

The Blessing (Pt 3) - The Power of Possessing the Blessing

December 19, 2020

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/w6ngmvr/the-blessing-pt-2>

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliteration into the English alphabet. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

The Power of Possessing the Blessing

This transcript presents a sermon from Corner Fringe Ministries by Daniel Joseph, focusing on the Biblical concept of "the Blessing," specifically the *Birkat Kohanim* (Priestly Blessing). Daniel emphasizes the power and protection inherent in this blessing, asserting that it makes believers invincible against evil forces. To illustrate this, he examines the story of Balaam and Balak from the Book of Numbers, highlighting how God's blessing on Israel prevented Balaam from cursing them. The sermon also incorporates a testimony from former Satanist John Ramirez to demonstrate the real-world power of demonic forces and, by contrast, the superior protection of God's blessing. Ultimately, Daniel connects the blessing directly to Yeshua (Jesus), presenting Him as the source of all blessing, protection, and eternal life, concluding with the assertion that Jesus Himself prays for and commands His followers to seek this divine keeping from evil.

[Introductory Video—THE BLESSING]

THE LORD WILL BLESS YOU
THE LORD WILL KEEP YOU
AND THE LORD WILL MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON YOU

[Daniel Joseph]

Shabbat Shalom to everyone. Let's continue to look at the *Birkat Kohanim*. And really, what we've been doing for the last couple of weeks is we've been looking at this top portion, Y'varekheh Adonai v'yishmerekha (יְבָרֵכְךָ ה' וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ). The LORD bless you and keep you. Something we've talked about that we need to desire, something that even we talked about last week, that we really need to believe.



This week, I want to talk about these terms—working together, the LORD blessing you and keeping you, and how this should be impacting your life—and give you some real perspective so that you can understand the power. You need to understand the power that you will have if you possess this blessing: the implications, the benefits, and the beauty of it.

We're going to do that today, and how we're going to do that, or at least begin to do this, is by going to the 22nd chapter of the Book of Numbers and looking at the story of Balaam and Balak. If we're going to talk about the blessing, I can't not go to the story of Balaam and Balak. This is a story I can tell you that I cover at least a couple times every year, at some point, because there's always something I'm drawing from it. This is one of those stories in the Torah you can't get away from. And more now than ever, I'm going to tell you, it is tangible; this is a tangible story. There are so many things within the story that we need to possess, that we need to appreciate, but especially in the context of what we read in regard to the LORD blessing and keeping us.

That being said, the story actually begins with Balak, the king of Moab. He calls Balaam to come to him. Now, the backdrop here is interesting. The scholars estimate Balaam is some 400 miles away, and at that time, he is literally on the other end of the earth. But Balaam's the only guy that can solve Balak's problem. The problem is, he's got Israel coming in, he sees this nation coming, and he is terrified. He knows that in the flesh, Balak is looking at his army. Here's my army, here's Israel. I don't stand a chance. They're going to take us out; it is hopeless.

Now pay close attention because Balak does something. Balak knows in the flesh he doesn't stand a chance, so he goes into the spirit realm. He calls a witch. He calls a warlock. He calls a diviner. He calls Balaam the diviner. Now Balaam is an interesting character because he's one of the guys, scripturally speaking, that is attested to outside of the Bible. In fact, it's one of the oldest texts that we have. The oldest inscription that we have today is known as the "Deir 'Alla inscription." It's absolutely fascinating because all it talks about is Balaam, the son of Beor, but it is not a Christian text, it's not a Hebrew text, it's not a Jewish text, it's not anything like that; this is a secular text.

Within the Deir 'Alla text, it talks about how Balaam is this great prophet of the gods, and I say "gods," little "g," plural. All these gods, like Ishtar and Shagar, are mentioned. El, all these different gods are mentioned. And so, this guy, before we even continue in the story, one thing that you need to appreciate about him is that Balaam is the one guy in the world at the time that Balak sees who can solve his problem because of his power. He knows that whoever Balaam blesses is blessed, and whoever he curses, when he speaks a curse over a human being, that person is plagued. They receive a plague. There is a difference, people, between wannabes and people who walk in power. This includes both sides of the aisle.

