

THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN BLESSINGS

Two Main References to be Used: 1 Sam. 1:1-2:10 and Matt. 24 (Highlighting Vv. 12-14).

We will at this time read: Num. 6:22-27

INTRODUCTION:

1. **“The Power of The Spoken Blessings!!”**

This thought stirs my soul, challenges my thoughts, revives my memory and points to the dire needs of the world and the impact that the Word of God and the reality that our spoken words can make, as we apply it communicating and in our daily living. **“The Power of The Spoken Blessings”** must be consistently applied in relation to others to the glory of God!! This thought forcefully remind us all of the victories that can be realized and the awesomeness of God’s splendor and glory (see **1 Chron. 29:11-13**).

If there is any time, we need the LORD, we surely do need Him now!! Somebody describes this experience with God as: ***“It’s joy unspeakable and full of glory . . . and the half have never been told!”***

“The Power of The Spoken Blessing”: we are hereby referring to word spoken for good that carries spiritual power and authority, and that sets in motion something that will probably go on from generation to generation!

This positive Biblical statement invokes the blessings of God on the life of others!!

These are days when too many are too easily inclined to criticize, condemn, demean, discourage, etc. although the Bible says: ***“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul, and health to the bones” (Prov. 16:24).***

The Song, **“Wonderful Words of Life.”**

Verse 1

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life,
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life,
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.

Refrain

Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life,
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Beloved, let us Invoke the Blessings of God in the Lives of Others!!

Oh! Beloved! The needs all around us are greater than ever before! Spiritually! Mentally! Emotionally! Etc. these needs are obvious and yet the answer is in Jesus Christ!! **Note a few examples:**

- (a) Family after family are devastated, ruined and destroyed!!
- (b) Marriages ruined, divorce, etc. have become a norm for too many!
- (c) Children ruined spiritually, mentally, emotionally, etc.!
- (d) Youths destroyed in alarming numbers!
- (e) Ethnic hatred and violence plague our societies!
- (f) Political corruption, deception, etc. accepted as normal!
- (g) Economic difficulties ruin millions!
- (h) There are natural disasters with catastrophic results!
- (i) Etc. Etc.

The world longs for!! Yearns for! Needing the wonderful words of assurance and hope!!

Psa. 33:20-22 NKJV

“Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, Because we have trusted in His holy name. Let Your mercy, O LORD, be upon us. Just as we hope in You.”

Hopelessness characterizes too many!! When there is hope in Jesus Christ!!

- (a) *“Hope is like the sun which, as we journey toward it, cast the shadow of our burden behind us.”*
- (b) *“The sun never quits shining. Sometimes the clouds just get in the way.”*

The need to invoke the blessings of God is imperative!

*As I reflect on the thought: “**The Power of The Spoken Blessings**”, God impressed a few things on my heart that need to be in place . . . **NOTED without discussion:***

- (a) Introspection of Self.
- (b) Interconnection with God.
- (c) Intercession Unceasingly.
- (d) Intervention as God Leads
- (e) Intentionally make up our minds to be sincerely led by God, be wholly committed to His perfect will!

The study passage has been divided into three main points:

- (a) Explaining: “The Power of Spoken Blessings” (Briefly)
- (b) Exemplified by Hannah 1 Sam. 1:1-2:10
- (c) End of Time Requires God’s Mighty Outpouring Matt. 24, Highlighting Vv. 12-14 (See also 1 Tim. 4:1-5)

One Background Scripture: Matt. 10:8b

“ . . . Freely you have received, freely give.”

Brief Comment on Matt. 10:8b

We have all fallen short of the glory of God, but because of His redemptive plan and His grace that brought it down to man, we have found hope in Jesus Christ.

We can lift up our hopeless heads when we catch a true glimpse of God, for He sits on His holy throne and meets us at the mercy seat. He is there to **ble**ss us and not curse us, He is there to give us **righteousness**. *He is there to give us **salvation***, not to doom us!

We come before His holy throne not only to give to Him but to receive from Him, blessings and righteousness and salvation. His is a throne of grace, a mercy seat rather than a seat of condemnation (Heb. 4:16).

How many, here have experienced the awesome, breathtaking blessings of salvation? GIVE HIM A SHOUT OF PRAISE!!

Here is another basic biblical reminder as we pursue the challenges of being a blessing:

1. **Prov. 18:21 (NKJV)**: “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And they who love it will eat its fruit.”
2. The challenge in this verse (Prov. 18:21) is clarified by Jesus Christ in Matt. 12:37. Pour in others that which is positive and genuinely beneficial!!

Beloved! The more that you pour into others, the more God pours into you!! (Luke 6:38).

