

## Monday Evening Bible Reading Group: Bible Prayers: The Aaronic Blessing

**Numbers 6: 24-27:** The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

**Genesis 48: 15-16:** The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has led me all my life long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and in them let my name be perpetuated, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; an let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

**Daniel 9:19:** O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, give heed and act; delay not, for thy own sake, O my God, because thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

Are the threes just coincidence (or personal choice), like body, mind and spirit, or animal vegetable and mineral; or is there some sort of three-someness written into creation? Just asking.

“Bless you” can mean a lot or not much, and probably the same is true of its casual use in Old Testament times; though when Boaz used it to his reapers it was explicitly “God bless you”. The same Hebrew root word means *kneel* and *bless*, which might help to explain the otherwise slightly odd habit of “blessing God” – more kneeling for God’s blessing? Blessing of sons by fathers (or a prophet by his predecessor) is hugely important in Bible times... and there is no going back on the spoken invocation of what is, of course, God’s blessing can not be changed. If the father blessed the wrong son (e.g. Jacob disguised as Esau, or Joseph’s younger son instead of his older one), there is no going back. Jacob’s blessing of all his sons includes predicting their futures, not always favourably! [Winnie the Pooh said he didn’t know what he thought until he said it.]

Note that in the Aronic blessing, it is the special covenant name of God that is invoked three times. The Aaronic blessing is so called because God gave it to Moses to give it to Aaron to use. Blessing was a big responsibility: leaders, priests, David and Joshua for example, and heads of families. You will have noticed that in our Church only a priest pronounces the blessing on others (not on him or herself), whereas we can all say Bless US. (Not sure how much extra blessing comes from the former as compared with the latter – discuss!)

We often combine Blessing with Peace. The Hebrew Shalom/Peace means wholeness of body, mind and spirit.

Gaelic Blessings are popular, not least with the John Rutter setting

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields

and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Read more: [https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/famous\\_prayers/may\\_the\\_road\\_rise\\_up\\_to\\_meet\\_you.html#ixzz5jxxGQn7s](https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/famous_prayers/may_the_road_rise_up_to_meet_you.html#ixzz5jxxGQn7s)

May the blessing of light be on you

(Scottish Blessing Prayer)

May the blessing of light be on you, light without and light within. May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire, so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it. And may light shine out of the two eyes of you, like a candle set in the window of a house, bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm. And may the blessing of the rain be on you, may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean, and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines, and sometimes a star. And may the blessing of the earth be on you, soft under your feet as you pass along the roads, soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day; and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it. May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly; up and off and on its way to God. And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly.

Read more: [https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/famous\\_prayers/may\\_the\\_road\\_rise\\_up\\_to\\_meet\\_you.html#ixzz5jxy2mJy](https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/famous_prayers/may_the_road_rise_up_to_meet_you.html#ixzz5jxy2mJy)

Another Irish example is:

I arise today

Through the strength of heaven:

Light of sun,

Radiance of moon,

Splendour of fire,

Speed of lightning,

Swiftness of wind,

Depth of sea,

Stability of earth,

Firmness of rock.

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# Irish Blessing

May there always be work for your hands to do.  
May your purse always hold a coin or two.  
May the sun always shine upon your window pane.  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.  
May the hand of a friend always be near to you and  
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

read more blessings at [www.lords-prayer.com](http://www.lords-prayer.com)