I've seen Christians, many Christians claiming to be Christians, who have absolutely zero power. They have zero Spirit, Holy Spirit, in their lives. They don't walk in the power of God; they don't know it. Those are wannabes; they're pretenders; they're imposters. The dark side has the same thing. The dark side has a bunch of wannabes. They want to flip a bunch of tarot cards. Some of these people want to flip tarot cards so that they can get paid; they want money. Yet, I will tell you, there are witches and warlocks that operate in scary power, and these people are devoted to doing what Balaam wants done, or what Balak is calling to have done, to start cursing, putting curses on God's people.

You have got to appreciate what this story is telling us and the context of Balaam and who he is to really walk away knowing that you understand the power of God's blessing. So, here's the deal: Balak calls Balaam, telling him, Come and curse these people. I know whoever you curse, they're going to be cursed, so come to me and do this. He sends delegates, and he tells the delegates, "Hold off; stay here for the night; I'm going to see what the LORD says." Let's see what God says about this. Well, God comes to him in the night, and this is what we read: —Numbers 22:12— **And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people ...**

Now, let me preface what I'm about to say with this: I am not here to glorify, to magnify, or to elevate in any way Balaam, the son of Beor, in his great power. But what I am here to do is to show you that the powers of darkness are real and they are a real threat; there is real power, and this is proof positive. Balak has already told us; he already knows this guy. When he curses someone, I don't care how far across the world he is; I need him to come here because he operates in power. He'll curse them, and they're cursed. You want proof of that? Read the screen; God Himself is intervening.

Think about this for a second. If this guy is irrelevant, if this guy is a wannabe, if he's a pretender, trust me when I say, God has no business getting involved. He's not going to get involved; it doesn't matter, especially to a prophet that is a prophet to many gods. You really think God's going to get involved in this guy's life? No, God is getting involved because the threat is real and He is the defender of Israel. And now God's coming to the scene, so this tells us so much. And His commission here is, "Don't you dare, don't you dare curse My people." My question is, why? Why not? He tells us—Numbers 22:12— **... for they are blessed.**

Does this put this priestly blessing into context for you? This guy is filled with all this power to come and start cursing people, and they start getting cursed. He can't do anything because they have the blessing. See, that means to me, when I start reading the *Birkat Kohanim*, the Priestly Blessing, that the LORD will bless you and keep you; that is power. This is at a whole different level. And you know, if you want motivation to yearn for this, this is it. This will give you some serious motivation.

To put this into further perspective, I want to play just a brief clip. How many of you have heard of John Ramirez? I want to play a brief clip of John Ramirez because it's going to put Balaam into context so you can appreciate this situation and this story of what Balak is seeking to do. Check this out.

[John Ramirez]

I will go to demon church from seven in the evening to five in the morning, being trained by witches and warlocks, colors, principle, rights. Who owns this region? Who's in this region? Who's running this principality? What principality name is this? How to channel powers.

At the age of 13 years old, I was astral projecting my body. I would leave my body home and go to regions and go into the spirit realm, curse dark side, curse neighborhoods, curse, put spirit of prostitution, spirit of drugs into the neighborhood, homosexual spirits here, demonic spirit here, spirit of murder, spirit of suicide. I know how to channel all those spirits into the neighborhood.



At the age of 15, 16 years old, I was going into hospitals and putting death in ICU, death in one room so this person can die because I wanted to be promoted with the devil to move up the ranks, to be the biggest devil worshiper in New York City.

The devil became my daddy. He replaced my dad because I prayed and I said, you kill my dad. At the age of 33 years old, my dad got shot in a nightclub in the face for a woman that wasn't even his when he had to go up and home and the devil took him out. The devil said, I replaced the old to keep the new and the devil became my daddy. I moved up the ranks from devil worshiping. I moved up the ranks. I moved up with principalities and demons to the point that I was able to sit with the devil like I'm sitting with you today, and the devil manifested himself in human form. He or the presence will come into the room, and I will speak to the devil all night long, and he will give me assignments.

