

The Blessed and the Cursed

In the Old Testament, there are two words for Blessed: Barak- to cause to kneel in adoration, to praise; & Esher/Ashur- happy.

God blesses (barak):

Adam and Eve

Gen 1:28 And God blessed (barak) them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Noah

Ge 9:1 ¶ And God blessed (barak) Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

Abraham

Ge 12:3 And I will bless (barak) them that bless (barak) thee, and curse (arar-*to bitterly curse*) him that curseth (qalal- *to despise, afflict, make vile*) thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed (barak)

God curses: serpent Gen 3:14; ground, 3:17; Cain, 4:11; & Canaan, 9:25 Each of these curses were given as punishment for wrongdoing.

After creation the blessings were given to show God's love for us and for well doing. Therefore, how do we go on to receive the blessings and not a curse? If we love Him and keep His commandments.

1Jo 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

1Jo 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

De 11:1,8,13,18 and 22 tells us to love god and keep His commands

De 11:13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

De 11:14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

Blessings and Curses set before the people:

De 11:26 ¶ Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

29 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal.

Gerizim from Geraz- to cut down, as to reap; known for it's fruitfulness. While Ebal was a mountain known for it's barrenness.

Ebal could be a compound word from Heb Iy, Ee- a ruin, heap and Bal- surely, indeed, verily. Iy-bal or Eebal Ruin indeed, utter ruin.

Blessings and curses pronounced:

De 27:11 ¶ And Moses charged the people the same day, saying,

12 These shall stand upon mount Gerizim to bless the people, when ye are come over Jordan; Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Joseph, and Benjamin:

13 And these shall stand upon mount Ebal to curse; Reuben, Gad, and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

14 And the Levites shall speak, and say unto all the men of Israel with a loud voice,

15 Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an

abomination unto the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen.

16 Cursed (arar) be he that setteth light (qalal) by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen. c.f. Gen 12:3

Arar- to bitterly curse

Qalal- to despise, afflict, make vile

18 Cursed be he that maketh the blind to wander out of the way. And all the people shall say, Amen.

19 Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Jas 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

24 Cursed be he that smiteth his neighbour secretly. And all the people shall say, Amen.

25 Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen.

26 Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

No one could fulfill the whole law. At this point the people should've realized that they were bound with a curse and in need of a Savior. God gave a Savior- our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ga 3:6 ¶ Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Ge 15:6.

7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In

thee shall all nations be blessed. C.f. Ge 12:3

Ga 3:9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. C.f. De 27:26.

11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. Hab 2:4; Ro 1:17; Ga 2:16; Heb 10:38

12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: c.f. De 21:23

Jesus could not be cursed by the law because He fulfilled the law.

Therefore He was hanged on a tree to become a curse for us, to rid us of the curse of the law.

Only the man who committed sin worthy of death was to be hung on a tree. Jesus did commit no sin at all. Just as He bore our sins, He bore our curse.

1Co 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

14 That the blessing (eulogio) of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Deut 28:1ff

Notice here there are fourteen (1-14) verses of blessings, and fifty four verses (15-68) of curses.

Blessings:

1 ¶ And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the

voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

De 28:2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

6 Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

7 The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

8 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

9 The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

10 And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

11 And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

De 28:12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

14 And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

The Curses:

15 ¶ But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

16 Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.

17 Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.

18 Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

19 Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

20 The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.

Drop to De 28:45

De 28:45 ¶ Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:

47 Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

58 If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

62 And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.

66 And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

Jos 8:30 ¶ Then Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God of Israel in mount Ebal,

31 As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.

32 And he wrote there upon the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel.

33 And all Israel, and their elders, and officers, and their judges, stood on this side the ark and on that side before the priests the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the stranger, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal; as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

Jos 8:34 And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the law.

35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them.

David's Beatitudes

Blessed Ashur Esher

Ps 1:1 ¶ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. {ungodly: or, wicked}

Ps 32:1 ¶ Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. {A Psalm...: or, A Psalm of David giving instruction}

Ps 32:2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Ps 33:12 ¶ Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Ps 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Ps 37:26 He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.(Barak)

Ps 40:4 Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Ps 41:1 ¶ Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

Ps 65:4 Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

Ps 84:5 Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.

Ps 84:12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

Ps 89:15 ¶ Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.

Ps 94:12 ¶ Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

Ps 112:1 ¶ Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. {Praise...: Heb. Hallelujah}

Ps 128:1 ¶ Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.

*** Ps 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.**

Ps 84:4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

Ps 106:3 Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times.

Ps 119:1 ¶ ALEPH. Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. {undefiled: or, perfect, or, sincere}

Ps 119:2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

Two words in the New Testament for Blessed:

Eulogio- to adore, to praise, to speak well of. Where Eulogy is derived

Makarios- Happy

Beatitudes: This is the basic teaching of Christ . This was the doctrine of Christ. This is what He taught over and over in different places to multitudes of people. Here Jesus puts in contrast how the world looks at things and how God sees it. In just about every Beatitude, there is an Old Testament Scripture to back it up.

Mt 5:1 ¶ And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

**3 ¶ Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Poor in spirit- Those who realize they are spiritually “bankrupt” and in need of a Savior
Contrast- theirs is the kingdom of heaven-a kingdom of riches and glory.**

Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

**4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.(in the kingdom of heaven) c.f. Isa 61:1-3
Isa 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.**

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.(in the kingdom of heaven)

Ps 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Meek praus praos- humble, mild. tame, submissive as fit for the bridle- fit to be trained, ready to learn. Antonym “wild”

The meek will receive an inheritance to rule over.

The servant will become the master.

Mt 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will

make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (*in the kingdom of heaven*)

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. (*in the kingdom of heaven*)

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. (*in the kingdom of heaven*)

Mt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. (*in the kingdom of heaven*)

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Happy in this world and in the world to come.

Mr 10:30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

One should not expect any of these blessings if he is not in the kingdom of heaven.

So, how does one enter into the kingdom of heaven? C.f. Acts 2

Sermon on the plane-*this may be some time after the sermon on the mount though some may argue to reconcile the Sermon on the Mount with the Sermon on the Plain, saying this refers to the same sermon.*

Lu 6:12 ¶ And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

Drop to Lu 6:17

17 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed.

19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

20 ¶ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

24 But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.

25 Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.

26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

27 ¶ But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to

them which hate you,

28 Bless(eulogio) them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. Matt 5:44.

Jesus separates the Sheep from the Goats

Mt 25:31 ¶ When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed (eulogio) of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed (kataraoimai), into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Jas 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Jas 2:8 ¶ If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

Lu 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

1Co 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema (accursed) Maranatha (The Lord Come!)

1Jo 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

1Jo 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

Seven Beatitudes in the book of Revelation

Re 1:3 ¶ Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Re 14:13 ¶ And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Re 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Mr 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Re 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Re 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Re 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Re 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.