (1 Peter 1:3-4).