I will go to five clubs or five lounges a night to look for people to recruit to the dark side. I will tell people their fortune. I will tell people their lives. I will tell people things that they did, things that was going to happen to them, that they didn't have no clue who I was. They didn't know who I was. I just had the demonic powers.

I had a taste for blood. I would kill animals and drink the blood every week. If I didn't have money, if I didn't have time to buy an animal, I would cut myself and drink my own blood.

The ring of the people that I was with, that was in this demonic world, doctors, lawyers, principals, judges, police officers, they were all into witchcraft. There was all, even singers today, that are very well known. I put them. I would move principalities on that region to control demons on the ground, to operate the church, to cut down the church, to cut down the growth of the church, to cut down the opportunity for people to get saved.

If I tell you I was going to kill you in 30 days, you prepare your funeral; you was going to die in 30 days. If you, I don't care who you were. I don't care who you knew. I don't care what you call yourself. If you were Catholic and you said you were a Christian and you said you were a believer, I was going to kill you unless you had a real relationship with Jesus Christ.

So, when the lady came to my house, I said, I'm going to charge you \$10,000 I told her to kill the lady. She said, "Sure." I'll tell you what, I know you; you've been good to me; I go to your house parties. Give me \$7,000; I'll give you 30% off. I said, I'll kill her; give me 30% ...; I take 30% off the 10. Give me, give me \$7,000. So, when the lady was going to leave my house, she said, By the way, she's a Christian. She said, The lady's a Christian. I said, I'll kill her for free. I said, I don't need the money. I said, I'm going to kill her for free. I'm going to teach these Christians a lesson that they'll never ... They're going to learn. I'll kill her for free. I told her, I don't want your money. I'll kill her for free.

So, I did the voodoo thing. I did the witchcraft thing. And 21 days went by; the lady didn't die. A month went by; the lady didn't die. And I was like, wow, you know, what's going on? I mean, my reputation's on the line. So, I called the devil. I called the demons. I was signed. I increased the witchcraft. I increased the witchcraft; I doubled the witchcraft on her so she can die like overnight. Nothing was going on. Nothing was going on.

I was home at night, and the devil shows up, and I feel the presence of the devil comes into my house. And then the devil told me, We have to abort the plan with the lady that you want to kill. And I said,

Why would we want to abort the plan? My reputation's on the line. I'm a witch. I'm a warlock. If I don't kill the lady, they're going to think that I don't have any powers. The devil said, You don't understand. The God that she serves said, Don't; leave her alone. Don't touch her. And I said, Who's this God? She said, The God that she serves.

So, I was so angry; I was so ... Saying no, let's get one more week; let's kill her. And he said, No, the God that she serves said, Leave her alone. From the witchcraft that I did to the lady, she should have been dead in less than 21 days.

And I was the third person that received that book. And I would take symbols from that book and do witchcraft to people and put people in and make people lose their minds. I put witchcraft on people; make people get diseases out of nowhere. I put witchcraft on people, make people get leprosy, put witchcraft on people, make people get cancer. I mean, I did witchcraft to people. I gave people miscarriages. I gave people abortions. I gave people; I put people in hospital for surgeries that didn't even have to go surgeries. I did witchcraft so people can lose their minds. I put spirits of bipolar, schizophrenia. I put spirits of disease on people. I put suicide spirits on people.

I'd be up all night long praying and talking to the devil when Christians can't even go to church for one hour, when Christians can't even pray for one hour. The spirit realm is more real than the natural realm. And we fail to see that.

And whatever is not covered with Jesus Christ is an easy target to bring down. I remember the time that Nicky Cruz came to; Nicky Cruz group came into my neighborhood, and it's called Truce. They would come in and do drive-bys in my neighborhood. They would do like worship, and then they would preach a word and go to another corner and do the same thing. And I came after this group to try to put them, to try to bring them down, this group.

