

PRAYER

Breaking of Salt Covenants



Ephesians 6:10-11, 18 “10 Finally, my brethren, **be strong** in the LORD, and in the **power** of his might. 11 Put on the whole **armour** of GOD, that ye may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil. 18 **Pray** at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all prayer and entreaty. To that end **keep alert** and **watch** with strong purpose and **perseverance**, interceding in behalf of all the **saints** (GOD’s consecrated people).”

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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Preface

These prayers have been written according to personal opinions and convictions, which are gathered from many counseling sessions and our interpretation of the Word of GOD, the Bible.

In no way have these prayers been written to discriminate against any persons, churches, organizations, and/or political parties. We ask therefore that you handle this book in the same manner.

What does it mean to renounce something?

To renounce means to speak of one's self. If something has been renounced it has been rejected, cut off, or the individual is refusing to follow or obey. Other words that fit with the subject of renunciations include refuse, repudiate, and resist. It is a joy to realize that by the act of our repentance, we can appropriate the finished work of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus). His shed Blood reverses all curses.

Scripture says:

Proverbs 28:13 "13 He who covers his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes his sins will obtain mercy."

We have seen the effect in so many people's lives of confessing, repenting, and turning away from the idolatry and demonic covenants that have permeated their very existence, unbeknown to them. The fact that this exists is truly an evil demonic plot against the Body of Messiah.

2 Corinthians 4:2 "2 We have renounced disgraceful ways (secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, the methods and arts that men hide through shame); we refuse to deal craftily (to practice trickery and cunning) or to adulterate or handle dishonestly the Word of GOD, but we state the truth openly (clearly and candidly). And so we commend ourselves in the sight and presence of GOD to every man's conscience."

Y'shua (Jesus) calls us to be actively engaged seeking freedom and wholeness, no matter what our life experiences.

GOD's Word gives us a promise:

Isaiah 54:17 "17 But no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong. This [peace, righteousness, security, triumph over opposition] is the heritage of the servants of the LORD [those in whom the ideal Servant of the LORD is reproduced]; this is the righteousness or the vindication which they obtain from Me [this is that which I impart to them as their justification], says the LORD."

Guidelines for using the prayers of renunciation ...

The Book of James highlights very clearly for us that there is a two-fold step in order to be released from all bondages.

James 4:7 *"7 So be subject to GOD. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you."*

The two-legged renunciation of occultic involvement is:

1. Confession of involvement.

To confess involvement, the prayer is read out loud, preferably with one or more witnesses present, as well as with a trained counselor. The reason for this is so that the individual will have a memorial of remembrance of the renunciation prayer. These prayers are similar to proclamations ... as such we encourage you to declare them boldly and in faith, covered by the Blood of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus).

James 5:16 *"16 Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]."*

Only half of the renunciation process has been completed at this stage. The next part is very important. This is where the counselor is essential.

2. Warfare ... resist the enemy.

The counselor now comes in agreement with the individual and conducts spiritual warfare against the kingdom of darkness as the Holy Spirit leads to deal with each one of the elements that is contained in the prayer.

In writing these prayers, we have tried to highlight or bold certain key words — such as the powers of darkness involved and the effects of involvement — that we feel are important, and which need to be specially addressed.

The powers are rebuked, bound, uprooted from the bloodline, and commanded to become a footstool to the Messiah Y'shua (Jesus). Remember to also cut the individual loose from the man-made laws and institutions of the organization/s involved.

These prayers are however only a *guideline*.

If there are concepts or sections that the Holy Spirit highlights for you as you pray, then we encourage you to address these, and ask the Holy Spirit to direct you on how to bring the breakthrough.

Remember, He is our Perfect Teacher and Counselor!

