

Truth In Scripture

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Being blessed and Blessing others

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Well, we are living in exciting times. And Prophetic trends are certainly pointing to the return of our LORD. And prophecy pundits are everywhere.

But the truth of the matter is this: When the LORD returns, we do not know, but until the LORD returns or we return to HIM, our role doesn't change. We are to give the good news of the saving Grace of our LORD, the Gospel is to be preached to this lost and dying world.

Turn to EPH 3 between Galatians and Philippians.

I would like to speak today about something we all agree is good...and that is blessing, or blessings from GOD.

We all want blessings from GOD. And here is a point that many believers don't fully realize: GOD wants to bless us.

/JER 29:11, For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare (thoughts for Shalom peace) and not for evil (ra = evil), to give you a future and a hope (ticvah = hope or expectation – a rope to ME, to bind you to ME).

That sounds like a blessing, right?

David wrote PSA 37 and he said this:
/PSA 37:4, Delight (aw nag = a personal relationship) **delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.** Have a personal relationship with GOD.

When we are in the plan of GOD for our life, we ask for the things that will accomplish that plan and GOD is pleased to provide.

Not just what we need but as Paul writes in **EPH 3 look at Vs 20.**

EPH 3:20, Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to HIS power that is at work within us.

YES, my friends, GOD desires to bless us, just think of that. The creator of the universe loves you and wants to bless you.

We receive both Grace and Mercy.

/Grace is getting the good things of GOD that we don't deserve, Mercy is not getting what we do deserve, that is GOD's wrath.

That is all through our Savior Yeshua!
The greatest blessing of all time.

/DEU 28:2, And all these blessings will come to you and reach you (naw sag = overtake, chase you) if you obey the LORD your GOD:

If we remain in HIS plan, we can't lose, no way!

Go to GEN 12

Sometimes things happen in that plan we don't understand and dare I say we don't prefer that it, whatever it was, happened, or we prefer that it didn't happen. Of course, we are to accept it as HIS Will...

So in this look at blessings, I want to begin with a promise that the LORD gave to Abraham. By extension and application, it applies to believers today.

Look at GEN 12 vs 1

/GEN 12:1, Now the LORD (YHVH Yehovah) said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives and from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;

Sometimes we need the change of scenery if you will, to get into the plan that GOD has for us, or continue in it.

Sometimes we are in the wrong location, geographically, or the wrong job or wrong set of friends and I will say etc...

Abram was surrounded and involved in idolatry. So Abram who will be Abraham, was drawn to serve the Living GOD. And to do so he had to move.

/GEN 12:2 And I will make you a great nation (blessing), And I will bless you (blessing), And make your name great(blessing);

Notice the LORD will do the blessing and make Abraham's name, the LORD will make his legacy great, we are talking

about him today) but look: **And so you shall be a blessing;**

/3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse (notice the LORD will do the blessing as well as the cursing). And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Abraham would serve the LORD for another 100 years, and oh yeah, he would fail, but still in ISA 41:8, he is called a friend of GOD.

So, Abraham was to be blessed, but please notice that he was also to be a blessing to others, in fact a blessing to the world.

This is a reference to the fact that the Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jacobs sons, one was Levi, Moses and Aaron were from that tribe. Yoseph who was a type of Christ saved Egypt and the world from famine.

Benjamine was another son, from his tribe would come King Saul. And then there the son named Judah, from his tribe would come David and of course the KING of kings and LORD of lords, the Messiah.

That of course is the greatest blessing of all. That is the blessing from GOD, to Abram, who becomes Abraham...

To be a believer in Yeshua, and have eternal life with HIM, AND IT CAN NEVER BE LOST! That is the blessing.

Anyone in the world who accepts the Gospel spends eternity with the LORD, again, that is the ultimate blessing.

So, this does have an application to us as believers in Yeshua. We too have blessings, and we too are to be a blessing to others.

I know, we all know, sometimes things happen in our lives that we would prefer to not happen, and sometimes things don't happen that we would prefer to happen.

GOD sees all, we only tend to look at that which is immediately around us. The

all 22 view for those who know that reference.

That is what we are to do, take each day, make the most of each day, serve HIM each day! GOD knows the beginning from the end.

/PSA 118 24, “This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Should be a song...

Each day is a rich and precious gift from GOD, with new grace and new opportunities.

Turn to PSA 90

We have only this day, and we are not to worry about tomorrow. That doesn't mean we don't have plans and desires; the LORD knows that we do.

That doesn't mean we don't care about tomorrow. That doesn't mean we don't do our job, be a parent, husband, wife, friend, whatever we do we are to do it as unto the LORD.