And they were young kids. They were like 18, 17, 16, 20. I mean, so I said, How did they play this junk, this filthy music in my neighborhood, Today, we call worship. It's filthy music in my neighborhood. I'm going to go after them. I'm going to destroy these kids. So, when I went up to, when I went up to, uh, when I, when I went up to, uh, where they were at, there was a wall of fire around them. I couldn't penetrate and touch them. And it was something pushed me back. Every time I tried to throw demonic forces in the end, there was something that would just push me back. And I was unable to touch these kids. And I said, There was something here. It's not right. Something is not falling into place. So, I walked away, and I left them alone. I didn't want to deal with them. I said, Okay, you know, they won; they won the first round. [Congregation applause]

[Daniel Joseph]

That's the real world. That's the world we're talking about right now with Balaam and Balak. And that's the whole intent. This is where Balaam is; he has these powers, and it's amazing. As you continue, we're just going to jump ahead quickly, and we'll go back. But listen to what Numbers 23:23 says: **"For there is no sorcery against Jacob, Nor any divination against Israel..."** It can't happen. It doesn't matter how much witchcraft there is; it doesn't matter how much. If you increase the witchcraft more and more and more, it isn't going to do any good if you have the blessing. If you have the blessing, it isn't going to matter.

I just watched this; it was probably a month ago. Washington, DC, had a gathering of Christians that came together to do a good thing and to pray for repentance and to pray for this nation, and a Satanist

dumped a bucket of blood on a pastor. The whole concept of this is to curse him. Here's the deal: he's already covered in the blood; it isn't going to do any good. He's already been covered in the blood, but it doesn't mean they're not going to try. Do you understand how real this is? You listen to this ex-Satanist, and there are several that I could bring to the table. Well, I've gotten their testimonies over the years of ex-Satanists, and there is no better thing for them to do than to come against those who call upon the name of Jesus.

You're a target and I'm going to tell you right now; you will be sniffed out. You will be sniffed out whether you truly have a relationship with the LORD or not, because if you don't, it's going to be open season on you; that's what's going to happen. So, you want some motivation to possess this blessing. You need to get motivated because of the power of darkness in this country. We're seeing a move at a level we've never seen before in the history of this nation right now.

It continues on and says in this passage: —Numbers 23:23— **... It now must be said of Jacob and of Israel, 'Oh, what God has done!'** And I love this because it's not Israel out here puffing up its chest. This is not the comment. Look at how powerful we are in comparison to everyone else. This isn't what's happening. All the glory, all the honor gets focused where it should be; look at what God has done. God has done this for us. What has God done?

What has God done? Peter tells us in Acts 3:25-26—²⁵ **You are sons of the *nevi'im* (נְבִיאִים), prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'** ²⁶ **To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you.** Who is the blessing? It is Yeshua. How do we obtain the blessing? It is Yeshua. That's why I don't care how many ways you look at the *Birkat Kohanim*; you can look at it from every angle on top and on bottom. You can peel layer after layer back, and all you're going to find is Yeshua, the power of Yeshua, the glory of Yeshua, and that the blessing comes through Him. And He is the one who will defend us. He is that one, and you're going to see that as we continue on in our story—in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

Now, here we're at right now with Balak sending messengers to Balaam, "Hey, come and curse Israel for us." Balaam doesn't do it because God said, "They're blessed. You can't curse them." Balak doesn't give up, and neither does the devil. Balak doesn't give up. What he does is he sends more messengers and more princes who are even more glorious in honor. Then he adds this: Balaam, whatever you want, it's yours; I will make it happen, just say it. Just come and curse these people. These people need to be cursed.

So, Balaam tells these new messengers who came back a second time the same thing he told the first messengers: stay here, and let me go see what the LORD is going to say. At which point Balaam goes to the LORD, and the LORD tells him something very specific, and I didn't put it up here, so forgive me, but you need to listen closely, because it makes a difference. God tells Balaam in Numbers 22:20— **"If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do."** Balaam, taking those words, the text reads literally in Numbers 22:21— **So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.** That's different than them coming to call him. Balaam didn't listen; he didn't listen.

It's just like, you know, somebody says something to you and you hear something else. This is the proverbial issue in marriage, right? My wife says something clear, but maybe I didn't hear it. Anyways,

this is the situation. So, Balaam saddles up his donkey, and he's going to Balak, the whole purpose of which is to curse Israel.