THE EXPOSITION**A. Explaining: The Power of Spoken Blessings. (BRIEFLY)****1. Definitions.**

- (a) **“Bless”**: The Hebrew word from which we derive **“bless”**, means **“To kneel”** and by interpretation means **“to bless;” “to praise.”** The usage is seen throughout the Old Testament (example **Psa. 135:19-20**; also Gen. 12:2; 27:4; Psa. 132:15; etc.)
- (b) **“Blessing”**: The Hebrew word from which we derive **“blessing”** means **“benediction”** or the act of invoking a blessing.
As it relates to us, it suggests the traditional blessings of a congregation at the end of a service . . . one favorite reference used is **Numbers 6:24-26** or Psa. 19:14; etc. (See also Gen. 27:12; Psa. 24:5; 109:17; 133:3).
- (c) There are many other definitions for **“Blessings”**. A few briefly noted:
 - (1) To pronounce a wish or happiness to a person.
 - (2) A favor or gift bestowed by God, thereby bringing happiness the invoking of God’s favor upon a person.
 - (3) Etc.

2. Continuing the Thought on “The Spoken Blessings”.

(a) World’s view of blessing is based on the concept of an occasional happy event . . . which is temporal and lack real satisfaction.

(1) **Too many have failed to realized that Christ in us, is our blessing and always will be!**

Eph. 1:3 NKJV

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

(2) Note two brief thoughts:

- **“To Bless”**: “. . . to invoke the Divine favor on; to bestow happiness, prosperity; or good things of all kinds; to make a pronouncement holy; to consecrate, to glorify for the benefits received; to extol for excellence.” (“extol”: praise enthusiastically. . . insert mine).
- **“A blessing”**: “. . . a prayer or solemn wish imploring happiness upon another; a benediction; the act of pronouncing a benediction or blessing; that which promotes prosperity and welfare.”

(b) **Words that we use are important their power to bring results!!**

(1) Our words have great influence in the lives of those around us and spoken blessing can bring hope, encouragement, and direction to our families, friends and others.

(2) Many people are experiencing stronger relationships and spiritual encouragement as they discover the power of spoken blessings.

(3) **Spoken blessings is an excellent way to intercede for others and in the process become more like Jesus who has, is and will continue to intercede for us!! (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1)**

(4) God is still seeking for those who will stand in the gap and intercede for others, decreeing and declaring the blessings of God on family, fellow saints, friends, and even foes . . . the need is greater than ever before!!

- Abraham interceded for Sodom (Gen. 18:16-33).
- God needs someone to stand in the gap!! (Ezek. 22:30).
- **1 Tim. 2:1 NKJV**
“Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men . . .”
- See also Ex. 32:30-32; 1 Sam. 7:5; Ezek. 9:8; Jer. 21:1-2; Mark 7:32; Luke 4:38.

(5) Speaking life into and over people is a positive and biblical assignment that invokes the blessing of God in the life of another person. It has been stated that the blow of a word can be more deadly than the blow of a sword. However, more beneficial, much more needful are our words of blessings to others. What a difference when we bless others through the spoken word!! (Rom. 15:5-7, 13; 1 Cor. 1:4-9; 16:23; etc.).

Prov. 12:25 Amp. Bible: *“Anxiety in a man’s heart weights it down, but an encouraging word makes it glad. [Psa. 50:4; Prov. 15:13].”*

B. Exemplified by Hannah 1 Sam. 1:1-2:10.**1. Note the Main Points in these verses . . . (Seven areas identified):**

- (a) Detested, Barren and Emotionally Overwhelmed 1 Sam. 1:1-8.
- (b) Desperate, yes! But Took It to God in Prayer 1 Sam. 1:9-11.
- (c) Deep Desire of Her Heart Misunderstood/Explained 1 Sam. 1:12-16.
- (d) Delight Because of Anticipated Favor! 1 Sam. 1:17-18.
- (e) Divine Intervention! Victory Realized! 1 Sam. 1:19-20.
- (f) Devoted Wholeheartedly to Her Commitment 1 Sam. 1:21-28.
- (g) Declaration of Thanksgiving!! 1 Sam. 2:1-10.

2. One Outstanding Characteristic of Hannah: She Utilized . . . The Power of Her Spoken Blessings. At first mentally but verbally before God!!

- (a) Hannah had heaviness in her heart but she poured out her soul to God (1 Sam. 1:1-2:10; etc.). **The Power of The Spoken Blessings** flowed from her life and was saturated with sincere actions and deep passionate intercession.