Psalm 110:1 *“THE LORD (GOD) says to my Lord (the Messiah), Sit at My right hand, until I make Your adversaries Your footstool. [Matt. 26:64; Acts 2:34; I Cor. 15:25; Col. 3:1; Heb. 12:2.]”*

Hebrews 1:13, 10:13 *“13 Besides, to which of the angels has He ever said, Sit at My right hand [associated with Me in My royal dignity] till I make your enemies a stool for your feet? [Ps. 110:1.] 13 Then to wait until His enemies should be made a stool beneath His feet. [Ps. 110:1.]”*

3. Restoration with the Kingdom of GOD.

Finally, the individual must choose to submit under the Law of Messiah Y’shua (Jesus).

Galatians 3:10 *“10 And all who depend on the Law [who are seeking to be justified by obedience to the Law of rituals] are under a curse and doomed to disappointment and destruction, for it is written in the Scriptures, Cursed (accursed, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment) be everyone who does not continue to abide (live and remain) by all the precepts and commands written in the Book of the Law and to practice them.”*

In conclusion, we leave you with the blessing commanded by the FATHER ... May He be your Shield, your Light, and Shalom (Peace). May He grant you the victory in all things, that you may learn of His Ways, and SH’MA¹ (hear and do).

Blessings!

¹ For additional study, please see the article *“Sh’ma — A Hebraic Concept That Everyone Can Embrace”* written by William G. Bullock, Sr., available from the website.

Declaration² of CONFIDENCE in GOD's Protection

No weapon that is formed against us shall prosper and every tongue, which rises against us in judgment, we do condemn. This is our heritage as servants of the LORD, and our righteousness is from You, O LORD of Hosts. If there are those who have been speaking or praying against us, or seeking harm or evil to us, or who have rejected us, we forgive them and, having forgiven them, we bless them in the Name of the LORD

Matthew 5:43-45 *"43 You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy; 44 But I tell you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 To show that you are the children of your FATHER Who is in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the wicked and on the good, and makes the rain fall upon the upright and the wrongdoers [alike]."*

Romans 12:14 *"14 Bless those who persecute you [who are cruel in their attitude toward you]; bless and do not curse them."*

Now we declare, O LORD, that You and You alone are our GOD, and besides You there is no other — a just GOD and Saviour, the FATHER, the Son and the Spirit — and we worship You!

We submit ourselves afresh to You this day in unreserved obedience. Having submitted to You, LORD, we do as Your Word directs. We resist the devil — all his pressures, his attacks, and his deceptions, every instrument or agent he would seek to use against us. We do not submit! We resist him, drive him from us and exclude him from us in the Name of Y'shua (Jesus). Specifically, we reject and repel infirmity, pain, infection, inflammation, malignancies, allergies, viruses and every form of witchcraft.

Finally, LORD, we thank You that through the sacrifice of Y'shua (Jesus) on the cross, we have passed out from under the curse and entered into the blessing of Abraham, whom You blessed in all things — exaltation, health, reproduction, prosperity, victory and GOD's Favour.

Galatians 3:13-14 *"13 Christ purchased our freedom [redeeming us] from the curse (doom) of the Law [and its condemnation] by [Himself] becoming a curse for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified); 14 To the end that through [their receiving] Christ Jesus, the blessing [promised] to Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, so that we through faith might [all] receive [the realization of] the promise of the [Holy] Spirit."*

AMEN!

² Written by Derek and Ruth Prince

Sealing-Off Prayer **BEFORE** Deliverance

Dear Heavenly FATHER, we come to You in the Name of Messiah Y'shua³ (Jesus Christ) of Nazareth. We thank You that You are GOD Almighty and that You are The Great I AM.

We thank You that You have given us the Holy Spirit to be the Counsellor, Standby, Advocate, Teacher, the Deliverer.

We thank You for Your Presence and for Your Deliverance Anointing — it is the Anointing that will break the yoke.

Come and fill us with Your Spirit, Compassion, Love, Discernment, Word of Knowledge, Wisdom, Interpretation, and Insight.

We as Your children choose to crucify the flesh so that nothing from ourselves will be transferred here. We clothe ourselves with Your Priestly Garments to fulfill the calling You have upon our lives. Open our spiritual eyes and ears FATHER.

Thank You FATHER, that You have given us all the power over the enemy and that nothing shall in any way harm us.

Luke 10: 19 *"19 Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you."*

We forbid any interference with the work of the Holy Spirit.

