



*Deborah's Messianic Ministries*  
*Teaching - Training - Worship Center*  
*Proclaiming The Way of Messiah*

**NASO – B’MIDBAR 4:21-7:89**  
**Haftarah Judges 13:2-25**  
**Rabbin/Dr. Deborah Brandt**  
**The Meaning of the Aaronic Blessing**

**TORAH PORTION NASO Outline**

**I. Census of mature Levites (4:21–49)**

- b. The tasks of the Gershonites (4:21–28)
- c. The tasks of the Merarites (4:29–33)
- d. The results of the second census (4:34–49)

**II. Cleansing the camp (5:1–6:27)**

- a. Exclusion of the unclean from the camp (5:1–4)
- b. Atonement for perjury (5:5–10)
- c. Test of suspected adultery (5:11–31)

**III. Rules for Nazirites (6:1–21)**

- a. Definition of a Nazirite (6:1–6)
- b. Nazirites and uncleanness (6:7–12)
- c. Completion of a Nazirite vow (6:13–20)
- d. Summary of the law (6:21)

**IV. The priestly blessing (6:22–27)**

**V. Offerings for the tabernacle (7:1–89)**

## Key Hebrew Words in NASO

<b>Nazir</b>	<b>Nazarite</b>
<b>Shchina</b>	<b>God's Presence, Glory</b>
<b>Brachot</b>	<b>Blessing</b>
<b>Chattah</b>	<b>Sin</b>
<b>Abodah</b>	<b>Service</b>
<b>Tsara</b>	<b>Leper</b>
<b>Tame</b>	<b>Unclean, Defile</b>

## The Aaronic Blessing – Chumash page 762-765

**Yi-va-re-cha A-do-nai vi-yeesh-mi-re-cha.**

**Ya-ayr A-do-nai pah-nahv ay-le-cha**

**vee-choo-neh-cha.**

**Yee-sah A-do-nai pah-nahv ay-le-cha**

**vi-ya-same li-cha sha-lom**



Num 6:22 And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying:

Num 6:23 'Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying: On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel; ye shall say unto them:

Num 6:24 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee;

Num 6:25 The LORD make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee;

Num 6:26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Num 6:27 So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, and I will bless them.' JPS

### As explained by Sifre and most of the commentaries...

- The first blessing refers to material prosperity.
- The second to the spiritual blessings of Torah knowledge and inspiration
- The third and last blessing to God's compassion above and beyond what one deserves, as expressed in forgives of sin and the giving of Shalom.

## KEY HEBREW WORDS IN AARONIC BLESSING

### BLESS –H1288

ברך

bārah:

*A verb meaning to bless, kneel, salute, or greet. The verb derives from the noun knee and perhaps suggests the bending of the knee in blessing. Its derived meaning is to bless someone or something. The word is used intensively when God blesses people or people bless each other ([Jos 17:14](#)). Other meanings are to bend the knee ([2Ch 6:13](#)); and to greet someone with a salutation or friendliness ([1Sa 25:14](#)).*

### KEEP H8104

שמר

shâmar

shaw-mar'

*A primitive root; properly to hedge about (as with thorns), that is, guard; generally to protect, attend to, etc.: - beware, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep (-er, self), mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save (self), sure, (that lay) wait (for), watch (-man).*

### FACE – H6440

H6440

פנים / פנה

pânîym / pâneh

#### BDB Definition:

1) face

1a) face, faces

1b) presence, person

1c) face (of seraphim or cherubim)

## SHINE H215

### H215

ר' אור

#### **BDB Definition:**

1) to be or become light, shine

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to become light (day)

1a2) to shine (of the sun)

1a3) to become bright

1b) (Niphal)

1b1) to be illuminated

1b2) to become lighted up

## GRACIOUS H2603

### H2603

חנן

chânan

#### **BDB Definition:**

1) to be gracious, show favour, pity

1a) (Qal) to show favour, be gracious

1b) (Niphal) to be pitied

1c) (Piel) to make gracious, make favourable, be gracious

1d) (Poel) to direct favour to, have mercy on

1e) (Hophal) to be shown favour, be shown consideration

1f) (Hithpael) to seek favour, implore favour

2) to be loathsome

## PEACE #H7760

### H7965

שלום / שלם

shâlôm

#### **BDB Definition:**

1) completeness, soundness, welfare, peace

1a) completeness (in number)