We are not to worry about tomorrow, but when it comes, we live it to the fullest, prepared and at the ready to serving HIM.

But if we focus on HIM, we will get the most out of every day HE gives us on this side of Heaven.

/COL 3:23, Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men,

Those who focus on tomorrow and beyond tend to miss out the todays.

Look at PSA 90

/PSA 90:12, Teach us to number (manah = appoint, make the most of) our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

GOD see all, HE sees the beginning and the end...ISA 46:10.

Because of that our LORD said in MAT 6

/33 “But seek first HIS kingdom and HIS righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34, So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Turn to LUK 5

So, we will be blessed, and we are best blessed inside the plan of GOD for our life, and inside that plan we are to bless others. I guess you might say: We can never out bless GOD.

HIS blessings will chase you down...as we read in DEU 28:3.

/And we do not bless to get blessed, don't do that...we bless because we are blessed...We are going to Heaven forever...

I want to show you one way that GOD does manifest this idea regarding blessings.

But first let's look at an example, of being a blessing and being blessed. There are many I could use from the

Scripture...but I like Simon who will be Peter.

Look at LUK 5:1-11, Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around HIM and listening to the word of GOD, HE was standing by the Sea of Galilee...

2 and HE (Yeshua) saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.

I love the detail here:

This was a tedious job and very important as the nets were expensive and had to be cared for washed out dried and then put away. These men were Peter, John and James.

3 And Yeshua got into one of the boats, which was Simon's (this is Peter), and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat.

So now the crowd could hear Jesus, focus on HIS words. How long HE spoke we do not know.



/People were blessed because Peter didn't say no. He probably wanted to, but he didn't. Maybe he knew about this Jesus, maybe not. Simon was a JEW waiting for their Messiah. At this

moment Simon didn't know that that Messiah was asking to use his boat.

4 When Yeshua had finished speaking, HE said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

Now Peter had been out all night and caught nothing, his nets were washed and dried, stored for use again that night.

Peter is tired, hungry, sore...Maybe what he heard intrigued him,

5 Simon answered and said, “Master, (not kurios or Rabbi...just a term of respect = sir) we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as YOU say and let down the nets.”

I don't know what Peter was thinking, ok I'll do it, but it aint gonna work, or from what I just heard, somehow I believe in YOU, we don't know what was in Peters head.

but I will do as YOU say

6 When they had done this, they had a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break;

7 so they signaled the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Yeshua's feet, saying, "Go away from me LORD (kuiros), for I am a sinful man!"

10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Yeshua said to Simon, “Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.”



/Peter’s reply is the beginning of a lifetime of faith in GOD. He said, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets”.

I bet that crowd received some of those fish.

Now I ask you what was it that Peter did? I am looking for one word.

OBEY

The soon-to-be disciple chose to obey the LORD and to leave the consequences of that decision to the LORD.

There is a valuable lesson right?

But notice what happened as a result of Peter's obedience: They pulled in not one but two overflowing boatloads of fish.

I'm sure that was enough for the crowd that was probably still there watching.

Saying yes to the LORD's request resulted in a miracle that transformed not only one fisherman's life, but the lives of many people, not just that day, but through the 2000 years since that day.

/Obeying the LORD in what might seem like small matters is an essential step in receiving GOD's greatest blessings.

Suppose Peter had said, “Look, I’m busy my nets are clean and ready for the next night, I’m tired...blah blah blah

If Peter had said anything other than yes, he would have missed the greatest fishing experience of his life. But because of Peter’s obedience, the LORD arranged a miracle that he would never forget.

Our Obedience always benefits others. GOD often rewards others, in particular, those closest to us, but also those we come in contact with as a result of our obedience.

/When we live obedient lives, those who know and love us will sense the peace and joy HE has given us. Instead of conflict, there will be contentment, and

instead of chaos there will be calm contentment. That is just one part of experiencing GOD's goodness and blessing. You want to truly enjoy GOD's blessings? Here is the answer: Bless others.

Let me show you a visual illustration, a representation of how the LORD manifests this to us. Stick with me. Because the geography of the Holy Land as with any place on this earth, was determined by GOD. Every Mt every River, every lake, every sea.

HE created the Heavens and the Earth. This is the place where all of the earthly Ministry of the LORD takes place.

That is by design, no mistake, no coincidence.



This is a map of the Holy Land, well of the land where the earthly ministry of Jesus took place.

From Mt Hermon way up to the north, down to Sea of Galilee, to the Dead Sea.