FATHER, we come against any communication lines (according to **Ephesians 6:12**) between, the powers, world-rulers, principalities, spiritual hosts, and demonic hosts in the air, earth, heavenlies, and under the earth. We close off all entrances and exits, in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

³ *Y'shua* (Hebrew) is Jesus' real name, which means "Salvation". We have no problem with the name "Jesus" — it is merely the Greek transliteration of "Y'shua". Jesus is the name most of us grew up with. Remember though, Y'shua was a Jew, of the Tribe of Judah, not a Greek. It's sort of like this ... when you come to know someone's real name, you want to use it, hence the use of *Y'shua* instead of Jesus. Another powerful reason to use Y'shua is that every time you say His Name, you are proclaiming "Salvation". You will also note in some places, we have used the real Name of the FATHER, YHVH. The Name is made up of the Hebrew letters, **Y**od-**H**ey-**V**av-**H**ey, and is most commonly pronounced "Yahweh" or "Jehovah". Again, we have chosen to use this, as YHVH is the FATHER's Name.

We ask that all spiritual cameras and recorders be smashed in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ). We come against any witches, witch doctors, magicians, and wizards in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ). We cut off all communication with satan himself and close the doors in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We forbid any spirit from the outside to enter this place for whatever reason, and we forbid any evil spirit to be sent to any other place or person as a result of what happens here.

We now forbid any reinforcement of power from the side of satan in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ). FATHER, we ask for confusion into the enemy's camp.

FATHER we ask You to set up Your warring angels in this room and arrest any human spirit, dead human spirit, spirit guide, familiar spirit ... and remove them to become the footstool of our King Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We bind every evil spirit in this place and forbid any violence, manifestations, and tormenting in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We refuse any meditation circles — isolate any power of demonic forces from each other in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We forbid and bind any hypnosis and self-hypnosis, meditation, psychic powers in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) of Nazareth. We isolate the powers one from another in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We cleanse the four elements — water, air, fire, and earth — with the Blood of Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We ask You, FATHER, to cover all mirrors with Your Blood and seal off the gateways in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We come against any spells, rituals, incantations, hexes, sacrifices, curses, or altars raised up against us and the person.

Thank You that You blow out all candles which may have been lit in rituals against us in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ). Thank You that all curses are reversed into blessings.

FATHER, we ask that You seal off this room with Your Precious Blood, that You will hide us in the Spirit and declare this room as holy ground.

FATHER, we ask You to send Your ministering angels to come and minister to us in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) according to:

Hebrews 1:14 *"14 Are not the angels all ministering spirits (servants) sent out in the service [of GOD for the assistance] of those who are to inherit salvation?"*

We surrender to You, Holy Spirit of GOD, because we know that it is not by might, nor by power, but by Your Spirit (Zechariah 4:6) says the FATHER!

We ask that You cover our loved ones and we place all circumstances under Your Control and Protection (our finances, marriages, relationships, ministries). We now bind satan's kingdom here on earth just as it is bound in heaven.

We ask You FATHER to prepare the heavenly courtroom and that all the demons and familiar spirits come and take their places.

We ask You FATHER to be the Judge, Y'shua (Jesus) the Advocate, and the Holy Spirit the Witness.

Thank You for Your Word:

Revelation 12:11 *"11 And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, for they did not love and cling to life even when faced with death [holding their lives cheap till they had to die for their witnessing]."*

... we have overcome the enemy by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony!

In the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus),

AMEN!

*Information on the
principle of salt covenants ...*

SALT Covenants

SALT is a POWERFUL thing in both the Bible and in Hebraic/Middle-Eastern culture. It was a sought-after commodity, at times valued almost the same as GOLD!!

In the PHYSICAL, salt:

- PRESERVES
- FLAVOURS

Let's look at SPIRITUAL lessons for us in SALT ...

- **SALT IN THE BIBLE**

SALT is actually mentioned A LOT in the Scriptures!!

- (1) The ANOINTING OIL (for the PRIESTS and KINGS) was to be SALTED.

