

The Law of Yahweh

Eric Ross / General

The Blessing of the Lord / A Blessed Person; Instruction of Any / Psalm 1

What does it mean to be blessed? Is a person blessed because of what God does or has done? Or is a person blessed because of what they do or have done? References are from the: LEB - Harris, W. H., III, Ritzema, E., Brannan, R., Mangum, D., Dunham, J., Reimer, J. A., & Wierenga, M. (Eds.). (2012). The Lexham English Bible. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

The Law of Yahweh (the Lord)

Lets open by reading Psalm 1:1-6 . The first half, the first three verses say,

Psalm 1:1–3 LEB

¹ Blessed is the man who does not walk in the advice of *the* wicked; nor does he stand in *the* way of sinners; nor does he sit in *the* assembly of mockers. ² Instead, in the law of Yahweh *is* his delight, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ And so, he is like a tree planted by streams of water that gives its fruit in its season; its leaf also does not wither. Therefore all that he does prospers.

And the last half, the last three verses say,

Psalm 1:4–6 LEB

⁴ Not so the wicked. Instead, *they are* like the chaff that *the* wind scatters. ⁵ Therefore *the* wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of *the* righteous; ⁶ for Yahweh knows *the* way of *the* righteous, but *the* way of *the* wicked will perish.

Psalm 1:1 LEB

¹ Blessed is the man who does not walk in the advice of *the* wicked; nor does he stand in *the* way of sinners; nor does he sit in *the* assembly of mockers.

This begins with, "Blessed is the man", but not every man is blessed. So what is that causes a man to be blessed?

Well, this is the first part in vs. 1. The blessed man “**does not**”. There are some things that you cannot do if you want to be blessed.

1. Walk - in the advice of the wicked

2. Stand - in the way of sinners
3. Sit - in the assembly of mockers

But there is a second part to being blessed which is in Psalm 1:2 where we find this little word, **instead**.

Psalm 1:2 LEB

² Instead, in the law of Yahweh *is* his delight, and on his law he meditates day and night.

There is a way to walk in blessing and that is when "the law of Yahweh is his delight and on his law he meditates day and night".

This doesn't make it clear to us though.

- › What does it mean that the law is his delight?

The definition of delight, here is "*the good pleasure, will, purpose*"

Brown, F., Driver, S. R., & Briggs, C. A. (1977). *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

So to delight in the law of the Lord is to take good pleasure in it, to seek the will and purpose of God's law in your life.

- › What does it mean to meditate?

Some would say to meditate means to quiet your mind, to sit still, and chant or mutter softly.

One definition says, "to think and so decide a course of action".

Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

So, meditating day and night means:

1. Thinking about the actions you are taking.
2. Is your behaviour consistent with God's way?
3. Are the things you are planning to do in line with God's plans and purposes?

The way Jesus said this was,

John 8:26–29 LEB

²⁶ I have many *things* to say and to judge concerning you, but the one who sent me is true, and *the things* which I heard from him, these *things* I say to the world.” ²⁷ (They did not know that he was speaking to them about the Father.) ²⁸ Then Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will recognize that I am *he*, and I do nothing from myself, but just as the Father taught me, I say these *things*. ²⁹ And the one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

Jesus said he always did what was pleasing to the father. Can we say that?

Now we come to the end of a blessed life. This is what it looks like.

Psalm 1:3 LEB

³ And so, he is like a tree planted by streams of water that gives its fruit in its season; its leaf also does not wither. Therefore all that he does prospers.

This doesn't mean that everything will always work for us. It means that in the end, we overcome.

But there are two ways of life described in Psalm 1. and the second one is described here in Psalm 1:4.

Psalm 1:4 LEB

⁴ Not so the wicked. Instead, *they are* like the chaff that *the* wind scatters.

These are mockers, sinners, wicked.

The end of this Psalm is that the way of the wicked shall perish.

What Is The Law of Yahweh?

Or we might say, the Law of the Lord.

Our first answer is likely, “The Bible” and that is true, but there is more in the Bible than God’s law.

