

AARONIC BLESSING

The Aaronic blessing, often called the "Aaronic Benediction", is the most well known Jewish biblical blessing of all time. I will not be getting into minute detail about the Aaronic Benediction in this teaching, but will provide a brief understanding. To understand in depth about the Aaronic Benediction one needs to also look closely into the meaning of the letter "shin".

MEANING

The Aaronic Blessing is a powerful blessing for anyone who receives it. The most common English rendition is as follows:



Num. 6:24-26 *Yahveh bless you, and keep you; Yahveh make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; Yahveh lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.'*

A more accurate translation would be as follows:

Num. 6:24-26 *'Y'varekh'kha ADONAI v'yishmerekha.*

[May ADONAI bless you and keep you.]

25 *Ya'er ADONAI panav eleikha vichunekka.*

[May ADONAI make his face shine on you and show you his favor.]

26 *Yissa ADONAI panav eleikha v'yasem l'kha shalom.*

[May ADONAI lift up his face toward you and give you peace.]'

And in Hebrew it reads more accurately as follows:

"Y'varekh'khah Adonai v'yishmerekhah. Ya'er Adonai panav elekhah vichunekkah. Yissa Adonai panav elekhah, v'yasem L'khah shalom."

TRADITION

It is a Jewish tradition to have a tallit (prayer shawl) over one's self when pronouncing the Aaronic Blessing. To understand the significance of that prayer shawl, one needs to know what the tallit/prayer shawl is. Very very briefly, they are traditional biblical garments worn by many torah pursuing men, very symbolic of things, from ones "personal prayer closet" to representing the torah/law/instructions of Yahveh, etc. The garment and tzitzit on the four corners of it, (representing the "Ten Commandments"), are also symbolic of Yah's covering over His people, like a hen covering her chicks with her wings. **Matt. 23:37** *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, **the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.**"*

LEVITICAL PRIESTS

The letter shin is what the Levitical priests formed when they put their hands/fingers together in a certain way when they pronounced the Aaronic blessing. It kind of looks like an upside down spade with a "V" above it (resembling a "W"), on both sides. It was said that the shin pictograph represented the two sets of five curtains in the tabernacle coming together. It is also said that the light of Yah would come through the center spade shaped

area through to the people. The center area represents the shek'hinah (glory) of the Holy of Holies. The glory of

LIVE LONG AND PROSPER



SHADDAI is a Hebrew name for LORD.
The Temple Priests would hold out their hands
in this position to give the Benediction:

"May the LORD bless you and keep you. May He
lift up His Face to shine Light upon you and be
gracious to you, and may He give you Peace."



Yah would fall upon the people when the curtains of the tabernacle were opened.

Anyone over the age of fifty remembers the popular TV program called Star Trek, about people going all over the universe in a space ship called Enterprise. The wise man of the group was named Spock. Spock often held up his right hand and made a strange signal with his separated fingers, creating a V in-between them. Spock was a Jewish man who used this Aaronic blessing symbol as his way of identifying himself in the series.

HEBREW MEANING

Now let's consider the original Hebrew words meanings, which are traditionally rendered; bless, keep, gracious, countenance and peace. Each of the Hebrew words, underlying the English in this passage, are filled with images that are lost when translated into the English language. By examining each of these words from their original cultural and linguistic perspectives, the message in this passage takes on an entire different dimension.

To Bless:



The Hebrew verb בָּרַךְ (Barak, Strong's #1288) means to kneel as seen in Genesis 24:11. It means to

show respect (usually translated as bless). However, as "respect" is an abstract word, we need to uncover its original concrete meaning, which we can do by examining other words related to this verb. One such related word is the noun ברך (berek, Strong's #1288) meaning "knee." Another related Hebrew word is ברכה (berakhah, Strong's #1293) meaning a gift or present. From this we can see the fullest meaning of barak. It is to bring a gift to another while kneeling out of respect. The extended meaning of this word is to do or give something of value to another. Elohim "respects" us by providing for our needs and we in turn "respect" Elohim by giving Him of ourselves as His servants.

To Keep:

The Hebrews were a nomadic people raising livestock. It would not be uncommon for a shepherd to be out with his flock, away from the camp, overnight. In order to protect a small flock, the shepherd would construct a corral of thorn bushes (boma). The shepherd would then guard over the flock and the corral would be a hedge of protection around them. The Hebrew word for a thorn is שמיר (shamiyr, Strong's #8068) and derived from the verb שמר (shamar, Strong's #8104), which literally means to guard and protect and is the word used in the Aaronic blessing.

