

HWMR - CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY OF NUMBERS, Book 2, Week 7

The Eternal Blessing of the Triune God

Scripture Reading: Num. 6:22-27; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 22:1-2

Being blessed by God

Numbers 6:22 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
 Numbers 6:23 Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall **bless the children of Israel**; you shall say to them,
 Numbers 6:24 Jehovah **bless you and keep you**;
 Numbers 6:25 Jehovah **make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you**;
 Numbers 6:26 Jehovah **lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace**.
 Numbers 6:27 So shall they **put My name** upon the children of Israel, that **I Myself may bless them**.

Blessing

2 Cor. 13:14 **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all.

The River of Water of Life and the Tree of Life

Revelation 22:1 And he showed me a river of **water of life**, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
 Revelation 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the **tree of life**, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

The **unique blessing** in the whole universe is God Himself. **Anything besides God is vanity**. The entire universe was created by God, yet without God, apart from God, even the universe created by God is vanity. The existence of the universe is a great miracle, but without God the miraculous existence of the universe is vanity. **Apart from God, everything is "vanity of vanities"** (Eccl. 1:2). Only God Himself is real. Only He is the blessing to us. If we gained the entire universe yet missed God, we would be the most pitiful persons. History is filled with cases of people who gained many riches and many material things but who eventually realized that, **without God, it was all vanity**. **God Himself is our blessing, and this blessing comes to us through the dispensing of the divine Being into us in His divine trinity**—in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Life-Study of Numbers, Chapter 11, Section 1)

DAY 1

I. In the entire universe the unique blessing is the Triune God, and this blessing comes to us through the dispensing of the Divine Being into us in His Divine Trinity—in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—cf. Eccl. 1:2; 3:11 and footnote:

- A. Ephesians 1 gives us a record of how the Triune God **blesses** His chosen, redeemed, and transformed people in His **Divine Trinity**, **issuing** in the church as the Body of Christ, the fullness of the One who fills all in all:
1. He blesses us in the Father (vv. 3-6), in the Son (vv. 7-12), and in the Spirit (vv. 13-14).
 2. Eventually, because of such a **flow of the Divine Trinity** as the blessing to God's chosen people, there is an issue, and the issue of this blessed flow is the church as the Body of Christ, the fullness of the One who fills all in all (vv. 22-23); **the church as the Body of Christ is the total issue of the Divine Trinity as a flow to dispense all that God is into His chosen people**.
- B. As the **consummation** of the entire record of the Bible, **the New Jerusalem is the very God in His Divine Trinity**—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—**mingled with** His chosen, redeemed, regenerated, transformed, and glorified people as their **eternal blessing**; such a blessing is the ultimate fulfillment of **God's blessing** to Israel in Numbers 6—cf. Rev. 21:12, 14; 22:1-2.

DAY 2

II. In Numbers 6:22-27 we see a pattern of blessing by the priests; this blessing is neither an Old Testament blessing nor a New Testament blessing; rather, it is the eternal blessing of the Triune God, which is the Triune God dispensing Himself in His Divine Trinity into us for our enjoyment:

- A. "Jehovah bless you and keep you" can be ascribed to the **Father**—v. 24:
1. The Father **blesses us in every way** and in every aspect in His love (cf. Eph. 1:3), and He **keeps us in every way** and in every aspect in His power (cf. John 17:11, 15).

2. The Lord prayed that the Father would **keep us in His name** (v. 11); this is to **keep us in the dispensing Triune God**; the Lord Jesus went on to pray that **the Father would keep us from the evil one** (v. 15).
3. We should pray for the blessing of being kept absolutely in the dispensing of the Triune God and altogether outside of the evil one; what a blessing this is!

DAY 3

- B. “*Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you*” can be ascribed to the **Son**—Num. 6:25:
1. In Luke 1:78, when the Lord Jesus was about to be born, Zachariah prophesied, “*The rising sun will visit us from on high*”; the rising sun is the Son in the Divine Trinity; this implies **God’s incarnation** to show Himself to us in a shining way—Matt. 4:16; John 8:12.
 2. The word **face** in Numbers 6:25 signifies **presence**; as the One whose face shines upon us, **Christ the Son is the visible presence of the invisible God**—2 Pet. 1:16-18; Matt. 17:1-2.
 3. Numbers 6:25 speaks not only of Jehovah making His **face to shine** upon us but also of Jehovah being **gracious** to us; these two points added together equal John 1:14, 16-17.
 4. God’s incarnation was the shining of His presence, and along with this shining there was grace; this **grace** is the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is actually **Christ Himself**—2 Cor. 13:14.

DAY 4

- C. “*Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace*” can be ascribed to the **Spirit**—Num. 6:26:
1. The **face** denotes the presence of the **person**, and the **countenance** denotes the **expression** of the person; to lift up your countenance upon a person means that you confirm, assure, promise, and give everything to that person.
 2. Jesus came as the face of God, and the Holy Spirit comes as the countenance of God; if we grieve Him, His countenance will drop (Eph. 4:30), but if we obey Him, He will be happy with us, and He will lift up **His countenance to confirm us, assure us, guarantee us, promise us, and give us everything**.