Exodus 30:31, 34-35 "31 And say to the Israelites, This is a holy anointing oil [symbol of the Holy Spirit], sacred to Me alone throughout your generations. 34 Then the Lord said to Moses, Take sweet spices—stacte, onycha, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense, an equal amount of each, 35 And make of them incense, a perfume after the perfumer's art, seasoned with **SALT** and mixed, pure and sacred."

- (2) EVERY offering — whether that of an animal or grain — had to be salted. Offerings WITHOUT SALT were NOT ACCEPTED by GOD.

Leviticus 2:13 "13 Every cereal offering you shall season with salt [symbol of preservation]; neither shall you allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your cereal offering; with ALL your offerings you shall offer **SALT**."

Through Y'shua, we are now ALL PRIESTS unto our GOD — and our LIVES are to be LIVING SACRIFICES ... **we are to be "SALTED"!!**

In **Matthew 5:13-16**, Y'shua likens US being as SALT and a LIGHT to the world. HOW are we SALT and LIGHT? Through our LIFE and WALK, our ACTIONS!! Living a GODLY life, LOVINGLY walking in HIS WAYS, with ACTS of RIGHTEOUSNESS, and LOVING OTHERS!!

PAUL speaks to THIS in ...

Colossians 4:6 "6 Let your speech at all times be gracious (pleasant and winsome), seasoned [as it were] with **SALT**, [so that you may never be at a loss] to know how you ought to answer anyone [who puts a question to you]."

CAREFUL however, SALT can also be used in JUDGEMENT ...

Again in the SAME verses, Y'shua tells us if SALT loses its flavour and ability to preserve — how can it become SALTY AGAIN? Instead, it's WORTHLESS!! To be THROWN OUT and TRAMPED ON.

- **SALT AS LIFE**

In MIDDLE-EASTERN culture, SALT was seen as “BRINGING LIFE”. Instead of saying “YOU were the LIFE of the PARTY” — they would say “YOU were the SALT of the PARTY”.

Another saying that illustrates this POINT is describing a TRAITOR by saying HE was:

- “UNTRUE to SALT”
- “One FAITHLESS to SALT”
- “My BREAD has no SALT in IT”

- **SALT AS COVENANT**

Another important aspect of SALT is its use in COVENANT. SALT was an essential part of sharing a covenant meal — where both parties TRUSTED each other and PLEDGED to CARE FOR and PROTECT each other.

Sharing a meal with friends is a BONDING (covenant) experience. Therefore, we should carefully think about the people with whom we may share a meal.

- **SALT IN THE OCCULT**

SALT is used together with INCANTATIONS:

- ENGLAND — Salt is thrown in the fire on three Friday nights, with an INCANTATION, to win back a recreant lover.
- SCOTLAND — A ritual of SALT and INCANTATIONS were used at times of death in a family.
- SICILY — The goddess known as the “mother of day” is invoked when SALT is split.

Again, we see SALT is POWERFUL!!

- **SALT COVENANTS: EATING TOGETHER, SHARING A MEAL**

We see that the Bible clearly teaches that eating together has definite spiritual implications. There are certain Biblical Principles that apply.

So, therefore, we must be very careful with whom we eat.

When dealing with people that are ***satanically ritually abused*** and ***programmed by a cult to infiltrate the Body of Messiah***, we need to be aware that they are taught this principle (of sharing a meal) and will try to get the people they have targeted to eat with them. They then use this principle against the people, and because many believers do not know about this, they get caught because of ignorance.

These co-workers of the enemy will then go and perform rituals on behalf of those people, as if they (the believers) are doing the rituals themselves — this principle works because of the salt covenant agreement entered into by the sharing of a meal.

Many times believers are under severe attack and cannot understand what is going on, because according to their knowledge, they have no open doors, have confessed all they know, and so forth.

In the meantime, there are wide open doors against them because of the salt covenant agreement they have entered into unknowingly.

“Will I still be held guilty and accountable if I do not know?”