The blue line there is the yardin river or the Jordan river (= to go down, to come down, to descend). This is the area of the LORD's earthly Ministry.

What I want to show you is the way that this 150 miles... (150 X 150) or so and the River and Mt, and the Sea of Galilee and the dead sea talk about the

importance of receiving blessings graciously, and giving blessings graciously. That is true is grace orientation, to be totally adjusted to GOD's Grace. Let me show this.



this is Mt Hermon, in some references it is known as three peaks.

That is the Trinity, and we all need to know that doctrine well...PDF).

This represents the GOD Head, GOD the Father, GOD the Son and GOD the HS. ONE triune GOD. One Being, 3 persons, each sharing the same attributes.

Evangelists...need to defend it, teach it.

IN my, well really GOD's illustration this Mt. Hermon represents the GOD Head, GOD the Father, GOD the Son and GOD the HS. ONE triune GOD one Being 3 persons, each sharing the same attributes.

I love evangelists...keep them in prayer...

So, we have Mt Hermon, representing GOD. Now back to the illustration, stick with me.

/Mt Hermon is 10000 ft high so it has snow at the top year long. That snow and the rains that come all go down through cracks and streams etc., and they come to form the head or the beginning of the Jordan river.

One of those main places is at a place called Cesarea Philippi....

It is a very beautiful place, and it is there that the Jordan begins its track all the way to the dead sea.



/At the time Of Yeshua's ministry, the Romans of course had made this place a place of false god worship. Hence it's name Caesar Phillip or Herod.

All these little places here had statues of their false gods.

It was in context of this place with all the false gods of the culture that the LORD has a conversation with HIS disciples.



In MARK 8, the LORD feeds the 4000, this is after HE fed the 5000.

HE is tempted by the Pharisees. Travels to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

Heals a blind man at Bethsaida. Then HE and the Disciples go to Caesarea Philippi. And at one point Yeshua asks the Disciples.

Whom do men say that I am?

John the Baptist, some say Elijah, some say one of the prophets.

The LORD then said: **But Who do you say that I AM.**

Peter answered and saith Thou art the Christ. Christos the anointed One.

So the point is that in this illustration is that we have seen that MT Hermon 3 peaks, represents the GOD head. And the water as we know represents the Word of GOD, the Spiritual life, the blessings from GOD.

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So, there are blessings flowing out from GOD represented by the Jordan River. Now we will see the tale of 2 believers. The first we come to is represented here by the Sea of Galilee.

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Notice that the Sea of Galilee has the inflow representing the blessings from GOD.

And the lake... really a lake, is about 15 miles long and 9 miles wide. At the time of Yeshua it was a main source of blessing to the entire area. Representing that the winner believer inside the plan of GOD is a blessing to others around him. Because not only is he blessed, but he blesses others.

Produce. There were lots of crops – citrus fruits, bananas, wheat, grapes. As well as lush areas to support cattle and flocks, livestock and of course fish.

So, it is a blessed area. And this represents our first type of believer. This believer receives great blessings, humbly,

thankfully graciously, he is grace oriented. And those blessings are extended to others. He knows the word of GOD and applies it. He is oriented to the word of GOD.

JOSH 1:8, The word of GOD is to be meditated on, staying inside the plan of GOD and then GOD will make our way prosperous.

You know how many miracles were done in and around the sea of Galilee? Here's a quick look: There is more. 37 miracles...3 divine, 7 total, $3+7=10$ GOD's Perfection. 7 were done on the Sabbath, showing Yeshua is the sabbath.

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Believers who are in the plan of GOD, who receive the blessings of GOD in a grace manner. Humble, thankful, they enjoy the blessings. And they are a blessing to others.

These blessings are from GOD and the believer with the Sea of Galilee mentality, realizes that. Family, health, love, prosperity in those truly important things.

I'm not saying money cannot be a source of blessing. I have known a few millionaires and they were gracious and humble and generous.

I have known another who was not. I have known those who were what we would call poor, yet they were very gracious and richer than many so called

rich people because of their grace orientation.

They counted themselves rich because they knew GOD they had that relationship with Yeshua, they lived the spirit led life.

/We are to be gracious, grateful, thankful, generous. And Notice something about this type of believer. The blessings flow in but they also flow out. The blessings flow in but they also flow out.

So we have seen that GOD provides the blessings, HE wants to bless us. And we enjoy those blessings and we are grateful, humble and gracious.

/JAM 1:17, Everything good comes from GOD. Every perfect gift is from

HIM. These good gifts come down from the Father.