This is where we pick it up in Numbers 22:22— **Then God's anger was aroused because he went ...** I want you to understand the power of the blessing and the keeping of the LORD. When any principality, power, or man or woman rises up to go with the mission to come and curse Yeshua's servants, notice the response. The response is, God is moved to wrath; He is angry.

I challenge you, mothers and mama bears, in here. If somebody comes against one of your children to harm them, you are going to go mama bear. There is going to be a problem. Fathers are going to get angry because some evil is going to be committed against their child. Why do we think it's different with the Most High God, with our Father in Heaven? When evil moves against us, you better believe He takes notice and He is angry.

Then it goes on and says this; it gets specific. —Numbers 22:22—**... and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him.** Not only is He angry, but that person who just moved against you to do evil has now made Yeshua his adversary. See, because the person that's being talked about in this story, this angel of the LORD, this is Yeshua. This is the same angel that Jacob would not let go unless He blessed him. This is the very same angel (Judges 13:19-21) that ascended literally in the sacrifice of Manoah and his wife, who were offering it to God; this is the angel. This is the angel that was actually leading Israel out of Egypt, and He brings them to the Red Sea. This is the angel that went around behind Israel and stood between Israel and the Egyptians so the Egyptian armies could not harm Israel. It is Yeshua.

I want to be very clear, it's a Christophany. We see this happening all over in the Torah and even outside the Torah where Christ makes this appearance. Who did Abraham have lunch with in Genesis Chapter 18? It was Yeshua. And just to put this to rest, as we continue and we look at this, you're going to see this unequivocally, all right?

So, we have Balaam finally making his way to Balak, and because the LORD has moved to stand in his way, things don't go well. He's on his donkey, making his way to Balak, and his donkey starts to act crazy. The donkey just veers off into a field, off the path. Now, keep in mind, this is not behavior that the donkey has ever displayed. So, Balaam is angry and beats his donkey. But here's the reality. The reason the donkey is acting crazy is because the angel of the LORD is standing against Balaam. Balaam's totally blind to it. Do you know that? Balaam doesn't see what is happening, but a donkey can see. When you want to talk about being humiliated, and this is the reality.

And so then again, the donkey gets back on the path, starts going down, but then at some point, it crushes Balaam's leg, because the donkey sees the angel again. And here's the deal: when the angel stands against you as an adversary, it's for war. This angel has a sword drawn, and the donkey knows if I just keep going, we're going to die. And so, a third time, he sees, but the donkey can't move this time. He can't move to the left or the right, so the donkey just drops down. And that's when Balaam absolutely loses it. He's frustrated; he beats his donkey, and then the LORD opens the donkey's mouth.

Balaam is conversing with the donkey. You would think at that point there's a red flag, right? [laughter] He starts conversing with the donkey. If I had a sword, I'd have killed you now. And the donkey responds, "Well, hold on a second. Have you ever known me to be disposed to do something like this; any of this stuff?" And his answer was no, at which time we read the following: —Numbers 22:31—

Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. Now, Belong's eyes are open to the spiritual realm.

Let me add something here. Again, the broader context for us today is about being tangible. Do you know this whole exchange between Balaam and Balak and between the angel of the LORD? All of this Israel has no clue what was going on. Something is happening behind the veil. The enemy is moving, wanting to curse Israel, and they see none of it. They're not aware of any of it. It's just like last week when we looked at Job. No clue that Satan is moving against Job, inciting the LORD.

Listen to me: every waking moment you can rest assured the enemy is scheming against you. He is scheming. He is moving against you, and you cannot afford to let go of Yeshua. You cannot afford it; you will be exposed the moment you let go. That's why Jacob wouldn't let go until he was blessed. The moment you let go, the host of hell is going to be on you like rabid dogs.

You may not see this thing. And this is the thing, you get caught up in your eyes of flesh, and everything's fine. It gives you a feeling of comfort that I can go ahead and do X, Y, and Z, even though it means compromising my faith; you can't do it.