The Bible is:

History - written by and about the Jewish people. It includes times and places and people and where and how they lived.

Some of the problems with the Bible as a book of history:

- There are gaps in the (as they say, extra-biblical record) historical record so that no one knows what happened during those times except what the Bible says..
- The Bible was written in several languages. Certainly the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, but it is an archaic form of the Hebrew language, referred to as Biblical or Classical Hebrew, with some portions (notably in Daniel and Ezra) in Biblical Aramaic (language of the Assyrians). But Greek became the predominant language and much of the New Testament was written in Koine Greek. Mainstream and modern scholars have generally had a strong agreement that the New Testament was written in Greek and that an Aramaic source text was used for portions of the New Testament, especially the gospels.
- The accounts were not all written to be a historic record. For example, Paul was writing to Churches to deal with particular issues, not to create a historic record of events. Other books like Chronicles or Kings were more intentional in their records.
- As an example, during the Babylonian exile, the Jewish captives were given Babylonian names and writings of the time may refer to the Hebrew name or the Babylonian name depending on the context.

God Never Forgets

When God says something, it doesn’t change. When we look at history, we find how God has spoken to people before us. For example, His covenant with Abraham.

Genesis 17:1–13 LEB

When Abram *was* ninety-nine years old Yahweh appeared to Abram. And he said to him, “I *am* El-Shaddai; walk before me and be blameless so that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you exceedingly.” Then Abram fell upon his face and God spoke with him, saying, “*As for* me, behold, my covenant *shall be* with you, and you shall be the father of a

multitude of nations. Your name shall no longer be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. And I will make you exceedingly fruitful. I will make you a nation, and kings shall go out from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you, and between your offspring after you, throughout their generations as an everlasting covenant to be as God for you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land in which you are living as an alien, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting property. And I will be to them as God.”

And God said to Abraham, “Now *as for* you, you must keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you, throughout their generations. This *is* my covenant which you shall keep, between me and you, and *also* with your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. And at eight days of age you shall yourselves circumcise every male *belonging* to your generations *and* the servant born in your house and the one bought from any foreigner who is not from your offspring. You must certainly circumcise the servant born in your house and the one bought with your money. And my covenant shall be with your flesh as an everlasting covenant.

It is always a two way deal with God. He does His part, we do our part.

The Lord Gave Jehoiakim the King of Judah

History also helps us understand why Israel was overrun by foreign powers and taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar.

There was history here before Daniel, in

2 Chronicles 36:4–5 LEB

And the king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and he changed his name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took Jehoahaz his brother and brought him to Egypt. Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the eyes of Yahweh his God.

And the Lord had sent the prophet in Jeremiah 26 to tell them what was coming.

Jeremiah 26:1–8 LEB

¹ At the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, the king of Judah, this word came from Yahweh, saying, ² “Thus says Yahweh: ‘Stand in the courtyard of the house of Yahweh, and you must speak to all the cities of Judah that come to bow in worship *in* the house of Yahweh all the words that I command you to speak to them. You must not omit a word. ³ Perhaps they will listen and turn back each from his evil way, and I will relent of the disaster that I *am* planning to do to them because of their evil deeds. ⁴ And you shall say to them, “Thus says Yahweh: ‘If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, ⁵ to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I have sent to you, over and over again, though you

have not listened, ⁶ then I will make this house like Shiloh, and this city I will make a curse for all the nations of the earth.’ ” ’ ”

⁷ And the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the temple of Yahweh. ⁸ And then as Jeremiah finished speaking all that Yahweh had commanded *him* to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You will die!

Perhaps They Will Listen

The Utensils of the Temple of God

Now in Daniel 1:1-2 Jerusalem is taken by Nebuchadnezzar as are "the utensils of the temple of God" and apparently the king " 2 Ch 36:6, 7, states that Nebuchadnezzar had intended “to carry Jehoiakim to Babylon,” and that he “carried off the vessels of the house of the Lord” thither.

Daniel 1:1–2 LEB

¹ In *the* third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim the king of Judah into his hand and some of of the utensils of the temple of God, and he brought them *to* the land of Shinar *to* the temple of his gods, and he brought the utensils to the treasury of his gods.