Leviticus 5:17-19 “17 If anyone sins and does any of the things the Lord has forbidden, ***though he was not aware of it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity.*** 18 He shall bring [to the priest] a ram without blemish out of the flock, estimated by you to the amount [of the trespass], for a guilt or trespass offering; and the priest shall make atonement for him for the error which he committed unknowingly, and he shall be forgiven. 19 It is a trespass or guilt offering; he is certainly guilty before the Lord.”

We have no excuse!! We have so many Bibles and teachings available today, we can never say, “I did not know ... ”

When you do eat and drink together, then always pray against any un-Godly salt covenants that could be used against you, and break them in the Name of Messiah Y’shua (Jesus Christ).

- **PERSONAL TESTIMONY**

Years ago, we approached a pastor regarding a person that had come to us for counselling — this person was apart of the pastor’s congregation. The counselee was DID/SRA.

We felt chat to the pastor about DID/SRA, that he may understand this condition ... we also felt to warn the pastor about the possible concerns regarding DID/SRA. We explained to the pastor that he would need to pray for covering protection for this person, as well as for the rest of his congregation.

During our conversation, we asked about the pastor's health and heard that he was suffering some serious attacks on his stomach — the doctors did not really know what the problem was. We proceeded to ask if he had ate or drank with the counselee — the pastor answered “yes”.

We explained the concept of salt covenants, and then continued to pray and break this covenant in the Name of Messiah Y'shua [Jesus Christ].

We cancelled every time that his name was called out over the altars of satan, and cancelled every ritual that was done on his behalf that brought glory to satan.

Needless to say, he was healed immediately and proceeded to eat a strong plate of curry!

- **CONCLUSION**

Let's be SALTY!!

In the Words of Y'shua (Mark 9:50) — “Have SALT within yourselves, and be at PEACE and live IN HARMONY with ONE ANOTHER”.

*Prayer to break
salt covenants ...*

FATHER, I come to You in the Name of Y'shua (Jesus) and I bring before You every meal I have eaten with people who have hidden agendas — singletons doing this knowingly as well as SRA survivors having cult active parts.

I ask Your Forgiveness for being ignorant about understanding this principle from Your Word. I choose to forgive each person involved and to bless their humanity. I cut myself free from each person now — body, soul and spirit — and release them in the Name of Y'shua (Jesus).

I will not however, subject myself to any demonic spirit or principality and so in the Name of Y'shua (Jesus), I take up my authority and I break every salt covenant made on my behalf at any altar of satan. I cancel every word spoken on my behalf and declare it null and void in Y'shua's (Jesus') Name!

With the Sword of the Spirit I cut my self free from every satanic altar and ritual performed on my behalf — I silence all blood testifying against me! I call for the Fire of GOD to destroy every demonic altar and all that was done on my behalf, in Y'shua's (Jesus') Name.

I cancel the effect of anything sent against me to block me in any way or to affect my health or ministry or any part of my existence, in the Name of Y'shua (Jesus). I destroy ALL time-clocks set up in the spirit — past, present and future — that have been programmed to affect my life or whatever pertains to me, in the Name of Y'shua (Jesus).

I thank You FATHER, for Your Faithfulness towards me!! Thank You for setting me free and teaching me more of Your Precious Word and Ways!

AMEN!

WRAPPING-UP Prayer AFTER Deliverance (for the counsellor)

Dear Heavenly FATHER,

Thank You for the work being done here today. We pray against any whiplash, backlash, and judgment from the enemy in the Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We ask FATHER, that You will cut any un-Godly spirit/soul-ties formed in the spirit because of the deliverance that took place, also any transference that took place between their spirit, soul, and body to my spirit, soul and body. We plant the Cross of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) between myself and the counselee. Thank You that no transference will take place. We take Your Comprehensive Insurance for our families, relationships, and possessions.

We ask that You will cleanse and purify this property and this room with the Blood of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) of Nazareth and Your Holy Fire, that no demon will attach itself to any object and all human and dead human spirits be removed by Your escort angels to the footstool of King Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ). That all defilement be removed and swept away with Your Broom of destruction in Name of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

FATHER, we ask that You remove any watchdog and marker demons, that have been assigned by the kingdom of darkness to mark the property in the spirit for a counter attack through astral projection, to the Feet of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ).