Moving on to Numbers 22:32-33—³² And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. One of the primary reasons is you're going to curse My people. Are you serious? And going on, he says, ³³ The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live." This is the humiliation part. He's only alive because of a donkey, a dumb donkey that had more insight than he himself had.

Numbers 22:34-35—³⁴ And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back." Well, no kidding. The angel of the LORD with the sword drawn. [congregation laughing] A duh moment. ³⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men—oh, I like this—but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Now, here's the deal. The whole mission is Balak coming to call Balaam so that he can do what he has done before in his power, and that is to curse Israel. Only Yeshua has stepped in, and He has other plans. He's literally going to turn the curse into a blessing; that's what's going to happen. And that's how Yeshua works in our lives. Has not Yeshua redeemed us from the curse, right? When He steps in, we're redeemed from the curse. This is just an amazing story.

Moving on, Balaam reaches Balak, and he tells Balak, "Hey, Balak, you need to build seven altars. I want you to sacrifice a bull and a ram on each altar, all right? Stand by the altars; I will retreat to a secluded place, and I will see; I'll get instructions from the LORD, at which point we pick it up here. —Numbers 23:4— **And God met Balaam, and he said to Him, "I have prepared the seven altars, and I have offered on each altar a bull and a ram."**

Okay, so here's the deal: Balaam is updating the LORD on what's going on, but the reason I have this specific part highlighted, "**And God met Balaam**," is that when you go to the Targums, you find out exactly who Balaam is communicating with. This goes back to me telling you who the angel of the LORD is. This is established in Targum.

Check this out; this is what the Targum says: —TARGUM Numbers 23:4— **And the Word from before the Lord met Bileam.** Now again, the Word in the Targums is known as the *Memra* (ממרא). And in Hebrew, it would be *D'var* (דבר), and in Greek, it's *Logos* (λόγος); it's all the Word. So, when you look at the Targum, the fascinating thing about the Targums is that they personify *Memra*. They personify the Word. They don't just see it as a descriptor, as, you know, I'm speaking a word. No, they personify it as a person.

A good example is Genesis Chapter 28, Verses 20 and 21, when Jacob says, Hey, if the LORD my God brings me back to the land and gives me food to eat and clothes to put on, **then the LORD shall be my God.** That's how it reads in your Bibles. Go to the Targum, and Jacob says, Then the **Word of the LORD** will be my God. That's very different.

That is really fascinating when you consider John 1:1—**In the beginning was the Memra, the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** And then the Word, going down to John 1:14—**And the Word became flesh ...** The *Memra*, the *Logos*, the *D'var*; it was made flesh. See, this is inherent in the first century, recognizing something extremely Jewish, a Jewish concept, of the *Memra*, the Word. And so, we know the one coming in here, intercepting and defending Israel, is the *Mashiach* (משיח); it's the Messiah Yeshua.

Numbers 23:5-8—⁵ **Then the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, "Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak."** ⁶ **So he returned to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, he and all the princes of Moab.** ⁷ **And he took up his oracle and said: "Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram, From the mountains of the east. 'Come, curse Jacob for me, and come, denounce Israel!' "** ⁸ **"How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?"**

Oh, this gets better when you go to Targum again. This very passage in the Targum reads as follows: —TARGUM, Numbers 23:8— **How shall I curse, (while), oh, the Word of the Lord blesses them? And whom shall I diminish, when the Word of the Lord increases them?** All blessing comes from Yeshua, all power, all protection; He is the star. He's the star of the *Birkat Kohanim*, no matter how you look at it. And so, this is Him. His boots are on the ground. He always has been the defender of Israel—always.

Jumping ahead to Numbers 23:18-19, we're going to see Balaam lift up his oracle yet again. — ¹⁸ **Then he took up his oracle and said: "Rise up, Balak, and hear! Listen to me, son of Zippor! "** ¹⁹ **"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"**

Again, I remind you, when you look at the *Birkat Kohanim*, you have one of two decisions. You can either believe that it's true or not believe it. But take heed to what is said here; Has God not said that He **is not a man that He should lie**? So, when God says that He's going to bless you and keep you, do you believe it? Is it true in your life? Well, your decisions will bear that out, whether you believe it or not. **Has He said, and will not He do?** The LORD bless you and keep you. This is what we need, and I'm going to tell you right now, we need this in this generation. So, when the blessing of the LORD comes upon you, you become invincible, you become indestructible, and you become unbreakable, and this is what the church needs. We need the blessing; we need Yeshua.