He also Rebelled Against King Nebuchadnezzar

2 Chronicles 36:7–13 LEB

⁷ And Nebuchadnezzar brought to Babylon the objects of the house of Yahweh and put them into the temple in Babylon. ⁸ Now the remainder of the words of Jehoiakim and the detestable things that he did and what was found against him, behold, they are written in the scroll of the kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

⁹ Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the eyes of Yahweh. ¹⁰ And at the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon, with objects of the treasure of the house of Yahweh. And he made Zedekiah his brother king in Judah and Jerusalem.

¹¹ Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. ¹² And he did evil in the eyes of Yahweh his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke for Yahweh. ¹³ And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. He stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to Yahweh, the God of Israel.

You Said, ‘I Will Not Listen’

Jeremiah 22:18–21 LEB

¹⁸ Therefore thus says Yahweh concerning Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah, the king of Judah: "They will not lament for him, 'Alas, my brother,' or 'Alas, sister.' They will not lament for him, 'Alas, lord,' or 'alas, his majesty.'" ¹⁹ He will be buried *with* the burial of a donkey. *He will be* dragged away and thrown outside the gates of Jerusalem. ²⁰ Go up *to* Lebanon and cry out, and in Bashan lift up your voice, and cry out from Abarim, for all your lovers are shattered. ²¹ I spoke to you in the times you were secure, *and* you said, 'I will not listen!' This *was* your way from your youth, for you have not obeyed my voice.

But Jehoiakim died at Jerusalem, before the conqueror's intention as to him was carried into effect (Je 22:18, 19; 36:30), and his dead body, as was foretold, was dragged out of the gates by the Chaldean besiegers, and left unburied"

Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible (Vol. 1, pp. 621–622). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Children from "royal families and from the lords" were also taken in Daniel 1:3-7, "to be educated for three years. And at the end of their training, they were to be stationed before the king". And among these children were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Each of them were given names and expected to live their lives in service to the king of Babylon. Nothing is said about their families, but it was clear that there was no going back for them.

Children of Israel

When taken captive, their names were changed. Now when we read, we need to look at the context because they were still the children of ?Israel and trying to maintain their identity in a foreign land under foreign rule.

Daniel 1:6–7 LEB

Now there was among them from the Judeans, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. And the commander of the court officials gave them names, and he called Daniel, Belteshazzar; and Hananiah, Shadrach; and Mishael, Meshach; and Azariah, Abednego.

Experience - real accounts of relationships, interactions, good and bad between people and nations.

The Two Prostitutes - Solomon's Wisdom

The Lexham English Bible Chapter 3

16 Then two prostitutes came to the king, and they stood before him.

17 The one woman said, "Please my lord, I and this woman are living in one house, and I gave birth, with her in the house.

The Lexham English Bible Chapter 3

24 So the king said, "Bring me a sword," and they brought the sword before the king.

25 Then the king said, "Divide the living child into two, and give half to the one and half to the other."

26 Then the woman whose son was the living one spoke to the king because her compassion was aroused for her son, and she said, "Please, my lord, give her the living child, but certainly do not kill him!" The other one was saying, "As for me, so for you! Divide him!"

27 Then the king answered and said, "Give the living child to her, and do not kill him; she is his mother."

This was an impossible situation. How could you make this right?

Go Up To Jerusalem

Cyrus recognizes Yahweh, the God of Israel. He is the God who is in Jerusalem. And even more than that, Cyrus has already said Yahweh is God of the heavens and it is Yahweh that has given him all the kingdoms of the earth in Ezra 1:2. So Cyrus makes a proclamation in

Ezra 1:3 LEB

Whoever among you *who is* from all of his people, may his God be with him and may he go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and may he build the house of Yahweh, the God of Israel. He is the God who *is* in Jerusalem.

Then Cyrus goes even a step further and asks the people of Babylon to help every one return from wherever they are in the kingdom.