Time wouldn't allow for details but note:

- (1) **Note the depth and passion of her heart and her commitment in honoring God.** She was not asking for selfish reasons but to the glory of God (see James 4:2-3). The blessings she sought was to God's glory and blessing that would flow to others (1 Sam. 1:11).

- Hannah showed gratitude, love and devotion to the LORD by her willingness to dedicate her son to the work of the LORD!
- Christian parents today may likewise express their commitment to God and His kingdom by giving their sons and daughters to the ministry or to the work of missions even in other lands.
- **"The Power of The Spoken Blessings" must be demonstrated in positive actions to the glory of God, touching other lives!!**

- (2) We wouldn't have time for details, but we have seen a powerful demonstration of fervent and prevailing prayer (James 5:16b) as seen 1 Sam. 1:1-2:10), example: verse 15 (1 Sam. 1), Hannah's response to Eli's comment : **"But Hannah answered and said, 'No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit, I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. . . .'" (1 Sam. 1:15 NKJV)**

- (b) Hannah's passionate prayer touched the very heart of God, who not only blessed her with the son she desired but he was a son who God used to bring tremendous blessings to the nation of Israel. (Read 1 Samuel chapters 1 to chapter 28; Jer. 15:1; Heb. 11:32; etc.). **Indeed, this is a demonstration of: "The Power of Spoken Blessings" . . . note also 1 Sam. 1:17-18.**

- (1) Hannah's barrenness was used to humiliate her but God delivered her! Notice that her rejoicing is in the LORD not in Samuel; in other words, she praised the Giver as being more important than the gift (1 Sam. 2:1-10).

- (2) **“My horn is lifted up”** (1 Sam. 2:1): this is an expression that refers to the renewal of strength; her worth, her dignity and rightful place as a fruitful wife who have been restored (**NOTE also 1 Sam. 2:18-21 . . . blessed with other children!!**).
- (3) **See 1 Sam. 2:3-5:** Hannah’s prayer takes a more public dimension, allowing others to consider her words and join in with her.
- (4) **This entire hymn** (1 Sam. 2:1-10) is similar to “Mary’s Song of Praise” (“The Magnificat”), in Luke 1:46-55. **Both emphasize God as Champion of the forsaken, the downtrodden, the lowly, the little people of the world.**
- (c) **As noted, before: Spoken blessings is an excellent way to intercede for others:** Hannah prayed for a son (1 Sam. 1:11); God blessed her first with Samuel (Other children came later 1 Sam. 2:20-21). This account is a primary example of “The Power of The Spoken Blessings!”
- (1) Samuel brought back integrity to the priest’s office! He was just, righteous and fair (1 Sam. 12:1-5). Everything he had done, he did it for God and the people.
- (2) Samuel is spoken of and remembered for so many things: he was known as a prophet and a judge over Israel; Samuel was instrumental in the establishment of Israel’s monarchy. God chose him to anoint and counsel Israel’s kings. Etc. Truly a powerful reminder of The Power of Spoken Blessings!
3. **Some Examples of Blessings Pronounced Upon Persons.** (Briefly Noted).
- (a) Isaac blessed Jacob (Gen. 27, NB Vv. 23-29; 28:1-7).
- (b) Jacob blessed Joseph’s sons (Gen. 48:8-20).
- (c) Jacob blessed His sons (Gen. 49:1-28).
- (d) Joshua blessed Caleb (Josh. 14, NB v. 13)
- (e) Joshua blessed the Eastern Tribes (Reubenites, Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh) (Josh 22, NB Vv. 1, 6).
- (f) David acknowledged his endorsement of Solomon as king of Israel and the prophets and priests minister as was necessary (1 Kings 1, NB Vv. 32-40).
- (g) King Solomon blessed the people of Israel (1 Kings 8:14).
4. **Beloved, God has blessed us so we can bless others!**
- (a) In Gen. 12:2-3, note carefully the areas related to the blessings that God promised to Abraham; wherein he was covered. (**See Gen. 12:2-3**).
- (1) I will make you a great nation (v. 2a).
- (2) I will bless you (v. 2b).
- (3) I will make your name great (v. 2c).
- (4) You shall be a blessing (v. 2d).
- (5) I will bless those who bless you (v. 3a).
- (6) I will curse those who curse you (v. 3b).
- (7) In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed (v. 3b).