Numbers 23:20—**Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.** You have this unbelievable, one of the most powerful men walking on planet Earth at the time, Balaam.

He could just speak curses and blessings over people, and it happens. A man of great power is coming and saying, "I can't do anything. I have no power in comparison to God. God has blessed." That's where their protection lay. Israel's protection was in the blessing. We need the blessing. I can't emphasize it enough. We need the blessing.

I love how Yeshua puts this in a picture frame in an amazing way. Listen to His words. He says in John 10:28-29—²⁸ "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone **snatch them out of My hand.** ²⁹ "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to **snatch them out of My Father's hand.** And to you I say, welcome to the blessing.

You know, when you understand the *Birkat Kohanim*, what it means to be blessed by God, it is Yeshua holding you; He is holding you. The Father is holding you in His arms with His hands. No one can take you out of His arms. No one can take you out of Yeshua's hands. Is that not a faith builder, a mountain-mover moment for you? This builds faith, this builds strength, and this builds confidence for you to be able to deal with what is coming. We need this. We need to understand the reality of this.

Look at what Paul says in Romans 8:35— **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?** I look at every one of these descriptors, and they're coming upon this nation right now. You will see tribulation, you will, and may already be seeing distress. There is persecution coming, famine is coming, nakedness, peril, and sword. And how does Paul start this out? Man, we need these words today: **"Who can separate you from the love?** Who's going to take you out of the hands of Yeshua, your defender?

And you say, Well, that doesn't sound like a blessing to me. You're talking about tribulation and persecution and the sword. That kind of seems the antithesis to blessing and keeping. I thought the LORD was supposed to keep me. Understand something; this is the problem. When you get one-dimensional Christianity, where Christians are only looking at what they hear the term blessing mean, they're thinking bigger car, bigger house, bigger bank account, and better clothes. Everything that's materialistic, that somehow now is, that's the blessing we're talking about. Yeshua says in Matthew 10:28, **And do not fear those who kill the body, the flesh, but cannot kill the soul ...** They can't take it; no one can take that. So, when we're reading the *Birkat Kohanim*, oh, it transcends just the physical; we're talking about eternal life. Do you understand that? That is critically important.

That is not to say that God doesn't bless with the physical because I know the food that I have that I ate this morning is a blessing from God. I know the heat that is in my house right now—it's cold out—is only due to God's mercy in His blessing. Yes, God blesses in the physical realm; there's no question about it. But the *Birkat Kohanim*, His blessing, Yeshua the Messiah, and what Yeshua died for is not simply for the physical realm or your physical body; it's for your soul. So, when He says, "I will bless you and I will keep you," we're talking eternal life. This transcends the physical realm—amazing.

Paul goes on in Romans 8:36-37—³⁶ **As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long;** How is that keeping? How is that a blessing? You have to understand it. **We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."** ³⁷ **Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** Paul is recognizing the love and the fact that Yeshua holds him in His hands. And the Father, he is in the Father's hands. He recognizes the love. It's a beautiful thing.

Romans 8:38-39—³⁸ **For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,** ³⁹ **nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing,**

shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our LORD. And this is exactly what Balaam is witnessing firsthand. When Yeshua comes out against him and says, You're not touching My children. You're not touching My elect. These are mine; you have no access to this.

So, when the demonic host of wickedness moves against you, when you have the blessing, when you have the Messiah Yeshua, they can double, triple, or quadruple; they can spend all the days fasting and praying to the devil to try to curse you, and it isn't going to matter because you have the blood of Yeshua. (Isaiah 54:17) **No weapon formed against you shall prosper**; it won't happen.

