

# TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN, PURPOSE, AND DESIGN

*God Blessed Them...* Genesis 1:27-30

March 3, 2024

**INTRO.:** Does anybody know what this is called?

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

"Doxology: The word comes from the Greek doxologia, "praise or glory," a combination of doxa, "glory," and logos, "word." Definitions of doxology: a hymn or verse in Christian liturgy glorifying God; type of: anthem, hymn. a song of praise.

I really began thinking about this idea of "blessing," as I was doing my daily Bible reading, working my way through the Bible. I came to this passage in Numbers 6, referred to as the Aaronic blessing.

Aaronic blessing:

**Numbers 6:22–27 (NIV84)** — **22** The LORD said to Moses, **23** "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: **24** "'The LORD bless you and keep you; **25** the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; **26** the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.'" ' **27** "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

What does it mean to be blessed or to have God's blessing?

Over the last several weeks we have been working our way through the beginning chapters of Genesis, the first book of the Bible. This book is foundational in understanding God's Plan, Purpose, and Design. What are the first words of the book? "*in the beginning, God.*" When the beginning came, God was already here, as He has existed from eternity past. It is very important that we start at the right place in life if we hope to end up in the right place. Then, we looked at the phrase, *and God said*. What was necessary for God to create? He spoke creation into existence, making something out of nothing. None of us have ever done that. I remember taking wood shop class in junior high, and I can tell you that what I hoped to create isn't necessarily what happened. When we were redoing our kitchen and upstairs bathroom, thanks to several men in this fellowship, I was the demolition guy. I can wreck things in an instant. Fixing them, well, that's another story. God created out of NOTHING!! The next phrase we examined was, *it was good*. As Pastor John said this reminds us that everything was created by the Almighty, loving God described in Genesis. You and I can trust Him because He is the Creator and He is good and we are called to worship Him, not what He created. A few weeks ago we began looking at the phrase, *in His image*. This is the phrase used to describe God's creation of mankind: man and woman. This is the peak of God's creation! Last week we looked more closely at Genesis 1:27:

**Genesis 1:27** So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Why would God have this word, *create*, here three times? There is an emphasis being made here!

Arnold Fruchtenbaum: Here the word *bara* is used three times to make clear that a high point is reached. First, it is used of man's creation. Second, it is used of being created in the divine image. The phrase *image of God* is found only 4 times, all in Genesis: 1:26-27 (twice), 9:6 and 5:3. Third, *bara* is used in that man was created in two sexes, and both sexes were created on the sixth day, and both have the image of God.

Male and female He created them: God ties His image together with our gender. As we continue on in Genesis, we will see that God ties our gender with His purpose for us. As God finishes His creation let's read this together:

**Genesis 1:28** God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

**Genesis 1:29** Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

**Genesis 1:30** And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

**Genesis 1:31** God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

## **GOD'S BLESSING**

This is the Edenic Covenant. God blessed them! We talk about God blessing people. We talk about being blessed by God. We pray that God would bless people. What does the Bible have to say about God's blessing? This morning we're going to take a *blessed* journey as we look at the *What, Who, and When* as it relates to God's blessing.

### **WHAT?**

Old Testament words:

From *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* by Lawrence O. Richards

“*barak*.” this root and its derivatives occur 415 times in the Old Testament. It is clear that *bless* and *blessing* had an important place in the thoughts of the people in the Old Testament.

*Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*: to bless means “to endue with power for success, prosperity, fecundity (fertility), longevity, etc.” In essence, the one who is blessed is given a rich and abundant life.

*Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*: The act of declaring, or wishing, favor and goodness upon others. The blessing is not only the good effect of words; it also has the power to bring them to pass.

In the Old Testament God's blessing had material fruition: God giving children, property, land, prosperity. Another evidence of God's blessing was His presence.

New Testament words:

From *Expository Dictionary of Bible Words* by Lawrence O. Richards

Two word groups are used:

1) *eulogia*: “to speak well of,” “to bless,” or “to praise.” I think you can see what word we get from this: *eulogy*: when someone speaks well of another at a funeral.

This is the word used in the Greek Translation of the Old Testament (Septuagint) to translate the Hebrew word, *barak*.

2) *markarios*: “blessed,” “happy,” “fortunate,” or “blissful”

This is the word used in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12).

We observe in the New Testament that God's blessings are also described through what those who know Christ as their Lord and Savior are given as spiritual blessings.

### **WHO?**

God's blessing in the Old Testament was concentrated on His covenantal people, His chosen people.

From *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology & Exegesis*: Willem A. VanGemeren, General Editor  
During ancient times almost all people sought some type of blessing from a deity believing this would result in fertility, prosperity, protection, healing, deliverance, favor. The more powerful the deity, the more important the blessing.

So, you can only imagine how the people of Israel would want to be sure of God's blessing: the all-powerful God, the Creator of all, the ruler of everything and everyone.

This is what God says to Abraham:

**Genesis 12:1-3** The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. **2** “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

As God blessed His people those around them would be blessed

In the New Testament we also see the connection with God's blessing and His children, those who know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord). Every day things that we might refer to as blessings are given to all: physical life and created world (rains on the just and the unjust).

### **WHEN?**

When are we blessed?

God's blessing begins with the spiritual blessings we have been given in Jesus Christ which are realized at the moment of salvation.

**Ephesians 1:3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-14

- \*Chosen in Him before the creation of the world
- \*Holy and blameless in God's sight (our position in Christ)
- \*In love predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ
- \*To the praise of His glorious grace freely given us in the One He loves
- \*In Him we have redemption through His blood
- \*Forgiveness of sins in accordance with the riches of God's grace
- \*Marked with a seal; the Holy Spirit, guaranteeing our inheritance
- \*Described as God's possession – to the praise of His glory

All of these blessings we are given at salvation are for God's glory. Our response: worship, service, and obedience!! This is displaying the image of God that is described in Genesis 1.

We also see God's blessing as His children serve, worship, and obey Him. We can go back to the Beatitudes:  
**Matthew 5:3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 5:4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**Matthew 5:5** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**Matthew 5:6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

**Matthew 5:7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

**Matthew 5:8** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**Matthew 5:9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

**Matthew 5:10** Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 5:11-12** "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

What do the Psalms have to say about being blessed? You and I CANNOT do any of these without God's strength and power. We must be walking with the Lord.

**Psalm 32:1** Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Psalm 34:8** Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

**Psalm 40:4** Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

**Psalm 84:5** Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

**Psalm 89:15** Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

**Psalm 94:12** Blessed is the man you discipline, O LORD, the man you teach from your law;

**Psalm 106:3** Blessed are they who maintain justice, who constantly do what is right.

**Psalm 112:1** Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands.

**Psalm 119:1–2** Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. **2** Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart.

**Psalm 128:1** Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways.

We should not expect to have God's blessing on our lives when we are walking in disobedience to Him and not in fellowship with Him.

### **SO WHAT???**

God's blessing comes through BOTH our Position and our Practice.

\*Position: Do I know Christ as my Lord and Savior?

-Take some time worshipping/thanking God for who I am in Christ

\*Practice: How am I doing in my daily walk with God?

-Recognize I can't do this without first knowing Christ

-Do a study on the word "blessing" in the Bible and journal my results

If you are a follower of Jesus, do you realize how blessed you are? Over the last six weeks I have spoken at several Celebration of Life services. It has been difficult to see all these dear saints pass but they were truly blessed by God as they faithfully walked with Him, and their lives pointed others to the source of their blessing.

God doesn't bless us just to make us happy; He blesses us to make us a blessing. Warren Wiersbe