1b) safety, soundness (in body)

1c) welfare, health, prosperity

1d) peace, quiet, tranquillity, contentment

1e) peace, friendship

1e1) of human relationships

1e2) with God especially in covenant relationship

1f) peace (from war)

1g) peace (as adjective)

## **INVOKE H7760**

### **H7760**

שׂוּם / שָׂוֹם

śûm / śîym

**BDB Definition:**

1) to put, place, set, appoint, make

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to put, set, lay, put or lay upon, lay (violent) hands on

1a2) to set, direct, direct toward

1a2a) to extend (compassion) (figuratively)

1a3) to set, ordain, establish, found, appoint, constitute, make, determine, fix

1a4) to set, station, put, set in place, plant, fix

1a5) to make, make for, transform into, constitute, fashion, work, bring to pass, appoint, give

1b) (Hiphil) to set or make for a sign

1c) (Hophal) to be set

Part of Speech: verb

## **MY NAME – H8034**

### **H8034**

שֵׁם shêm

**BDB Definition:**

1) name

1a) name

1b) reputation, fame, glory

1c) the Name (as designation of God)

1d) memorial, monument



## **THE GUARDIANSHIP OF YHVH**

PSALM 91

PSALM 27

PSALM 23

## **THE GRACE OF YHVH**

Ezra 3:11, 9:9

Nehemiah 1:5

PSALM 84:11, Psalm 5:7, Psalm 13:5, Psalm 17:7

ZECHARIAH 4:7

ZECHARIAH 12:10

## **THE PEACE OF YHVH**

PSALM 4:8

PSALM 55:8

PSALM 85:8

PSALM 119:165

PROVERBS 3:2

PROVERBS 3:17

PROVERBS 16:7

### **The First Blessing Vs. 24**

Num 6:24 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee;

**May Hashem bless you.**

May God give you the many blessings that are specified in the Torah such as those mentioned in Deuteronomy 29:1-14 (We will look at this at the end), that Israel be triumphant over its enemies and superior to other nations, that its crops and business ventures succeed, its offspring and flocks be abundant and healthy and son on (Sifre). May you possessions increase (Rashi) as well as the days of your life (Ibn Ezra).

Though it is clear that in the in the Divine scheme and in Israel's aspirations, such material benefits are secondary to spiritual success, never the less, if there is no flour there is not Torah (Avos 3:15).

God blesses Israel with prosperity to enable the people to devote themselves to Torah study and fulfillment (Sforno). Chumash page 763



R. Hirsh explains why Sifre as followed by the above commenters takes this blessing to involve material matters. Since this verse of the blessing concludes with a prayer that God protects u, it is clear that we speak of benefits that require protection even after they have been granted. Spiritual blessings are protected only by the personal worthiness of the recipients, but material blessings are always subject to outside danger.

Haanek Davar notes that the term “Blessing” as used here is a general one; it does not clarify what sort of increase is meant. The exact form of blessings must depend on the needs of the individual (or each individual). The student will be blessed in his learning and the merchant in his business just as someone’s gratitude for God’s blessing must be expressed according to the degree and form of the prosperity granted him. (see Deut. 16:17)

Deu 16:17 Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you. ESV

### **And Safeguard you...**

**keep thee:** Psa 91:11, Psa 121:4-7; Isa 27:3, Isa 42:6; Joh 17:11; Php 4:7; 1Th 5:23;  
1Pe 1:5; Jud 1:24

May God protect your newly gained blessing of prosperity so that bandits cannot take it away from you. This is a blessing only God can guarantee.