We also want to declare the Kingship of Messiah Y'shua (Jesus Christ) of Nazareth over this place and that all openings⁴ are sealed off with Your Blood.

AMEN!

Remember to go before the FATHER and shower yourself with the Water of the Word. You may also want to perform a *mikvah*⁵ (baptism), to symbolize a cleansing after deliverance. Remember too to enter into praise and worship and fill yourself with the FATHER's Presence again.

⁴ Openings include telephone and fax lines, computers, water pipes and sewerage, electricity circuits, Wi-Fi networks.

⁵ For additional study, see our book "*J2F Understanding Water Baptism And The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit*"

In closing, after these curses have been dealt with and broken, it is very important to restore BLESSINGS ... we want to encourage *fathers* to take this calling seriously, and to begin **BLESSING** their families according to the Commandment of the LORD that the priests bless with the following blessing ...

The Priestly Blessing ...

Numbers 6:24-26

“²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:
²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

The Priestly Blessing ...

Hebraic Translation⁶

"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and He will guard you with a hedge of protection, YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being toward you, bringing order, and He will provide you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look upon you, and He will set in place all you need to be whole and complete."

⁶ Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html

The Priestly Blessing¹

יְבַרְכֶּךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:

and may he guard you the LORD may he bless you

May the LORD² bless you³ and keep you⁴

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְךָ:

and show you favor on you his face the LORD May he shine

May the LORD make His face⁵ shine⁶ upon you and be gracious⁷ to you

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

peace for you and establish on you his face the LORD may he lift up

May the LORD lift up⁸ his face to you and give you peace⁹

¹ This blessing is (ritually) recited (by the kohanim) during synagogue services during *Nesiat Kapayim* ("the Raising of the Hands"), though it is also recited over children on Friday night before the start of the Shabbat meal or as a bedtime blessing.

² The name *YHVH* (יהוה) represents God's attributes of love and mercy (מִדַּת הַרַחֲמִים), in contradistinction to the name *Elohim* (אֱלֹהִים), which represents God's attribute of justice and power as our Creator.

³ בְּרַכָּה (*b'rachah*). Jewish tradition considers this both material and spiritual prosperity. Pirkei Avot 3:15 says, "If there is no flour, there is no Torah," by which is meant that material benefits are intended to help you pursue study of Torah. The first occurrence of the word "blessing" in the Scriptures pertains to *pru urvu* (פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ), "be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:22).

⁴ שָׁמַר (*shamar*): To guard, protect, heed, as in the exercise of diligent care. Only God has the power to secure the conferred blessing and keep it from turning sour or from fading away.

⁵ The word for "face" (פָּנִים) is plural with the 3rd person singular ending. It is considered metaphorical since God is incorporeal. The plural form is thought by some to indicate God's revealed and hidden attributes in creation.

⁶ The hiphil verb (יָאֵר) comes from the word "light" (אֹר), and is thought to refer to God's wisdom. "May God enlighten you" with His wisdom, i.e., the Divine Light that preceded the work of creation (Gen. 1:3).

⁷ May God grant you grace or favor (חֵן), i.e., to understand the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love (Eph. 3:18). Grace refers to the bestowal of an undeserved gift. The blessing is bestowed even though unearned or unmerited.

⁸ Since one's face is an indication of the heart's attitude, Rashi says that this means God will suppress His anger by "looking at you" (if God is angry at you, He "turns His face away" and refuses to admit your presence). The "lifting of face" also pictures God lifting you up as a father might lift up his child in joy. The "showing of face" indicates spiritual intimacy.

⁹ All of the other blessings are useless without the establishment of inner peace, and therefore it is the seal of the blessing. Shalom (שְׁלוֹם) is not simply the absence of strife, but a balance and harmony between the finite and infinite, the temporal and the eternal, the material and the spiritual realms. Shalom is a gift from Sar Shalom (שַׂר שְׁלוֹם), the Prince of Peace.