

18 August 2013

Bless the Lord for His Abundant Mercy (Pt3 Bless the Lord).

This is our third study on the topic of 'Blessing God'. In our previous study we covered four points; (1) bless the Lord for He is our strength, and (2) bless the Lord because He responds to our prayers, and (3) bless the Lord for all His works, and (4) bless the Lord for fulfilling His promises.

In this study we will cover three points; (1) bless the Lord because He directs our path, and (2) bless the Lord for His mercy, and (3) bless the Lord for His truth.

Let us add a little more detail to our points:-

1. Bless the Lord because He directs our path.

Gen 24:27 *And he said, Blessed [be] the Lord God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I [being] in the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren.*

See also Gen 24:48

From this one verse we will establish our three points. And although it is not until the second part of verse 27 that we can make our point, it is clear from Gen.24: 48 that the servant of Abraham blesses the Lord for directing his path.

When we go back to the beginning of the chapter we find that the eldest servant was commanded by his master Abraham to go into a far country to Abraham's kindred, and take a wife for his son Isaac (see verse 4), and he told him that the Lord God of heaven and earth will send an angel to go before him (verse 7). The servant left and went to Mesopotamia unto the city of Nahor (verse 10), and there he stopped by a well waiting for the women to come, and he prayed, laying out a fleece before the Lord to ensure he could discern the Lord's hand in what was to take place (see verses 42-47). Then in verse 48 the servant discerned that the Lord God of Abraham, *had* led him to fulfil that which his master asked of him.

We know from many other examples in the Scriptures that the Lord directs the path of not only the servants of His people, but also His chosen nation. During Israel's time in the wilderness they were a fledgling nation who proved to be self-willed and disobedient to God's commandments.

Notwithstanding their disobedience the Lord, through His grace and mercy led them through the wilderness (Ex. 13: 21, 22). He put a cloud between them and their enemies (see Ex.14: 19). He directed their path and divided the Red Sea and killed their enemies when the waters returned (see Ex.14: 18). At each stage of their journeying the Lord directed their path. In addition we see that the Lord Jesus was led by the Spirit in the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil (see Lk.4:1, 2). Then you have the examples in the early church where the Holy Spirit of God directed the path of individuals (see Acts 16: 7). And in a similar way, we of the church age are led by the Holy Spirit, who opens and closes doors when we walk.

Have you ever blessed the Lord for opening and closing doors, for leading you by His Holy Spirit?

Remember the meaning of the word *bles* from our first study in this series? We established that verses where *blessed* is used of God the words *baruk* and *eulogetos* are behind the English word, hence having a sense of praise or kneel down. So we ask, have you ever got on your knees and praised the Lord for leading you, guiding you each day? I am sure that most of us remember thanking God for opening and closing the doors, because when He does and the events are clearly not of our making, then what else is there to do, but to thank the Lord, to praise the Lord for directing our path? But next time *God* closes or opens a door through His Holy Spirit, next time you ask the Lord to lead you, and He does; thank Him, praise Him, and bless Him. Let us encourage each other to bless the Lord for directing our path.

2. Bless the Lord for His mercy

Gen 24:27 *And he said, Blessed [be] the Lord God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy.*

See also 1Pet.1: 3

By leading the servant, bringing him to the exact spot where Rebekah came to draw water, at the exact time she came out to the well, he knew that he could not have organised the events to take place with such precision. He knew that the God of his master Abraham must have led him, and he knew that he didn't deserve such divine intervention, and that he only received such guidance because of the Lord's mercy. And notice that even when God showed his guidance to the servant, he still recognised that it wasn't him that the Lord was showing mercy to, but to his master Abraham. The servant wasn't known to have been personally redeemed by the Lord, but clearly, God's mercy extended to the servants and family of those who were chosen (see also the New Testament example of a man's salvation effecting others in his house - Acts 16: 31).

Today there is no better reason for a saved person to bless the Lord than for His mercy, or as Lk.1: 68 points out, for His redemption. And that redemption today is known *only* through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ (see Acts 4: 12). In the Old Testament the Scriptures record that during the reign of Solomon the priests sounding with trumpets and singing praised the Lord with music for His mercy endures for ever. Following such an event the house of the Lord was filled with the glory of the Lord (see 2Chron.5: 13, 14). Much of the Psalms David praised the Lord for His enduring mercy (see Ps. 106: 1, 107: 1, 118: 1, 136: 1 & 136: 3). Could you imagine singing and praising the Lord for His mercy? And when you do, you bless the Lord.