By their very nature, physical blessings are fragile because neither health, business conditions, nor tangible assets are permanent or unchanging, nor are the character and ambitions of a human being. Therefore we seek the blessing of God’s protection; so that once given, his blessing will not fade away. (Malbim)

May God bless you with wealth and protect you so that you use the money to perform mitzvos (Bamidbar Rabbah). For, as the sages teach in many places, the best way for someone to preserve wealth is to use it for Charity and good deeds. That assures him God’s continued blessing (Yalkut Yahudah)

### **The Second Blessing Vs. 25**

Num 6:25 The LORD make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee;

### **May Hashem Illuminate**

**The Lord:** Psa 21:6, Psa 31:16, Psa 67:1, Psa 80:1-3, Psa 80:7, Psa 80:19, Psa 119:135;  
Dan 9:17

**gracious:** Gen 43:29; Exo 33:19; Mal 1:9; Joh 1:17



May God enlighten you so you will be capable of perceiving the wonderful wisdom of the Torah and of God's intricate creation. (Eph. 1:16; 3:14-21)

**Eph 1:17** the God of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, the glorious Father, to give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you will have full knowledge of him.

Eph 1:18 I pray that he will give light to the eyes of your hearts, so that you will understand the hope to which he has called you, what rich glories there are in the inheritance he has promised his people,

Eph 1:19 and how surpassingly great is his power working in us who trust him. It works with the same mighty strength he used

Eph 1:20 when he worked in the Messiah to raise him from the dead and seat him at his right hand in heaven,

Eph 1:21 far above every ruler, authority, power, dominion or any other name that can be named either in the `olam hazeh or in the `olam haba.

Eph 3:14 For this reason, I fall on my knees before the Father,

**Eph 3:15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth receives its character.

Eph 3:16 I pray that from the treasures of his glory he will empower you with inner strength by his Spirit,

Eph 3:17 so that the Messiah may live in your hearts through your trusting. Also I pray that you will be rooted and founded in love,

Eph 3:18 so that you, with all God's people, will be given strength to grasp the breadth, length, height and depth of the Messiah's love,

Eph 3:19 yes, to know it, even though it is beyond all knowing, so that you will be filled with all the fullness of God.

Eph 3:20 Now to him who by his power working in us is able to do far beyond anything we can ask or imagine,

Eph 3:21 to him be glory in the Messianic Community and in the Messiah Yeshua from generation to generation forever. Amen. CJB

Having received the blessing of prosperity, we have the peace/Shalom of mind to go beyond the elementary requirements of survival.

### **His Countenance...**

Literally "Face" – In this context the human designation (face) refers to God's revealed purpose in His rule of the Universe (in the sense that someone's attitudes are apparent from the expression on his face) R'Hirsch Haamek Devar





Through the teachings of the Torah and the Prophets, God shed light “Yaoar” to shed OR (light) upon His workings of the universe. Thus we can perceive a purpose in creation that, in turn, helps us to better understand the greatness and will of the Creator (R. Hirsch). When this happens, all will understand that the material benefits of the first blessing come from Him, rather than by change or natural causes.

**And be gracious to you....**

May He cause you to find favor (in the eyes of others) (Sifer),

The grace that a person has is the quality of being liked by others. With this blessing, the Kohanim pray that after giving Israel material and spiritual success, God will enable the nations to evaluate it properly (Or HaChaim)

Ramban interprets that Israel will find favor in God’s eyes.

**The Third Blessings Vs. 26**

Num 6:26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

**lift up:** Psa 4:6, Psa 42:5, Psa 89:15; Act 2:28

**give thee peace:** Psa 29:11; Isa 26:3, Isa 26:12, Isa 57:19; Mic 5:5; Luk 2:14; Joh 14:27, Joh 16:33; Joh 20:21, Joh 20:26; Act 10:36; Rom 5:1, Rom 15:13, Rom 15:33; Eph 2:14-17, Eph 6:23; Php 4:7; 2Th 3:16

**May HaShem lift His Countenance to you.**

Therefore, God turns His face to Israel, so to speak. He symbolizes that He is not angry with us. As a result we can lift our heads, despite our own unworthiness. (See Who We Are In Messiah Sheet)

**And establish peace/shalom for you...**

One may have prosperity, health, food and drink, but if there is no Shalom it is all worthless. Therefore blessings are sealed with the gift of Shalom.