DAY 5

III. Second Corinthians 13:14 says, “**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all**”; the **blessing here is actually the same as that in Numbers 6:23-27**:

- A. In the blessing of the apostle Paul, the **Triune God comes** to people for their enjoyment; Paul not only **brought people** into the presence of God but also **brought God** into them.
- B. On the one hand, to bless others is to bring them into the presence of God; on the other hand, it is to bring God into them as love, grace, and fellowship so that they may enjoy the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.
- C. Love, grace, and fellowship are three stages of God for our enjoyment—**love** is **within**, **grace** is love **expressed**, and **fellowship** is the **transmission** of grace into us.
- D. The **love** of God is the **source**, since God is the origin; the **grace** of the Lord is the **course** of the love of God, since the Lord is the expression of God; and the **fellowship** of the Spirit is the **impartment** of the grace of the Lord with the love of God for our experience and enjoyment of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, with Their divine virtues.

DAY 6

- E. The divine revelation of the Divine Trinity in the holy Word is **not** for theological study **but** for the **apprehending** of how God in His mysterious and marvelous **Divine Trinity dispenses Himself** into His chosen people, that we as His chosen and redeemed people may, as indicated by the apostle’s blessing to the Corinthian believers, **participate in, experience, enjoy, and possess** the processed Triune God now and for eternity. **We must enjoy and be blessed with the processed and inner circulating Triune God day by day so that we may dispense Him as the unique blessing of the universe into others for the accomplishment of God’s heart’s desire to have the testimony of Jesus, the corporate expression of Jesus**—2 Cor. 13:14; Gal. 3:14; Gen. 12:2; Phil. 1:25; Rev. 1:2, 9-12.

IV. “Sometimes when we consider our situation, we may be **disappointed** and feel that we do not have anything. It may seem to us that everything under the sun and even everything in the spiritual field is **vanity of vanities**. We may feel that **nothing is real**, not even in the church life. What should we do when we feel this way? We should **turn to the Triune God**. He is our **real blessing and portion**. What a blessing it is to have Him as the blessing! What a blessing it is to have His face, His presence, and to enjoy Him daily as grace! The more we **suffer**, the more we **enjoy Him as grace**. What a blessing it is to have His **countenance smiling upon us**, assuring us, and confirming us! And what a blessing it is to have peace in Him, by Him, and with Him! This is the Triune God as our blessing. Oh, may the **grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all**!”—*Life-study of Numbers*, p. 83.

THE ENJOYMENT OF THE TRIUNE GOD

Grace, Love, and Fellowship

In 2 Corinthians 13:14 we see the enjoyment of the Triune God. In this verse Paul says, “*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*” The **grace of the Lord** is the Lord Himself as life to us for our **enjoyment** (John 1:17; 1 Cor. 15:10), the **love of God** is God Himself (1 John 4:8, 16) as the **source** of the grace of the Lord, and the **fellowship of the Spirit** is the Spirit Himself as the **transmission** of the grace of the Lord with the love of God for our participation.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit are not three separate matters but **three aspects of one thing**, just as the Lord, God, and the Holy Spirit are not three separate Gods but three “hypostases...of the one same undivided and indivisible” God (Philip Schaff). The **love of God** is the **source**, since God is the origin; the **grace of the Lord** is the **course** of the love of God, since the Lord is the expression of God; and the **fellowship of the Spirit** is the **impartation** of the grace of the Lord with the love of God, since the Spirit is the transmission of the Lord with God, for our experience and enjoyment of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—with the divine virtues. In 13:14 the grace of the Lord is mentioned first because this book is on the grace of Christ (1:12; 4:15; 6:1; 8:1, 9; 9:8, 14; 12:9).

Such a divine attribute of three virtues—love, grace, and fellowship—and such a Triune God of the three divine hypostases—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—are **needed by the believers so that they may experience the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity**. Second Corinthians 13:14 is a strong proof that the trinity of the Godhead is not for the doctrinal understanding of systematic theology but for the dispensing of God Himself in His trinity into His chosen and redeemed people.

It is common in so-called Christian services for the minister to use 13:14 as a benediction at the close of a service. However, this verse speaks of our enjoyment of the Triune God. Do you enjoy the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit? **In the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity, the grace of the Lord, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Spirit are for our experience and enjoyment.**

We have pointed out that just as the love of God is God Himself, the grace of Christ is Christ Himself. The New Testament says, “**God is love**” (1 John 4:8). We can also say that **Christ is grace** and that the **Holy Spirit is fellowship**. If we did not have God, we could not have the **enjoyment of love**. If we did not have Christ, we could not have the **enjoyment of grace**. If we did not have the Spirit, we could not have the **enjoyment of fellowship**.

We also need to be impressed with the fact that in 2 Corinthians 13:14 love, grace, and fellowship are not three separate matters. Rather, they are three aspects of one thing. **Love** is the source, **grace** is the expression of the source, and **fellowship** is the transmission of the expression. Love as the source is expressed in grace, and this grace is transmitted into us by fellowship. The love of God is the source of the grace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Spirit is the transmission of the grace of Christ with the love of God. Therefore, **love, grace and fellowship are all within us for our enjoyment.**

(The Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity, Chapter 43, Section 1)