So back to our illustration. From GOD flows HIS word and HIS blessings and HIS grace and Mercy. The blessings come down to us.

We don't bless to get blessed, we bless others because we ourselves are blessed.

The Word of GOD the blessings of GOD flow from HIM to the believers. The believer is to be blessed and bless others.

The blessings flow in and out from that believer.

We come to the next type of believer represented by the Dead Sea. Notice the blessings flow in but they do not flow out. Those blessings are held on to. First, the blessings are not received with true grace and true humility and true thankfulness.

This type of believer does not appreciate the things of GOD. They use prayer when needed, to get them out of this jam or that. Usually then returning to the vomit of their life outside the plan of GOD.

This would of course apply to unbelievers who receive logistical grace, but reject GOD and Salvation.

Plenty of unbelievers we could point to that would make this case. Cain rejected GOD. King Saul, Judas of course.

But let's stick to believers for the sake of this illustration.

Believers, I think of Jonah. Jonah was blessed, he had a relationship with GOD. But when GOD asked him to obey he said no, and well we know the story. We could look at Samson.

Here we are comparing believers. One who is blessed and blesses others, is a blessing to others. The other blessed but has not the sea of Galilee mentality, but the dead sea mentality.



/The Dead Sea (or Salt Sea) is the lowest point on the face of the earth. It is 1,388 feet below sea level. It receives water from the Jordan River (remember in our illustration blessings), Because it is located at the lowest point on earth, no water flows out of the sea.

A believer who is selfish, self-absorbed, arrogant, does not bless others. And they are indeed at a very low point. They are believers, if they are, they will not lose their salvation.

Water in the dead sea doesn't flow out, you know what happens?

It evaporates.

It escapes through evaporation and the result is a body of water over 8 times saltier than the ocean.

Its name, the Dead Sea, reflects the fact that there is very little life in and around the sea, except for tourists who want to float in it. Which you can only do for a short time, and don't get it in your eyes of nose or ears or of course swallow it. You float in it, big deal.

The Dead Sea reflects the idea that we were meant to overflow with GOD's love and blessings and grace etc. We are to bless others.

There is no life in the Dead sea, nor around the southern part. Probable where Sodom and Gomorrah were.

When GOD fills us to overflowing with HIS love, we are to be first in awe, and thanksgiving. Then our desire is to or should be to spread that love to others.

/To the winner believer, the on with the spirit of the Sea of Galilee, the thought of those blessing all to ourselves, keeping it for ourselves is absurd. To the believer living live led by the HS we use our spiritual gifts, our blessings to serve the LORD.



/Those who don't live that way, the very blessings are no longer productive in the spiritual life. Their spiritual life dries up, becomes stagnant. It ends up much like the Dead Sea if we do not bless other by living a life led by the HS.

Turn to ROM 15

GOD's agape love is by its very nature unselfish. It does not seek its own gain, it is impersonal so it isn't given so as to gain a benefit from it.

It is therefore an impersonal love.

When GOD pours this love into us by HIS Spirit, HIS Word, HIS Spiritual gifts, HIS blessings to us, it has that same effect and impact in our lives.

/ the winner believer who is filled with GOD's love, HE doesn't simply fill us, but HE fills us to overflowing, so that HIS love pours out of us. That is love overflowing.



/JOH 4:13-14, Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

If we tried to contain HIS love, it would cause us great pain because spreading

HIS love with others gives us true great joy.

GOD's love and blessing was never meant to be contained and kept by any individual or group, but always to be used as a blessing to others, that all might know GOD as well.

We are to live in the overflow of GOD's grace. David said this in PSA 23,

I know your in ROM 15, stay there.

/PSA 23 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. HE makes me lie down in green pastures; HE leads me beside quiet waters. HE restores my soul; HE guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I fear no evil,
for You are with me; Your rod and
Your staff, they comfort me.**

**5 You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies; You have
anointed my head with oil;**

And look what David said:

My cup overflows.

**6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness
will follow me all the days of my life,**

**And I will dwell in the house of the
LORD forever.**

Because of the Spirit's presence, our
hope, our confidence in HIM, our cup of
blessings overflows!

Now look at ROM 15

ROM 15:13, May the GOD of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in HIM, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

May I leave you with this!

May the LORD bless you and keep you!

May the LORD make HIS face shine upon you and be gracious to you!

May the LORD put HIS countenance upon you and give HIS PEACE, Shalom. GOD's peace.

Enjoy HIS blessings, bless others and I believe you will find the world less chaotic. Because you will have HIS PEACE.