- (b) One of the questions that we frequently ask: “How many of our precious children are benefiting from ‘The Power of the Spoken Blessings?’” Time wouldn’t be available for more details, but the facts of what we see daily are not concealed; these negatives are alarming, and the fact is while our methods have and do need to be change with the times, our message must remain unchanged!! Christ is still able to bring the victory!!
- (1) Surveys conducted in regards to “**Major Issues Challenging Our Teens in the United State of America**” presented some facts of great concern . . . some of the findings are:
- Anxiety and depression.
 - Serious mental stress.
 - Alcohol and drugs.
 - Bullying and cyberbullying.
 - Gangs.
 - Peer pressure.
 - Poverty.
 - Illicit sexual activities
 - Teen age pregnancy.
 - Homosexuality.
 - Obesity.
 - Academic problems.
 - Etc.
- (2) The Emergency signals have been activated for years now! God be praised for those, youths and others, who are genuinely saved but there are far too many who need to be rescued! To be delivered by the power of the Almighty God!! In reality, the great spiritual need is not limited to our children (young or old) but the need is there among all age group and sadly but true even among many who profess to be Christians (**it is one thing to know about God and yet it is another thing to know God personally and intimately walking faithful in His perfect will**). The Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) must include ALL AGE GROUPS and ALL PEOPLE!

We need to get in high gear and be fully motivated by this thought in regards to “**The Power of The Spoken Blessings**” this is a call to ***“Rescue the perishing and cared for the dying. Including those within our families and those within our churches.” These thoughts are consistently echoed in our hearts by the blessed Holy Spirit!!!***

GOD NEED MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL AGES TO STAND IN THE GAP! AND REACH OUT IN LOVE AND PASSION JUST LIKE HANNAH CRIED OUT TO GOD AND SAW SUCH TREMENDOUS BREAK THROUGH FOR THE NATION OF ISRAEL THROUGH SAMUEL!! AND INDEED, OTHERS AS WELL WERE FULLY ENGAGED!!

- We have the opportunity to speak good over others, with that which fill their minds and hearts with that which are true pure and holy. Spending time with them is cohesive, truly binding and conveys love, care and compassion to the glory of God.
- The following two quotes were noted in an article I read: **(Primary focus in these quotes are upon our children)**
 - *“In this battle for our children’s identity we can give them the foundation of truth they need to combat the flaming arrows coming at them each day!”*
 - *“Blessings for children are most effective when given on a regular basis—we don’t have to wait for lofty spiritual moments.”*
- The Bible gives Scriptural guidelines for declaring blessings over our children. Note the following:
 - For God’s Favor, Protection and Peace (Num. 6:24-26).
 - To Grow in the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
 - To Root Their Identity in Christ (1 Peter 2:9).
 - To Live Courageously (Josh. 1:9).

(This is a rather short list due to time but I have a listing of 37 pointer that can be obtained upon request ... use my email or cell phone ... Email: kingsleyewright@yahoo.com; Cell: 609-571-8468).
- I am also calling your attention to **Eph. 3:14-21 . . . note carefully the “doxology” in verses 20-21.**

C. End of Time Requires God’s Mighty Outpouring Matt. 24, NB Vv. 12-14

Introduction

It should be noted that we will not be able to discuss the select verses (Matt. 24:12-14), in details as time is not available.

Matt. 24:3-25:46 records “The Olivet Discourse.” Our brief discussion focuses on Matt. 24:12-14.

We are continuing our emphasis on **“The Power of The Spoken Blessings”** by briefly discussing the verses selected, with the goal of briefly discussing the necessity of our role in touching others with the power of God through the spoken words, during these last and closing days. The lamentable conditions expected in the latter days should not distract us from our duty (Matt. 24:1-45; Mark 13:1-23; Luke 21:5-24; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; etc.). **Despite what will and is happening the church has the answer and we need to reach out to a troubled world!!**

We must always remember that the **“Spoken Blessings”** can bring about healing to the aching hurting, hopeless souls. We speak to them that which is wholesome and uplifting in comparison to that which invades them by the world’s conditions.

Indeed. Beloved, **“The Power of Spoken Blessings”**: Releases the captives; **revives** that which is fading, withering, etc.; **restores** that which deteriorates, in a ruined condition, **renews** the downtrodden, the abused, etc. and the helpless; **resource** the needed supplies to enhance the necessary essentials for perseverance, **revelation** given as to God’s Word, Will and Way and the endowment needed to be His effective ministers of the Good News!!

