

BLESSINGS

Voice Over Script by Ps Paul West, The Grainery and read by John Marks, Rhema FM

The Hebrew word for blessing is **barakah**, which means “**a transmittal of God’s favour.**” To **baruch** is to **kneel down by someone, to empower them to prosper and thrive, to do well, to succeed.**

We are a royal priesthood. In Biblical Tradition, one of the main roles of the priesthood is to **proclaim blessing on the people.** To this day, the Jewish high priest, once per year, will gather with tens of thousands of religious Jews at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, and proclaim the blessing from **Numbers 6:**

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

In the New Testament, most of the epistles begin with a blessing... “**Grace and peace to you**” (1 Thessalonians 1)... “Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance....” (Jude 2). The Apostle Peter includes this blessing in his first letter:...

“May the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you.” 1 Peter 5:10

Spoken blessings are **Biblical statements that invoke the blessing of God in the life of another.** The power of spoken blessings comes from God, Who Himself “***hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ***” as stated in Ephesians.

From the very first chapter of the Bible we read that God is a God who loves to bless his creation... Decreeing ‘**Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it...**’. **Genesis 1:28**

But the scriptures are also clear that God has endowed His followers with the same power and authority to pass on blessings.

To the spiritual leaders of God’s chosen people, Israel, God said.. “**they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.**”

These spiritual leaders had the power and authority to speak blessing over the people of Israel, and God confirmed their blessing.

Today, with authority and power from God, we declare a blessing over the city and the people of Newcastle and the Hunter Region...