In the church age we see that Paul acknowledged the mercy that the Lord showed him, after he, in ignorance persecuted the church of God (see 1Cor.7: 25), and then the Lord called him to be a minister to the Gentiles. What grace, what mercy! And in the New Testament we see that Peter blesses the Lord for his abundant mercy 1Pet.1: 3).

So today, when a person comes to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, they will know the mercy that God has shown to them through His Son. We know from the Oxford dictionary that the word *mercy* is similar to compassion, where it provides a meaning that includes “compassion shown by one to another who is in his power and has no claim to kindness.” And isn’t that so true? A heathen has no claim to God’s kindness, His mercy or His compassion, and yet when the sinner believes that their sin is washed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary, and they call on His name, then they choose to receive the abundant mercy available in Christ. What better time to bless God, what better time to kneel and praise the Lord for His mercy than at the time a lost sinner receives conversion to a saved sinner? There is no better reason for a man to bless God than for His mercy, for His redemption in Christ, and we don’t have to wait for the Lord to lead us, or show us strength in a given situation, but simply acknowledge what God has done in Christ. We can bless Him for His mercy shown in Christ Jesus every moment, every hour of every day.

And for those who are saved and struggle each day with their tongue or their pride or their lusting, then you, like me, have a good reason to get on your knees and praise God, bless Him for His mercy to you each day. Mercy that goes beyond His work on the cross, yet nevertheless, we are undeserving of His kindness, when He helps us with our struggles. Because He does not have to lead me by opening and closing doors, when I continue to fall over each day, but He does, because His mercy endures for ever! So let us bless God today for His mercy, for his compassion, for His kindness that He showed us in His Son on the cross, and each day, in the big and little things He helps us with.

3. Bless the Lord for His truth

Gen 24:27 *And he said, Blessed [be] the Lord God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth.*

In our verse from Genesis we have mentioned that Abraham’s servant blessed the God of Abraham for directing his path, and for His mercy, and in this point we add His truth.

But why would Abraham’s servant bless the Lord, get on his knees and praise the Lord for His truth? His mercy and His direction, I understand, but why His truth?

Well, it comes back to God’s words and those words coming to pass, which makes them *truth*. Have you ever had someone speak a lie to you? Clearly the words do not come to pass, and the person is not to be trusted, because they did not speak the truth. It was the same in the Old Testament when they sought to discern the true and false prophet, they looked to the words that were spoken. If they came to pass, the prophet was a true prophet from the Lord, and if they did not, then he was false (see Deut.18: 22).

Today we know that the Jehovah Witness’ (JW) are false, because the written words they claim are of God, are *not* truth, but corrupt, they have errors mingled with *some* truth. In addition the JW prophesied that the Lord would rapture the church (<http://www.jwfacts.com/watchtower/1800s.php>), and clearly the dates of 1881 and 1906, and any others where they prophesied the Lord’s return, did not occur; hence they proved to the world that they are false on two accounts.

Today we also know that the Lord Jesus Christ is *the* truth, and in Him is *no* error (see Jn.14: 6) and we also know that the Scriptures *are* truth (see Dan.10: 21) and every word *is* pure (see Prov.30: 5); hence there are *no* errors. So, for those that cling to corrupt versions of the Holy Bible and feed on truth laced with error, they cannot be feeding on truth, because there is no error in truth. It would be no different to the Lord Jesus Christ, whom the Scriptures say was sinless (see 1Pet.2: 22), having a little sin. How could He be sinless or *the* Truth if He committed a small sin? Would the Scriptures be truth, if they claimed he was sinless on one page, then on another showing that He committed one small sin?

How does a JW bless God for his son Jesus, who is *the* Truth, whilst he accepts the error that Jesus is only a man and not God manifest in the flesh (see 1Tim.3: 16)?

Also, how does a JW bless God for His truth, whilst he accepts that his 'Holy Bible', has errors?

Let us encourage each other to get on our knees and praise God for His truth, to bless God for His truth revealed in His Holy Scriptures, which testify of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, who *is* the Truth.

To summarise this series of studies on the topic of blessing God, we have covered ten things to Bless the Lord for:-

1. He has loaded us with benefits, and
2. His kindness, and
3. He is very great and is clothed with honour and majesty, and
4. He is our strength, and
5. He responds to our prayers, and
6. His works, and
7. His promises, and
8. He directs our path, and
9. His mercy, and
10. His truth. Amen!