The Midrash says “Peace when you enter, peace when you leave and peaceful relations with everyone”

This alludes to three levels of peace:

1. With the family
2. In the Country where one lives
3. Throughout the World (K’sav Sefer)



**Peace is not simply the absence of war. It is a harmony between conflicting forces.**

**Within man, it is the proper balance between the needs of the body and the higher duty of the soul. In the universe it is balance between the infinite elements as well as between the holy and the mundane.**

**i.e. Paul**

Rom 7:14 For we know that the Torah is of the Spirit; but as for me, I am bound to the old nature, sold to sin as a slave.

Rom 7:15 I don't understand my own behavior—I don't do what I want to do; instead, I do the very thing I hate!

Rom 7:16 Now if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am agreeing that the Torah is good.

Rom 7:17 But now it is no longer "the real me" doing it, but the sin housed inside me.

Rom 7:18 For I know that there is nothing good housed inside me—that is, inside my old nature. I can want what is good, but I can't do it!

Rom 7:19 For I don't do the good I want; instead, the evil that I don't want is what I do!

Rom 7:20 But if I am doing what "the real me" doesn't want, it is no longer "the real me" doing it but the sin housed inside me.

Rom 7:21 So I find it to be the rule, a kind of perverse "torah," that although I want to do what is good, evil is right there with me!

Rom 7:22 For in my inner self I completely agree with God's Torah;

Rom 7:23 but in my various parts, I see a different "torah," one that battles with the Torah in my mind and makes me a prisoner of sin's "torah," which is operating in my various parts.

Rom 7:24 What a miserable creature I am! Who will rescue me from this body bound for death?

**Rom 7:25** Thanks be to God [*he will*]!—through Yeshua the Messiah, our Lord! To sum up: with my mind, I am a slave of God's Torah; but with my old nature, I am a slave of sin's "Torah."  
CJB

When Israel is sinful, it disrupts the balance because it is not making proper use of the human and physical resources God has given the world. This creates a barrier between God and His people, a barrier that God, with compassion removes so that we can repent and return to the blessed condition of peaceful harmony (Or HaChaim)

1Jn 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him—none!

1Jn 1:6 If we claim to have fellowship with him while we are walking in the darkness, we are lying and not living out the truth.

1Jn 1:7 But if we are walking in the light, as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of his Son Yeshua purifies us from all sin.



**1Jn 1:8** If we claim not to have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1Jn 1:9 If we acknowledge our sins, then, since he is trustworthy and just, he will forgive them and purify us from all wrongdoing.

1Jn 1:10 If we claim we have not been sinning, we are making him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us.

## **Deuteronomy 28:1-14 – The Blessings of Obedience**

**Deu 28:1** And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all the nations of the earth.

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

Deu 28:3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

Deu 28:4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the young of thy flock.

Deu 28:5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy kneading-trough.

Deu 28:6 Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

Deu 28:7 The LORD will cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thee; they shall come out against thee one way, and shall flee before thee seven ways.

Deu 28:8 The LORD will command the blessing with thee in thy barns, and in all that thou puttest thy hand unto; and He will bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Deu 28:9 The LORD will establish thee for a 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.

Deu 28:10 And all the peoples of the earth shall see that the name of the LORD is called upon thee; and they shall be afraid of thee.

Deu 28:11 And the LORD will make thee over-abundant for good, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

Deu 28:12 The LORD will open unto thee His good treasure the heaven to give the rain of thy land in its season, and to bless all the work of thy hand; and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow.

Deu 28:13 And the LORD will make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if thou shalt hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them;

Deu 28:14 and shalt not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. JPS



**Before the Torah recounts the dire consequences of sin, it gives the blessings that will accrue to the nation for fulfilling the commandments.**

These blessings are wide ranging and involve every area of material life, thus reassuring the people that their spiritual accomplishments will bring them untold benefits in every area of life. If loyalty to the commandments can cause one's business and family life to prosper, surely it can yield infinite spiritual bliss.

Gen 28:3 And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a congregation of peoples;

**Gen 28:4** and give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land of thy sojourning's, which God gave unto Abraham.'