Ezra 1:4 LEB

And let every survivor, from wherever he resides be assisted by the men of that place with silver and gold, with possessions and domestic animals, and with the freewill offering for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.”

And in Ezra 1:5-6 "the heads of families ... all whose spirit God had stirred prepared to go ... and all of their neighbors helped them". But they didn't just help them pack. They gave them "objects of silver, gold, possessions, domestic animals, and with valuable gifts—besides all of the freewill offering". This was a major relocation for these "survivors" as they were called in vs. 4 and God not only stirred Cyrus, but all the people of Babylon to give!

Opposition

They had everything they needed and the support and authority of king Cyrus but it still took forty six years to complete the Temple.

The opposition continued during Nehemiah's time but.

With The Help of Our God

Nehemiah 6:15–19 LEB

¹⁵ So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶ When our enemies heard of this, all of the nations surrounding us were afraid and lost their confidence. They knew that this work had been done with *the help of our God*. ¹⁷ Also, in those days the nobles of Judah increasingly sent their letters to Tobiah, and *letters* from Tobiah returned to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were bound by oath to him because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah son of Arah. His son Jehohanan took as a wife the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹ They also were speaking of his good deeds in my presence, and they were sending my words out to him. Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

Reading through Nehemiah feels like a long time span but in Nehemiah 6:15 "the wall was finished ... in fifty two days". In fact, the work went so quickly that , in Nehemiah 6:16 "our enemies ... were afraid and lost confidence ... this work had been done with *the help of our God*".

This however, did not stop the pressure from Tobiah, in Nehemiah 6:17-19. The root of this is uncertain, but "If this Tobiah is a descendant of the earlier Tobiah of Ezra 2:60 (see #2 above), the uncertain status of his ancestors could explain both his appointment over Ammon and the ensuing conflict with Nehemiah".

Eskenazi, T. C. (1992). Tobiah (Person). In D. N. Freedman (Ed.), *The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary* (Vol. 6, p. 584). New York: Doubleday.

We do however, "know from 13:4 that Tobiah had family ties with the priestly or high-priestly house of Eliashib, probably by marriage. While such links and loyalties were embarrassing enough in themselves, we now learn how busily they were exploited by intrigues, persuasive

talk, leaks of information and threatening letters. All this, in addition to the outside pressures already described, brought Nehemiah under attack from almost every quarter".

Kidner, D. (1979). *Ezra and Nehemiah: An Introduction and Commentary* (Vol. 12, p. 111). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Instruction - in who God is, how He operates, the way he made us, and the way we were made to live.

Wisdom, Hard Won

Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary *Wisdom, Hard-Won* (2:1–5)

Wisdom, hard-won. This is the essential counterpart to 1:20ff., where wisdom was clamouring to be heard. Here it is the pupil who must clamour (3). Yet the search, strenuous as it must be, is not unguided. Its starting-point is revelation—specific (words) and practical (commandments); its method is not one of free speculation, but of treasuring and exploring received teachings so as to penetrate to their principles

Wisdom for Living - Proverbs

Proverbs 3:6 **LEB**

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will straighten your paths.

There is instruction in God's word. Instruction in the way of life. Instruction in righteousness. God's word will change you if you will allow it to.

God's instruction will lengthen your life.

Proverbs 3:1–2 **LEB**

My child, do not forget my instruction, and may your heart guard my commands. For length of days, years of life, and peace they shall add to you.

And God's word will give you peace.

And you will find favor.

Proverbs 3:3–4 **LEB**

May loyal love and truth not forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them upon your heart. And you shall find favor and good sense in the eyes of God and humankind.

And people will appreciate your good sense, not just God, but humankind. Not just Christians, but humankind.

Walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16–21 LEB

¹⁶ But I say, live by the Spirit, and you will never carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh, for these are in opposition to one another, so that whatever you want, you may not do these *things*. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are sexual immorality, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, *things* which I am telling you *in advance*, just as I said before, that the ones who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:22–26 LEB

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self control. Against such things *there* is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh together with its feelings and its desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, we must also follow the Spirit. ²⁶ We must not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

If These Things Are Increasing

2 Peter 1:3–7 LEB

³ because his divine power has bestowed on us all *things that are* necessary for life and godliness, through the knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and excellence of character, ⁴ through which things he has bestowed on us his precious and very great promises, so that through these you may become sharers of the divine nature *after* escaping from the corruption *that is* in the world because of evil desire, ⁵ and *for* this same *reason*, and *by* applying all diligence, supply with your faith excellence of character, and with excellence of character, knowledge, ⁶ and with knowledge, self-control, and with self-control, patient endurance, and with patient endurance, godliness, ⁷ and with godliness, brotherly love, and with brotherly love, love.

2 Peter 1:8–12 LEB

⁸ For *if* these *things* are yours and are increasing, this does not make *you* useless or unproductive in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For *the one* for whom these *things are* not present is blind, being nearsighted, having forgotten the cleansing of his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be zealous even more to make your calling and election secure, because *if you* do these *things*, you will never ever stumble. ¹¹ For in this way entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly supplied for you. ¹² Therefore I intend to remind you continually concerning these *things*, although *you* know *them* and are established in the truth that you have.

Conclusion

Our main text is Psalm 1:1-6

Psalm 1:1–6 LEB

¹ Blessed is the man who does not walk in the advice of *the* wicked; nor does he stand in *the* way of sinners; nor does he sit in *the* assembly of mockers. ² Instead, in the law of Yahweh *is* his delight, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ And so, he is like a tree planted by streams of water that gives its fruit in its season; its leaf also does not wither. Therefore all that he does prospers. ⁴ Not so the wicked. Instead, *they are* like the chaff that *the* wind scatters. ⁵ Therefore *the* wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of *the* righteous; ⁶ for Yahweh knows *the* way of *the* righteous, but *the* way of *the* wicked will perish.

His delight is in the law of the Lord.

So to delight in the law of the Lord is to take good pleasure in it, to seek the will and purpose of God's law in your life.

In His Law he meditates day and night.

One definition says, "to think and so decide a course of action".

So, meditating day and night means:

1. Thinking about the actions you are taking.
2. Is your behaviour consistent with God's way?
3. Are the things you are planning to do in line with God's plans and purposes?

Prayer of Salvation

Pray: If you have been listening and have never accepted Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life, simply say this prayer with me.

"Dear God,

I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness.

I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died

for my sin and that you raised Him to life.

I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord,

from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will.

I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

If you prayed with me, I want to seal that with a short prayer for you.

"Father,

I thank you for these that have accepted Christ today. Lead them by your Holy Spirit to a local Church where they can learn more about you and your plan for their life, In Jesus name, Amen

Commission Prayer for Christians

Pray: For those of you that are Christians, we have a life to live that is fruitful for God's Kingdom. Welcome the Spirit of God into your life. Listen for His voice and, pray with me now.

"Father,

I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Father, I know it is your desire that I walk with you.

Thank you that you have forgiven me for anything that has separated me from you by the blood of Jesus Christ.

My heart's desire is to walk with you, lead me now by your spirit and I will follow.

I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

For those of you that prayed with me, would you please go to prayny.org and add a prayer request so that we can connect with you and continue to pray for the fulfillment of God's plan in your life.

End Notes

It's good to be with you again. Thank you, Shannon, for your work. And, I want to thank my friend, Reverend Joseph Cohen for connecting us together. Reverend Joseph has been with you for some time now on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm Eastern time. He also hosts a public access TV show in White Plains, New York, "New Hope in the Lord" where Christians give their personal testimonies about how God is working in their lives. We are both part of The Master's Hand Christian Fellowship in New Rochelle New York with Pastor Noschese.

Presented on <http://omegamanradio.com> Tuesday, April 17, 2018 8:00PM EST with thanks to our friend Rev. Joseph Cohen

Contact Information:

- Eric and Noemi Ross - info@tellone.org
- <http://tellone.org>
- <http://prayny.org>
- <http://mymarriagementors.org>
- Rev Joseph Cohen – <http://newhopeinthelord.com>