

# THE OUTWORKING OF A VISITATION TO GIVE FAVOUR - IS A WALK OF OBEDIENCE



I AM  
*Blessed*

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## THE OUTWORKING OF A VISITATION - TO GIVE FAVOUR - IS A WALK OF OBEDIENCE

Over the years we have come to have an expectation of a visitation from God. Much of our expectations, are mirrored on what the Children of Israel did.

They also had this expectation: that there would be a visitation from God.

Unfortunately, man forms HIS OWN idea of exactly just what this visitation / **favour** might mean. Because we have these pre-conceived ideas, we are often not open to alternative concepts or ideas.

The Israelites wanted a conquering king... Anything else did not fit the picture - and they missed HIM.

*What is your expectation?*

Might God have come to speak to you? Are you busy with things, that “appear” to be Godly, but are in fact “WORLDLY”?

**Luke 19:40-45** *He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” 41 And when He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, But now they are hidden from your eyes..” 45 And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, saying to them, “It is written, My house shall be a House of Prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers.”*



## A. MEANING OF THE HEBREW WORD - AND ITS APPLICATION TODAY.

One of the disconcerting facts that we have to deal with today is that many of the true meanings, especially from the Hebrew language have been lost or obscured in the process of translation.

I always like to review the word meanings in order to get the range of possible interpretations before moving on.

1. Hebrew word - **favour**: Strong's 2603 - to be gracious, show favour, pity

1. (**Qal**) to show favour, be gracious
2. (**Niphal**) to be pitied
3. (**Piel**) to make gracious, make favourable, be gracious
4. (**Poel**) to direct favour to, have mercy on
5. (**Hophal**) to be shown favour, be shown consideration
6. (**Hithpael**) to seek favour, implore favour

2. Greek word – **visitation**: Strong's 1984 - investigation, inspection, visitation

That act by which God looks into and searches out the ways, deeds character, of men, in order to adjudge them their lot accordingly, whether joyous or sad.

Now with those words let's see if you can suggest **what "actions / what deeds / what character"** we should be showing those in the community.

We have a scientific principle - for every action there is an equal opposite reaction.

### **God takes action.**

***John 15:7** If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples. As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love.*

### **Man must react - the question is how?**

***John 15:9** If you keep My Commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's Commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

***John 15:12** This is My Commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

In the Hebraic understanding of the ancient blessing, we read a translation that says that God kneels down to grant you **favour** - I know that this sounds strange - but consider the action of a FATHER:

Y'shua / Jesus says - **do what I do** ...

- 🕒 How have you followed this example?
- 🕒 Have you given those attributes / talents / gifts which God has given you as a blessing to the community?

We should stop looking only for the supernatural.

God says that He has provided **everything you need**. God says that He has **blessed you** Most importantly, God says that He has **given you dominion**.

And we see the evidence of this dominion, in our new title - friend.

**John 15:15** *No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.*



But mankind often allows the “**old man**” to rule. When the “old man / the flesh” rules, then every good deed demands a return of the favour.

How often do you give **favour**, expecting a return on investment?  
Do you keep book, and remind those of how much you have done for them, or how much they still owe you to pay back?

God expects a return on His investment. Only in His case it is a different kind of return. He is not looking for a reward for Himself, but that you will go out and change the world.

He is looking for the Fruit of the Holy Spirit...

**John 15:7** *If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear **much fruit** and so prove to be My disciples. ---- If you keep My Commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's Commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

## B. SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES THAT CHALLENGE OUR CHARACTER

We are going to make a short study of four examples - each one has a different slant, or impact.

- 🎧 Can you tell me what these differences are?
- 🎧 Can you tell me whether the **favour** granted is different, and if so, how?
- 🎧 Can you indicate how the principle of First Fruits is shown in all of these cases?

**Let us note:**

God's visitation is meant to bring a breakthrough in a given circumstance. In each one of the examples we will see that after God has intervened, there is a radical change of heart

The individuals concerned reacted in faith to the visitation of God and as a result changed the community's circumstances for the better.

## 1. The Exodus

The Israelites have been slaves for most of their lives - they are taken on a huge unknown journey - they have no idea what lies before them. They will experience fear, war, and hardship.

Is it really so bad to have second thoughts if you are experiencing something you have never seen before? But they had God's **favour**...

In the valley of Eshcol the men will find "fruit" – a bunch of grapes so big that it would need two men to carry it - they have never seen this size before - as a gift - as a proof of the **favour**.