**Ref. the blessing:** Gen 12:1-3, Gen 12:7, Gen 15:5-7, Gen 17:6-8, Gen 22:17-18; Psa 72:17; Rom 4:7-8; Gal 3:8, Gal 3:14; Eph 1:3

**Deu 28:2a And all these blessings shall come upon thee, and overtake thee,**

God will be so gracious to you that you will be overtaken by blessings even when you make no effort to obtain them. The blessings will come even when logic and nature would indicate that they cannot happen!

**Deut 28:2b if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.**

The voice is an allusion to the Torah/Word and its study, for all the blessings will overtake Israel without effort when its people make Torah study their primary activity and their occupations secondary.

Mat 6:31 "So don't be anxious, asking, 'What will we eat?,' 'What will we drink?' or 'How will we be clothed?'

Mat 6:32 For it is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all.

**Mat 6:33 But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

Mat 6:34 Don't worry about tomorrow—tomorrow will worry about itself! Today has enough tsuris already! CJB

**Deu 28:6 Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.**

You shall leave the world as free of sin as you were when you came into the world.



**This is only possible through faith in Yeshua**

**Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is no longer any condemnation awaiting those who are in union with the Messiah Yeshua.**

**Rom 8:2 Why? Because the Torah of the Spirit, which produces this life in union with Messiah Yeshua, has set me free from the "Torah" of sin and death.**

Rom 8:3 For what the Torah could not do by itself, because it lacked the power to make the old nature cooperate, God did by sending his own Son as a human being with a nature like our own sinful one [*but without sin*]. God did this in order to deal with sin, and in so doing he executed the punishment against sin in human nature,

Rom 8:4 so that the just requirement of the Torah might be fulfilled in us who do not run our lives according to what our old nature wants but according to what the Spirit wants.

Rom 8:5 For those who identify with their old nature set their minds on the things of the old nature, but those who identify with the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 Having one's mind controlled by the old nature is death, but having one's mind controlled by the Spirit is life and shalom.

Rom 8:7 For the mind controlled by the old nature is hostile to God, because it does not submit itself to God's Torah—indeed, it cannot.

Rom 8:8 Thus, those who identify with their old nature cannot please God.

**Rom 8:9 But you, you do not identify with your old nature but with the Spirit—provided the Spirit of God is living inside you, for anyone who doesn't have the Spirit of the Messiah doesn't belong to him.**

**Rom 8:10 However, if the Messiah is in you, then, on the one hand, the body is dead because of sin; but, on the other hand, the Spirit is giving life because God considers you righteous.**

**Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Yeshua from the dead is living in you, then the One who raised the Messiah Yeshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.**

**Deu 28:7 The LORD will cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thee; they shall come out against thee one way, and shall flee before thee seven ways.**

### **Chumash – Flee on seven roads**

It is common for people who fell in panic to disperse and run off in all directions. The juxtaposition of this verse with the next, which speaks of blessed storehouses, suggests that the fleeing enemy will leave behind a wealth of supplies and provisions for the Jews to take as well.

**Pro 13:22** A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous. ESV



**Deu 28:8 The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.**

God will bring the blessing of prosperity into Eretz Israel so that merchants and investors will have no need to travel abroad to make their fortunes. (Haamark Devar)

**Deu 28:9 The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways.**

For the first time, the verse specifies the observance of commandments, leading Or HaChaim to comment that, whereas the previous blessings were in reward for Torah study, the following ones are a reward for performance of the commandments.

**Deu 28:10 And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.**

All nations will come to realize that only God is the Source of all strength and blessing

**Deu 28:12 The LORD will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.**

Abundant rain can be a curse if it falls only when it is not needed (i.e. flooding). Conversely, even a small amount of precipitation can be a blessing if it falls when the crops require it.

**Deu 28:13 And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them,**

**Deu 28:14 and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.**

As a head and not as a tail...The two terms are not redundant for it is possible for a Nation to be a head, i.e. leader, to some, but to be a follower of others.

God promises that if Israel is worthy, it will be respected by everyone, and subservient to no one. (Rashi)

**if that thou:** Deu 28:1, Deu 4:6-9; Php 1:27

**thou shalt:** Deu 5:32, Deu 11:16, Deu 11:26-28; Jos 23:6; 2Ki 22:2; Pro 4:26-27

**the right:** Isa 30:21