In the general introduction, I listed some things (*not a comprehensive listing*) that we need to have in place, in order for us to maintain the effectiveness of **“The Power of The Spoken Blessings.”** At this time, I am repeating that list and **briefly** comment on each:

- (a) **Introspection of self**: We must examine ourselves and with God’s help daily pursue righteousness and true holiness (2 Cor. 13:5-7; Eph. 4:23-24; 1 Peter. 1:15-16; etc.
- (b) **Interconnection With God**: This is mandatory; after all power comes from God (Psa. 62 and 63, etc.) and our efforts on being His ambassadors are not dependent on human ability but His continued enabling (Zech. 4:6; etc.).
- (c) **Interceding Unceasingly**: Intercession was briefly referred to earlier (for example in reference to Hannah, etc.). I also noted that “The Power of The Spoken Blessings” is an excellent way to intercede for others (Col. 1:9; 1 Tim. 2:1, etc.)
- (d) **Intervention as God Leads**: Countries conduct unjustified military intervention in a neighboring country and beloved believers, we have a right to intervene and continue this spiritual warfare in every nation of the world (2 Tim. 3:16; Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Acts 1:9-11; Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Cor. 10:4-5; etc., etc.).
- (e) **Intentionally Have a Made-Up Mind!!**: We must make up our minds to be sincerely led by God and be wholly committed to Him. Caleb was wholeheartedly committed to God all the days of his life we must be likewise minded (Num. 13:28-14:9; Josh. 14:6-15; 1 Kings 8:61; Acts 2:42; Phil. 3:13; Col. 3:23-24; etc.).

1. **Cold. Compromising, Corrupted** (Matt. 24:12)

Here we will see “Defection” or in other words “Apostasy.”

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” (Matt. 24:12 NKJV).

The Message Bible:

*“... the overwhelming spread of evil will do them in—**nothing left of their love but a mound of ashes.**” (Matt. 24:12) (Emphasis mine).*

- (a) Lawlessness becomes rampant and accepted (Matt. 2:12a).

“And because lawlessness will abound . . .” (24:12a NKJV).

- (1) It is quite obvious what is being communicated in this verse (Matt. 24:12a).

However, let’s briefly define **“iniquity”** (KJV) . . . **“lawlessness”** other translations.

- General definition

➤ **“iniquity”**: something unjust or wicked. That which is immoral, grossly unfair behavior. Also, complete injustice or wickedness; etc.

- **“lawlessness”**: “state of disorder due to disregard of the law.
 - The Greek usage for **“iniquity”**:
 - The Greek word from which we get **“iniquity”** means: wickedness, transgress the law . . . unrighteousness.
It is lawlessness, violation of the law . . . referring to Divine law.
 - By implication, therefore the Greek word (which is **“anomia”**) refers to sin, iniquity, unrighteousness (Matt. 23:28; 24:12; Rom. 4:7; 6:19; etc.).
- (2) Beloved, iniquity is lawlessness, wickedness, unrighteousness, transgression of the law . . . the law of God!!
- It is taking license (certification, documentation) with the law and righteousness, doing what one wants with morality and discipline. Yet there is no covering for any transgressions (John 15:22).
 - The iniquity factor has always been present (since The Fall ... Gen. 3), but periodically it seems to fill-up and overflow.
- (3) Our text is referring to the fact that in the last days there will be an incredible increase in immorality, shamelessness, rebellion against God and an abandoning of moral standards God in His Word specifically told us ... **note two accounts briefly listed:**
- The last days will be as it was in **“the days of Noah”** (The Antediluvian World) (Matt. 24:37-39; Gen. 6, NB Vv. 1-13).
 - Note also, the Word of God also refers to **“the days of Lot”** (Luke 17:28-37; Gen. 18:16-33, NB Vv. 16-22).
 - Beloved, evil will run rampant in these last days (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-8; 2 Tim. 4:1-8, NB Vv. 3-4; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; etc.).
 - The emphasis at this time is based on Matthew 24:12-14, however, even so, I trust that you will see the imperativeness that we exercise **“The Power of The Spoken Blessings.”** The needs are obvious and people must be helped to the glory of God!! **Let us speak the words of healing, hope and heavenly anticipation for the whosoever will accept!!**
- (b) Love of **many** diminished and become worthless!
*“And because lawlessness will abound, **the love of many will grow cold.**”* (Matt. 24:12 NKJV) (Emphasis mine).
- (1) The Laodicean church (Rev. 3:14-22) is a prime example and has connected to it many lessons to be learnt.
(Only A BRIEF COMMENT). (Also note: This church represents the last church age and the period in which we live) . . . the Laodicean church had become lukewarm (Rev. 3:15-16) and as a result they were regarded as being distasteful and repugnant. The warning was given to this church to **“repent”** (Rev. 3:19) and they were challenged to get fired-up or face God’s judgment (Rev. 3:18-22).

- (2) Unfortunately, in the last days, many will not only become lukewarm but ice-cold, turning their backs on God!!

Note again the Message Bible Matt. 24:12b

“... the overwhelming evil will do them in—**nothing left of their love but a mound of ashes.**” (emphasis mine)

We can! We must, speak words of healing! Rescue the perishing, care for the dying!!

