

THE SET-APART NAME AND THE *BIRCHAT KOHENIM*

(PRIESTLY BLESSING)

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Bnai Avraham

“For Yahweh your Elohim has chosen him (Lewi) out of all your tribes to stand to serve IN THE NAME OF YAHWEH, him and his sons FOREVER.” Devarim 18:5 *the Scriptures*

Many people within Traditional Judaism, Messianic Yisrael, and Messianic Judaism decline to use the Name of Yahweh (the Tetragrammaton), because they claim they want to reverence it and not be guilty of breaking the third commandment in the *Ten Words*. If we study the Scriptures and the command of Yahweh in the Torah, we can prove that when we pronounce the Name of Yahweh, we are not profaning it or making it common. The fact from Scripture is that Yahweh has **commanded** us to **use** His Name!

Blessing in the Name

In the Torah verse sighted above we are told that the Lewites are to minister or serve in His Name FOREVER! There are other scriptures that prove the Lewites are to use the Name of Yahweh when serving Him.

- In Devarim 10:8 and Devarim 21:5 we are told that the Lewites are to “...pronounce BLESSINGS IN HIS NAME.”
- 1 Divre haYamim 23:13 it says, “...to pronounce BLESSINGS in His Name FOREVER.”
- 2 Shemu’el 6:18 states that, “... (Dawid) He BLESSED the people with THE NAME OF YAHWEH ALMIGHTY.”

Yahweh not only COMMANDS His priests to BLESS in the NAME, but HE also tells us WHAT to SAY when we BLESS the people, WORD FOR WORD! It is the *Birchat Kohenim* that should be said over the people of Yisrael. Only Yisrael could receive this blessing upon them.

The *Birchat Kohenim*

“Speak to Aharon and his sons, saying THIS IS HOW you are to BLESS the CHILDREN of YISRAEL [SAY TO THEM:

**Yahweh bless you and guard (keep) you;
Yahweh make His face shine upon you and show favor to you;
Yahweh lift up His face upon you, and give you peace (shalom).**

Thus you SHALL PUT MY NAME ON THE CHILDREN OF YISRAEL, and I MYSELF shall BLESS them.”

Bemidbar 6:23-27 *the Scriptures*

In this section from the Torah, Yahweh tells the Lewites how to bless the children of Yisrael by PUTTING HIS NAME UPON THEM IN THE *BIRCHAT KOHENIM*, SO HE CAN PERSONALLY BLESS THEM! Now, let me ask you a question. How can the children of Yisrael ever receive this blessing and be blessed by Yahweh Himself IF HIS NAME IS NEVER PUT UPON THEM AS HIS CHILDREN? Don’t your children have YOUR NAME placed upon them to receive the benefits of being part of your family? Isn’t that how they receive their inheritance from you, by having your name? If we are never to utter the Name of Yahweh then how can Yisrael be blessed? How can the priests perform the command to pronounce a blessing with out the Name, if they are commanded to bless ONLY in the Name?

Yahweh NEVER tells us in the Torah or anywhere else to utter a blessing in any other name than His! Nor does He tell us to use a substitute name that He did not command us to use! Can ANYONE show me the command NOT to BLESS in the NAME of Yahweh?

The *Chumash and Targum Onkelos with Rashi's Commentary, Volume Bemidbar*, under Numbers 6:27, tells us the Yahweh's PROPER NAME IS TO BE USED, AND NO SUBSTITUTES ALLOWED!

- (27) And they shall put My Name [upon the children of Israel]...i.e. they shall bless them by the PROPER NAME OF YAHWEH (i.e. when uttering the blessings THEY SHALL USE THE TETRAGRAMMATON AND NO SUBSTITUTE FOR IT) (Siphre) And I will bless them..."

What does it mean to bless someone?

- **To bless: barak # 1288** “to kneel, to give reason to bend the knee, to kneel” **blessing: berakah # 1293** “a prayer for a blessing to come true in the future, prosperity”

We are to impart the blessing to Yisrael, so they will have a reason to bow the knee to Yahweh and give him thanksgiving and praise!

Called by His Name

If the children of Yisrael do not speak the Name of their Heavenly Father, Yahweh, HOW can anyone ever say that Yahweh's people are called with His Name?

- Devarim 28:9-10, “Yahweh will establish you as His set-apart people unto Himself, as He promised you with an oath, if you will keep the commandments of Yahweh your Elohim, and walk in all His ways. Then all the people on the earth shall see that you ARE CALLED BY THE NAME OF YAHWEH, AND THEY SHALL FEAR YOU.”

Let us study other Scriptures also to prove our position in this article:

- Tehillim 76:1: “In Yahudah, O Yahweh, Your Name is known! Your Name is exalted in Yisrael!
- Yermiyahu 14:9:” ...and we are CALLED WITH YOUR NAME.”
- Yermiyahu 15:16:”... Your Word to me was the joy and rejoicing of my heart; that Your Name is called upon me...”
- Malaki 1:11:”...MY NAME will be great among the gentiles (nations-goyim)...”
- Yeshayahu 56:6:” Also the sons of the gentiles (goyim) who JOIN THEMSELVES to Yahweh, to serve Him, and to LOVE THE NAME OF YAHWEH to be his servants...”

The word CALLED means:

- #7121:kara-“to call out to, call forth, that are bidden”

Do you see the relationship of this word to *ekklesia/miqra*? Yisrael is “called out” BY His Name-YAHWEH! How else is the world to know the people of Yahweh, except by the use of His Name?

We can see from these witnesses from the Scriptures that the people of Yahweh have His Name put upon them, are called by His Name, and must LOVE His Name-not hide it, not substitute for it, BUT use it, and NOT profane it by using the names of idols for it. Yisrael alone is to be the sole inheritor of the Name of Yahweh. Only Yisrael worshipped an Elohim named Yahweh! Many nations had “gods and lords”, BUT only Yisrael worshipped Yahweh!

Summary

By investigation of SCRIPTURE alone, and not obeying the traditions of men that negate the commands of Yahweh, we can easily see that Yahweh has commanded the Lewites to minister AND impart blessings to Yisrael in the Name of Yahweh. He has given the Lewites the words to say in the Torah that will PUT HIS NAME UPON YISRAEL AND IMPART HIS BLESSINGS TO THEM! The Scriptures also show us that we (Yisrael) are to be CALLED BY HIS NAME-THE NAME OF YAHWEH! Do you truly love His Name? Do you rejoice that He has called you by His Name-Yahweh? Have you, as one from the nations (*goyim*) joined yourself to Yahweh through the Messiah, the Shabbat, and the covenant?

Brethren, I entreat you to use the Name in the *Birchat Kohenim* in your congregations and meetings. Bless the people of Yisrael with Yahweh's proper Name so that He can bless them!

May Yahweh bless you and keep you! In His Name. Rabbi Edward Levi Nydle