His Face:

Ones face reflects many different moods, emotions, and thoughts of a person. The Hebrew word פנים (paniym, Strong's #6440), means "face," but is always written in the plural form (the ים suffix identifies this word as plural), reflecting an idea of multiple faces for each person. This word can also mean "presence" or the "wholeness of being" of an individual.

To Shine:

The word אור (or, Strong's #215), as a noun means "light" and as a verb, as it is used here, means to "give light" or "shine" and is equated with bringing about order as light illuminates or reveals what has been darkened.

Gracious:

Most theologians will define "grace" as "unmerited favor". The Hebrew verb translated as gracious in the Aaronic blessing is the verb חן (hanan, Strong's #2603) and is often paralleled with other Hebrew words meaning healing, help, being lifted up, finding refuge, strength and rescue. Where does one run to for protection in a wilderness? The camp, which in Hebrew is חנה (hanah, Strong's #2583), a word related to חן (hanan).

Grant:

The Hebrew verb שים (siym, Strong's #7760), literally means to "set down in a fixed and arranged place."

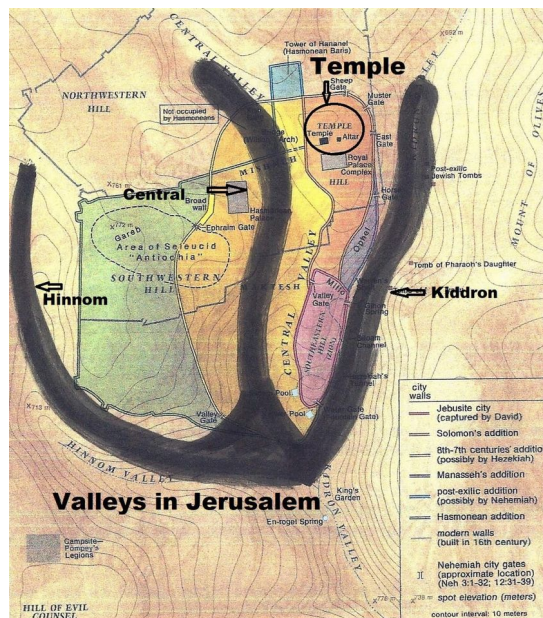
Peace:

When we hear the word "shalom" we usually associate this to mean "peace", an absence of war or strife. The Hebrew word שלום (shalom, Strong's #7965) when looked at from a wider perspective, has multiple different meanings. The root of this word is שלם (shalam, Strong's #7999) and is often conveying restitution. When a person has caused another to become deficient in some way, such as a loss of livestock, it is the responsibility of that person who created the deficiency to restore what has been taken, lost or stolen. The verb shalam literally means to make whole or complete. The noun shalom has the more literal meaning of being in a state of wholeness, or being without deficiency.

Shalom

שלום - (Sha-lom)

A Hebrew word for
 "Complete peace,
 contentment,
 completeness,
 wholeness, well
 being and
 harmony."



SUMMARY

YAHVEH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and will guard you with a hedge of protection.

YAHVEH will illuminate the wholeness of His being toward you bringing order, and He will give you comfort and sustenance.

YAHVEH will lift up His wholeness of being and look upon you, and He will set in place all you need to be whole and complete.

Many people will struggle to relate the phrase "kneel before you" as they cannot perceive Yahveh kneeling before us. We often relate to Yahveh as the judge and ruler who sits high above us. But we should also look at it from another perspective. Yahveh is the father of us all, agreed? If a child goes to his father with a request, would a real father tower over him looking down upon him? Or would he get down on his level by "kneeling" down and becoming eye to eye with him to say, "What is it son, what can I do for you?"

Messiah Yeshua, who humbled Himself, becoming a servant, messenger, and wilful sacrifice for humanities sin, showed us all the literal fulfillment of this very passage. His next visit will not be in a humble servant capacity, but instead as the King of Kings. To His adversary He will bring permanent destruction. To His servants and friends, those Obedient to Yahveh, repentant of past sins, immersed in His ORIGINAL AUTHENTIC Hebrew Name, He will bring forth eternal rewards, salvation, and perfection forever, in a kingdom beyond the scope of human imagination. May Yahveh, Through Yeshua Messiah alone bless you.

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