- (3) There are several factors that can dampen a person’s love for God and these can be greatly intensified toward the end of the world.

Note a few summarized thoughts as to things that can dampen a person’s love for God ... with limited comments:

- **Individualistic attitude and worldly minded.**
 - With false teaching and loose morals comes a particular destructive disease—the loss of true love for God and others.
 - Sin cools your love for God and for others by turning your focus on yourself. You cannot truly love if you think only of yourself!
 - Men seek what they want and what the world offers instead of sacrificing and serving. They just choose to satisfy their own desires and worldly urges instead of seeking diligently after God.
- **Isolation and dissension: *Both discourage, dishearten, and cause confusion and desire to flee.***
 - Many just cool off and back away, desiring to have no part of anything that is divisive.
 - Even if the truth is under attack some will withdraw rather than take a stand for the truth.
- **Initial enthusiasm but insufficient depth: *The Parable of the Soil (Matt. 13:1-9; 18-23), we observe the “Stony Heart” in Vv. 5-6, 20-21. Observe, where the heart is shallow, there is no strength to overcome difficulties.***
 - These are those who have received the Word enthusiastically but there is no depth to their commitment. Unfortunately, too many see the church as a means of entertainment and chose a so-called Christian life base of external enthusiasm and not an encounter with God.
 - Unless a person truly believes and trusts in Christ, whatever affection he has is soon dampened when he is questioned and opposed.
 - Beloved, only a sincere faith, loyal commitment and strong persuasion, etc. in God’s righteousness that will enable anyone to stand up even when he is ridiculed, persecuted, etc.
- **Ignorance and weak faith:**

Some go through a dampening of spirit and affection simply because they cannot understand why God would let the go through such an experience.

- **Immorality and lawlessness:**

Immorality is the outcome of lawlessness. As we review the four preceding pointers, we have seen the necessity to consistently be instruments in God's hands in touching lives through **"The Power of The Spoken Blessings!"**

2. **Committed, Steadfast and Secured** (Matt. 24:13).

Here we notice "Determination"—the will to "Endure"! (ENDURANCE!!)

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved." (24:13 NKJV)

(a) Briefly define **"saved."**

Variety of definitions are made—I am noting a few synonyms and a brief explanation . . . source: "Strong's Greek Dictionary"

(1) Some synonyms: deliver. Heal, preserve, do well, be whole, etc.

(2) Based on the Greek, **"saved"** as it relates to salvation (one definition used) **refers to:** *salvation from eternal death, sin, and the punishment and misery.*

(3) *"The participle is used substantively to refer to those being saved, those who have obtained salvation through Christ and kept by Him* (Luke 13:23; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 1:18; etc.).

(4) Beloved, the **"saved"** (Matt. 24:13) . . . we can fairly say that they are **"The Redeemed of the Lord!"** (Isa; 62:12; Psa. 107:2; see also Isa. 35:9; 51:11).

(b) Best way for us to understand Matthew 24:13

(1) Matt. 24:13, is best understood by understanding verses 9-14, there we observe for example: Suffering for Christ; Saints Hated; Apostasy; False Prophets; etc.

(2) The implication here in verse 13, is that those who stand firm (Phil. 1:27) to the end are the few who decided to travel on and stay on the **"narrow way"** (Matt. 7:14).

(3) These are those who endured the opposition, they are those who are the opposite of those who became **"cold"** (Matt. 24:12); they are those who by the mercy and grace of God remain steadfast, unmovable and abounding in Christ (1 Cor. 15:58).

These noted as "saved" are those who will reap because they remained tenacious and Christ focus, keep reaching forth unto to the things which were before, in Jesus Christ (Phill. 3:13-14); knowing they would eventually reap if they refuse to give up (Gal. 6:9-10).

(4) The believer can find great encouragement to endure as recorded in the Word of God! See for example: The First Epistle of Peter and other relevant passages. See also Rom. 8:28-39; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Phil. 1:29; Heb. 12:3; James 1:2-4; etc.

- **Rom. 8:18 LASB**

"Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will reveal to us later"

- **1 Cor. 2:9 NRSV**

“But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor human heart conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.’”

3. **Christ Universally Declared** (Matt. 24:14)

Here we observe the ministry of “Discipling” fulfilling Christ’s mandate (Matt. 28:19-20; etc.) . . . “Evangelizing the World!”

Important to remember this statement:

“The Power of The Spoken Blessings”: We are hereby referring to the word spoken for good that carries spiritual power and authority, and that sets in motion something that will probably go on from generation to generation!!

The gospel of Jesus Christ will accomplish such objective from generation to generation (Psa. 22:30; Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:18; Heb. 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; etc.).