Yet, when you have **favour**, you must acknowledge it, use it, and bless others.

The Israelites "reject" the visitation of God's **favour** - and walk for 40 years in the wilderness. But at a point in time, a new generation will stand up - take courage - and enter the Land.

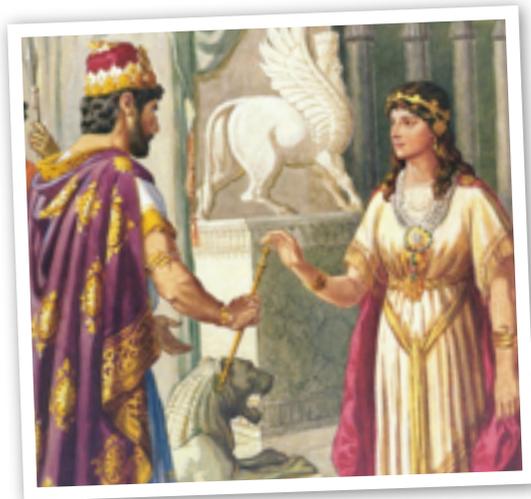
## 2. Jacob

He has been away from home for years after he had run away from Esau. He now has to face the brother that he had "cheated" out of his inheritance and father's blessing.

God will meet Esau at the Jabok river, but before this happens he will wrestle with God until he is a changed man.

Is walking with a limp, a **favour**?

Jacob will face hardship, but he will produce the nation that will take the Land.



### 3. Esther

Esther has married a foreign king in a strange land, far from her culture and values. Her people are in trouble. She has to face the pagan king / under his value system / governance structure and trust that God's **favour** will kick in.

The king will raise his scepter towards her - granting her **favour**.

She is given the right to fight for her people's right to exist.

### 4. Mary

A virgin girl, will hear a prophecy, will get married to a man, and know that she will produce a child that is special; Joseph will know that the Child is not his. She will pray for **favour** that allows Joseph to raise a 'Son'. She knows that this Child has some higher purpose - and believes that God will carry her through all that happens - with **favour**

## C. WE MUST SHOW GROWTH

I show a number of Scriptures that depict the word "**favour**" BUT highlight always the concept of **character / growth / values / good conduct**.

- 🕒 Can **favour** be poured out on people with no value system?
- 🕒 Can people who are growing in maturity in the spirit, not show / receive grace?

The "grace" of salvation falls on everyone equally.

The visitation / **favour** falls on those who are **obedient**:

**1 Peter 1:13** *"Therefore, preparing your minds for action and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passion of your former ignorance, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,***

**1 Peter 5:12** *By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. **Stand firm in it.***

**2 Peter 1:10** *"Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, **for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.***

**Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, **and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, firm in it.**

## D. WE MUST PRODUCE FRUIT

Y'shua / Jesus says - stay in the Vine and produce a harvest. Harvest are for connected people - connected to God - to the Holy Spirit - to the community.

**John 15:4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Can those who do not produce a harvest—expect **favour**?

We will see in the verses below, that we have been abundantly empowered. And in one of the parables we read exactly that - that every man has a talent. Those who take what they have, and use it in the Kingdom, are blessed with greater and greater “talents”

Those who do NOTHING - do not experience God's **Favour**.

**Ephesians 4:7** But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, “When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.”



**Matthew 25:14** For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. --- He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! ----- For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

## E. CIRCLE OF FAVOUR

We become Children of Abraham, though the work of Messiah Y'shua / Jesus.

- We make mistakes.
- We repent.
- We make restitution.
- We accept forgiveness.
- We receive the **favour** of gifts.
- We produce a harvest .
- We distribute **favour** - to the community.

We are blessed and we are a blessing.

- Where are you on the cycle of blessing?
- What must you do to change your situation?

# SHALOM!

# *The Priestly Blessing ...*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

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

# *The Priestly Blessing ...*

Hebraic Translation<sup>1</sup>

"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."

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<sup>1</sup> Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see [http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12\\_blessing.html](http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html)

# The Priestly Blessing<sup>1</sup>

יְבַרְכֶּךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:

and may he guard you the LORD may he bless you

May the LORD<sup>2</sup> bless you<sup>3</sup> and keep you<sup>4</sup>

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְךָ:

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

May the LORD make His face<sup>5</sup> shine<sup>6</sup> upon you and be gracious<sup>7</sup> 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 up<sup>8</sup> his face to you and give you peace<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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).

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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).

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.