**First Friday - November 1st, 2019 - The Blessing**

**Kiddish**

We have come tonight to celebrate with The Lord at His table.

Isaiah 53:18

Opening Note: A really cool discovery happened in 1978 and 1981. Two silver amulets (pendants) were discovered in the City of David near the temple mount in what is believed to be the tomb of a High Priest. After being tested, they are being placed around seventh century B.C., which is 400 years older than the Dead Sea Scrolls and they contained the Priestly Blessing, also known as the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6. It is the oldest evidence of scripture we have!

The Blessing was pronounced over the Israelites everyday in the dessert, it was the command of The Lord to place His very name on the people and bless them. If you remember from the story, they had protection from the sun with a cloud by day and a fire by night for warmth. He provided food, water, health, their clothes did not wear out and even their feet did not swell up! (Deuteronomy 8:4, 29:5 & Nehemiah 9:21)

**WHY** - I felt it important to expound more on what is being pronounced at the end of the services and when I visit places with my dad, I will see people sneaking out. I usually think to myself, “if you only knew what you were about to miss out in order to beat the line at a restaurants…”

**The Blessing** - Number 6:23-27

Luke 24:50 (Yeshua “blesses” His disciples before He departs)

Provers 10:22 (The Blessing (baruch) of the Lord makes you rich and adds no sorrow)

Psalm 118 (His Name Delivers), 91 (His Name Covers), 23 (His Name Provides)

**The Name** - יְהֹוָה This is the Holy name of God that we won’t say but instead will say HaShem (The Name). One reason is we don’t want to take it in vain and break the commandment so if it’s not known, then it can’t be said. The two best guesses right now by scholars are Yahweh or Yehovah. I don’t want to get into that debate right now but give you information on it.

**Father** - אָב **Av or Abba** אַבָּא as in daddy.

Interesting that He calls us family, his children and though He such a powerful name as the creator יְהֹוָה He wants a close relationship with us and is calling us to His table. That’s the powerful aspect of what we are celebrating tonight. You even see this in the prayer, Matthew 6:9 (Pray in this way, our Father…) (Galatians 4:6 & Romans 8:15)

**Bless** - בָּרַךְ **Baruch (to kneel down)**

This is a humble position but also of strength if you see it as Yeshua washing the disciples feet (John 13:1-17) Deuteronomy 4:40 Psalm 103 (Bless the Lord O my Soul)

**Keep** - שָׁמַר **Shamar (to hedge about with thorns)**

To keep the flock safe, the Shepard’s would build up a wall of rocks then put a thorny hedge to keep out the wolves. He is our hedge of protection!

**Face** - פָּנִים **Panim (plural - stands for entire being)**

With the plural form, you see the different expressions of the face; happy, sad, angry and so on. You see the entire expression of the being in the face.

**Shine** - אוֹר **Or (light divided by the darkness)**

We light the candles as the first action on Shabbat, separating light from darkness. It speaks of creation, when God created everything. We are to be the light in a dark world.

**Gracious** - חָנַן **Chanan (to show favor to)**

It means to bend or stoop in kindness to someone lower in rank, status or quality…

Exodus 34:5-7, 2 Chronicles 30:9 (If you will return to Him, He will not turn His face away)

**Lift** - נָשָׂא **Nasa (to lift up continually)**

This shows a loving Father who picks up His children and lifts them up high to His level to where He has to lift up His face as well. Psalm 18:48

**Countenance** - פָּנִים **Panim (entire being)**

We already went over this as it mean faces (plural) because the expressions shown reveal with the person is going through and is the demeanor in which you see them.

**Give** - שׂוּם **Soom (to cause to be established)**

This word connects us with what He is wanting to bestow or grant upon us. The other portions dealt with His very person or being facing up and being like a Father to us.

**Peace** - שָׁלוֹם **Shalom (completeness, wholeness)**

This word is much more than the absence of strife and war, but it is also those. The full understanding of this word is can be seen in the life of Job. He had lost everything, but God restored everything to him. The root word Shalam means “to make amends”, in other words to make something bad become better than its original state “restitution”.

**The Blessing**:

(Warren Marcus - The Priestly Prayer of The Blessing)

“May יהוה kneel before you (making Himself available to you as your heavenly Father) so “He can grant or bestow upon you His promises and gifts.”

“May יהוה guard you with a hedge of thorny protection that will prevent the enemy and all your enemies from harming your body, soul, mind, and spirit, and all your possessions.”

“May יהוה illuminate the wholeness of His being toward you, continually bringing to you order, so that you will fulfill your G-D given destiny and purpose.”

“May יהוה provide you with perfect love and fellowship, never leaving you, and give you sustenance, provision, and friendship.”

“May יהוה lift up and carry His fullness of being toward you (bringing everything that He has to your aid), supporting you with His divine embrace and His entire being.”

“May éäåä set in place all you need to be whole and complete so you can walk in victory, moment by moment, by the power of His Spirit. May He give you supernatural health, peace, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfection, fullness, rest, and harmony, as well as the absence of agitation and discord.”