Our Current Study Text Matt. 24:14

“And this great gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matt. 24:14 NKJV).

Jesus said that before He returns, the “Good News” about the kingdom (the message of salvation) would be preached throughout the world. This was the disciples’ mission—and it is ours today! **Jesus talked about the end times and final judgment to show His followers the urgency of spreading the “Good News” of salvation to everyone!**

(a) Gospel of the kingdom—it’s declaration! (Matt. 24:14a)

“And this great gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, . . . ”(24:14a NKJV)

Please note some highlighted pointers

(1) Christ’s gospel declares the kingdom of God.

- The kingdom of God is the divine reign and authority of God over all, justice, peace and harmony. Therefore, we are referring to that which is spiritual and eternal (Matt. 19:23-24; Eph. 1:3, 18-23; Col. 1:3; etc.).
- The kingdom of God is offered to the world in the person of Jesus Christ (John 3:16; 14:6; etc.).
- The kingdom of God can be experienced only by the new birth (John 3:3; Titus 3:5).

(2) Christ’s gospel is unstoppable!!

NOTE: **“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached . . .”** (v. 14).

- No amount of trouble and failures can stop it from being preached.

- Absolutely, nothing can stop the gospel, not severe persecution (Matt. 24:9); nor terrible apostasy (24:10); nor many false teachers (24:11); nor multiplied lawlessness (24:12); nor the love of many waxing cold (v. 12). No, beloved! The church keeps moving on!!

(3) **Christ's gospel is triumphant**

NOTE: ***"The gospel shall be preached in all the world"*** (v. 14).

- Remarkable, in just a brief length of time during the first century, the gospel was evidently carried to all parts of the known world (Rom. 10:18; Col. 1:6, 23).
- Christ's words point towards world evangelism, towards the end of the world (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20).

(4) **Christ's gospel is a witness.**

"And this gospel . . . will be preached as a witness" (v. 14)

The gospel as a witness means two things:

- The gospel is a witness proclaiming the truth and will of God for man.
 - It reveals the truth about man and his world.
 - It tells man where he comes from, why he is here, and where he is going; etc.
- The gospel is a witness, bearing record either for man or against man.
 - The gospel is called a record (see 1 John 5:11-12).
 - The gospel witness for a man, that he who believes is saved; or he who does not believe is damned (John 3:18;36).

(b) Grand finale . . . by God's timing (Matt. 24:14b)

" . . . and then the end will come" (24:14b NKJV)

- (1) The end will come when, and only when the gospel has been preached in all the world.
- (2) Only God will know when this task is accomplished according to His purpose (Matt. 24:36; Luke 12:40; 1 Thess.5:2; Rev. 16:15).
 - The believer's task is to faithfully and continually press on to with the "Good News" ***"to all nations"*** till the Lord returns and take His church to heaven (Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 19:13; 1 Thess. 4:13; etc.).
 - We are to hope that the Lord will return and that the end of the age will come in our generation (Luke 21:27; Acts 1:11; **Heb. 9:28; Rev. 22:20-21**). We must live in anticipation between the imminence of Christ's second coming and the fact that Christ has commanded us to keep spreading the gospel (Matt. 24:14; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)
- (3) Brief clarification. There is a factor that some have overlooked:
 - **Christ did not say the gospel will convert the world, but rather the gospel will be preached to the world before the end comes.**
 - **All the world will not respond to the gospel, but all the world will hear the gospel.**

*A thought that I have shared for many years and also widely known: **We may not take all men to Christ but we can take Christ to all men!!***

Closing Thought: “Special Blessings for The Beloved of the LORD!” Num. 6:22-27.”

Numbers 6:22-26 was used as a background reference to introduce our lesson. At this time, I am presenting a few highlighted pointers on the blessing noted in the text.

Our choice of words has more power than we realize. Our words can bring healing, help, hope, etc. or they can be demeaning, divisive, destructive, etc. May God help us to faithfully share the **“Good News!” Beloved, we have a ‘Story to Tell to The Nations’, it is a story of truth, mercy, peace and light!!”**

“The Aaronic Blessing” is a **“Priestly Blessing”**. It is a blessing given by God that Aaron and his sons were to speak over the people of Israel (Num. 6:22-27, NB Vv. 22-26).

“The Aaronic Blessing” is regarded as the most famous blessing in the Bible. God’s people treasure these words for they have been used in worship under the old covenant as well as the new. Unfortunately, because these words are so familiar, it is easy to miss their theological depth.

A blessing was (still is) one way of asking God’s Divine favor to rest upon the people. The ancient blessing noted in Numbers 6:22-27 (NB 24-26) helps us understand what a blessing was supposed to do.