Let me jump to Psalms 3:6—I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongs to the LORD. **Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah.** Your blessing is upon **your** people. Now you ask, are you the LORD's people? Are you walking worthy of the gospel of the Messiah Yeshua?

Psalm 121:4-5—⁴ **Behold, He who keeps Israel**, He who keeps, okay, again, the *Birkat Kohanim*, He will bless you and keep you, and this is the same Hebrew word. In Hebrew it's *shamar* (שָׁמַר). The word means to keep, to guard, to protect, to preserve, and to defend. He who keeps Israel **shall neither slumber nor sleep.** ⁵ **The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand.** I like that the LORD neither slumbers nor sleeps, meaning no matter what time of day, no matter where you're at, He is aware.

If He has the number of your hairs counted, if He has your tears in a bottle, there's not a moment He is not with you. That's what it means when He says (Hebrews 13:5), "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**" He doesn't take time off. Now you need this because when you get in the valley of the shadow of death, and you get into that tribulation, the enemy's going to tell you, right at that moment, God is no longer with you. Oh, that's an opportune moment to absolutely take you out. Because he's coming after your faith, he's coming to destroy your faith so that you don't have it as you're facing these trials and tribulations, and now God doesn't love me. Your faith is getting ripped apart, and all your armor is coming off; you have no shield. He knows what he is doing. The adversary is far too clever.

Now we can go to Psalms 121:7— **The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.** It's the same Hebrew word; it's *shamar*. He will keep you. You have to trust Him when you're in the valley of the shadow of death. You have to trust in the *Birkat Kohanim*. You have to trust "**Has He said, and will He not do?**" Trust Him in those moments, for what we are going to see in this country is coming very soon. You have to trust Him. You have to trust in Him.

Isaiah 27:2-3—² **In that day sing to her, "A vineyard of red wine! ³ I, the LORD, keep it.** The vineyard is just a metaphor, Old Testament and New Testament, for Israel. The LORD keeps it. And then He says, **I water it**—look at this—**every moment.** Now, you think of *Mayim Chaim* (מַיִם חַיִּים). The kind of watering that the LORD does is the very watering that Yeshua talks about to the Samaritan woman at the well. You drink this water, and you'll never die; you will never thirst again. He waters it every moment. Again, this goes into John Chapter 14 and this beautiful New Covenant that He would send His Holy Spirit to us, to dwell within us. He'd be close to us. He'd be inside our hearts. Never leaving, never forsaking. **Lest any hurt it, I keep it night and day.** I keep it night and day, again, saying, God doesn't take time off here.

Psalms 32:1—**Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.** How does that happen? It's through Yeshua; it's through Him. Ephesians 1:7—**In Him we have redemption through His**

blood, the forgiveness of sins ... So, if we have Him, what do we have? We have a blessing; that's what we have.

There's one more passage I want to share with you today. And it's something that Yeshua says in the Gospel, and actually it's the LORD's prayer. — Matthew 9-13—⁹ ... Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And then He closes the prayer, and this is what Yeshua says in the closing. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation. What? But deliver us, in other words, keep us, *shamar*, defend us, keep us, and protect us. Keep us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. This is how he ends the prayer.

Now, what's amazing to me is that He is teaching us how to pray, and He is asking us—we are supposed to be participating in this prayer—to keep us. So, you think of “the LORD bless you and the LORD keep you.” Yeshua is telling you to pray for that. You know what blows my mind? It's kind of over the top. There's an emphasis here. I see the *Birkat Kohanim*: may the LORD bless you and keep you. You have the priests coming up and putting the blessing on the people, the people hearing it. But then you have Yeshua commanding it: that you personally are to be going home praying, LORD keep me, keep me from the evil one.

If that weren't enough, then you can go to John Chapter 17, and what do you find? In John Chapter 17, Yeshua is praying; it's an intercessory prayer. And He says (John 17:15), I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. The exact same thing.

So put it all together. Here you have Yeshua interceding on our behalf, and He is praying, Keep us from the evil one. Yeshua commanding that we pray for that very thing, keep us from the evil one, and the priest going out, saying the prayer and blessing over the people, keep us from the evil one—bless you and keep you.

We're going to close here for today.