



BLESSINGS

1. To be blessed (*eulogeo*) is to be given good things—by people (Heb. 11:20, 21; 12:17) or by God (Deut. 28:2–6, 8, 12). The English word *eulogy* (to speak well of) comes from the Greek noun *eulogia*.
2. God's blessings come from heaven (Gen. 49:25).
3. The picture behind a blessing is: when you bend your knee in homage to God—God blesses.

The Hebrew equivalent of *eulogia* is *berek* "knee: w. vb. *kara'* bend Is 45:23" (William L. Holladay, *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, 50). The verb *barak* means "kneel, bless...kneeled upon his knees 2 Ch 6:13...let us kneel before Yahweh Ps 95:6...God blesses a. men: ...Dt 28:8..." (Francis Brown, S. R. Driver, C.A. Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon*, 138). The noun *berakah* means "blessing...Dt 28:2, 8" (BDB, 139).

4. What are some blessings?
 - a. God blessed Abraham with riches—flocks, herds, silver, gold, servants, maids, camels and donkeys (Gen. 24:35).
 - b. a blessing (*eulogia*) is a bumper crop equal to three years of normal crops (Lev. 25:21).
 - c. children are a blessing (Gen. 49:25; cf. Psa. 127:3–5).
 - d. Abraham's blessing was a title deed to the land of Palestine (Gen. 28:4).
 - e. the earth receives rain as a blessing from God (Heb. 6:7).
 - f. we are blessed "with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ" (Eph. 1:3).
 - g. surviving tribulational saints will inherit the Kingdom as a blessing from God the Father (Matt. 25:34).
 - h. the millennial Kingdom will be blessed more than any other kingdom (Mark 11:10).

5. There are degrees of blessings: some are blessed more than others (Gen. 49:26). The Messiah has been blessed by God more than any other human being (Matt. 21:9 = Mark 11:9 = Luke 19:38 = John 12:13; Matt. 23:39 = Luke 13:35). He was blessed before his embryo was a week old (Luke 1:42). The perfect passive participle (*eulogemenos*) indicates completed action—the blessings have already been given and received.

6. You can be blessed by association (Gen. 30:27, 30; 39:5). Notice that both Laban and Jacob came to this conclusion.

7. The opposite of blessing is cursing (compare Deut. 28:2–6, 8, 12 with 28:15, 16–19, 20).

8. God can turn cursing into blessing (Neh. 13:2; cf. Deut. 23:3–6).

9. No one can turn God's blessing into cursing (Num. 23:1–12, 25; 24:9–14). The story of Balaam shows God's blessing cannot be revoked through occult practices.

10. Blessing was conditioned upon Israel's obedience (Deut. 28:2).

11. The blessings of positional truth are given to the Church in grace (Eph. 1:3).