Scholars vary as to the divisions found in Num. 6:24-26. Some present three main divisions, having each division covering each verse, that is verses 24, 25 and 26. For today’s brief study, I am presenting it by discussing five pointers also covering verses 24 to 26.

For the general presentation (covering verses 22-27) ,will be made available as God leads; I will be using the following three Main Points:

- A. Faithful/Obedient Servants Will be Blessed Num. 6:22-23**
- B. Favor of God for His Beloved Num. 6:24-26**
- C. Flaming Radiance of God’s Glory Num. 6: 27**

As it will be observed today’s presentation covers verses 24-26: **“Favor of God for His Beloved” Num. 6:24-26.**

As noted above this is a highlighted presentation.

1. **Protection Assured for God’s Servants** (Num. 6:24).
 - “The LORD bless you and keep you; . . .” (6:24 NKJV)*
 - (a) This is God’s promise of blessing and protection from evil and all adversarial situations that may confront their welfare.
 - (b) **The Amp. Bible Num. 6:24**
 - “The LORD bless you and watch, guard, and keep you.”*
 - (c) See also Gen. 28:15; Psa. 121, NB v. 4; 2 Tim. 1:12; etc.

2. **Pleased! Extremely Pleased to Bless His Servants!** (Num. 6:25a)
"The LORD make His face shine upon you . . ." (6:25a NKJV).
- (a) This pictures God's movement towards His people assuring them of His goodness; seeking them out with His favor, to pour out His goodness on them!
- (b) Barnes notes:
" . . . The 'face' of God imports not merely God's will in general, but His active and special regards. With the 'face' or 'eye of the LORD' accordingly connected alike the judicial visitation of the wicked (Psa. 34:16), and His mercies to the righteous (Psa. 4:6)."
3. **Patience (Mercy) Compassion and Kindness to His Faithful People** (Num. 6:25b).
" . . . And be gracious to you." (6:25b NKJV).
- (a) The statement refers to: *Be kind and beneficial (generous, liberal, bountiful, etc.) to you. This speaks of the effects in and on the soul, of clear shining upon it of the face of God . . . as He pours out mercy, compassion and constant care!!*
- (b) **Psa. 119:135 Amp. Bible**
"Make Your face shine [with pleasure] upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes. [Psa. 4:6]."
- (c) See also Psa. 31"16; 67:1; 80:3; etc.
4. **Personal Attention from the LORD** (Num. 6:26a)
"The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, . . ." (6:26a NKJV).
"The LORD lift up His [approving] countenance upon you . . ." (6:26a Amp. Bible)
- (a) The life in the Spirit Bible notes: (commenting on Num. 6:26a)
" . . . i.e., caring for and giving His blessings to them with heartfelt love (cf. Psa. 4:7-8; 33:18; 34:17)."
- (b) The essence of the lesson is: **May you know that you are seen, known, and loved by God and cared for by Him!!**
- (c) This clause (Num. 6:26a) seems to repeat the previous verse in a somewhat stronger form, as implying more personal and individual attention from the LORD!!
- (d) God controls this entire world which includes everything and everyone!! Oh yes, Beloved! How much He loves you and me!!! The song says "He knows My Name" and indeed He does and individually!!
"He Knows My Name" Partial quote:
 He knows my name
 Every step that I take
 Every move that I make
 Every tear that I cry
 He knows my name
 When I'm overwhelmed by pain
 And can't see the light of day
 I know I'll be fine

'Cause He knows my name.

5. **Peace – Wonderful Peace of God for All His People** (Num. 6:26b)

“ . . . and give you peace.” (6:26b NKJV).

(a) Indeed, Beloved! May He give you peace, a peace that passes all understanding, and guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus (Read Phil. 4:6-7).

(b) Beloved, God gives His people peace which includes peace with God and the peace of God! (See Psa. 119:165; Isa.26:3; Rom. 14:17; Col. 3:15; etc.).

(c) **John 14:27 NKJV**

“Peace, I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

The song: “The Blessing”

Partial quote (The song includes a lot of repetitions, so I am quoting some of the main verses);

The Lord bless you and keep you
 Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
 The Lord turn His face toward you
 And give you peace

Amen, amen, amen
 Amen, amen, amen

... ..

May His favor be upon you
 And a thousand generations
 And your family and your children
 And their children
 And their children, and their children

... ..

May His presence go before you
 And behind you, and beside you
 All around you, and within you
 He is with you, He is with you

In the morning. In the evening
 In your coming, and your going
 In your weeping, and rejoicing
 He is for you, He is for you