Why So Blessed? Numbers 6 and Psalm 67

**Intro**: Say the Blessing (no words on screen)

 I like that; don’t you? Words of blessing 3,500 years old!

 **ILL** – Riding home at the end of a long Saturday… 1974 Ford

 Dad’s hand slid from seat to my neck…. Blessing me.

 **t/s** – These words feel kind of like that… What do they Mean?

**Read Numbers 6: 22-27**

***We Need God’s Blessing***

Exp – “***Blessing***” = He Turns His face favorably toward us!

 **Protection** – “keep” – I am too weak to stand on my own.

 **Pardon** – “Be Gracious” – I am too sinful to earn the blessing

 **Peace** –“shalom” – wholeness, well-being (empty, incomplete)

 “To Kneel” --- Bless communicate our Need, Submission.

**App** – A kind of confession in the idea of “Blessing”

***We are Weak but He is Strong.***

**God Initiates the Blessing**

Exp – Whose Idea was it to close worship with a Blessing?

 People, Priest, Aaron, Moses…. **The LORD**!

 **Vs. 27** – You put My Name on them, I will Bless them.

**App** – So many think that God’s blessing must be wrung out of his

 closed fist. He is slow, reluctant, stingy in His blessing.

 It is His nature, His pleasure, His desire, to bless His People.

*How can you be so sure?*

**Romans 8:32** (all doubts forever settled at the Cross!)

God Blesses His People. Amen. Amen.

***WHY?***

**Psalm 67 God blesses us on Purpose.** (His Purpose for Blessing)

Context: A harvest festival (thanksgiving) **vs. 6**

 People bring gifts to Temple in Worship… Provider.

 Celebrate material blessings and Heritage (spiritual)

 Just before departure… The Priest Raised His hand… Blessing.

**Vs. 1** – Notice three things:

1. ***The Aaronic blessing*** – Be gracious, bless, faced shine…
2. Shift from 2nd person (you) to ***first person*** (us)
3. ***Selah*** = musical interlude… pause for reflection.

Wondering WHY… Why does God so Bless us?

**ILL** – Quick to wonder ***why bad things happen to good people***.

 Seldom wonder why so many good things happen to sinners like us!

**t/s** – How do you know that is what the psalmist is wondering?

 First word of **vs. 2**… after the interlude… **THAT** (Purpose)

**Why are We So Blessed?** (Gospel, Jobs, Health, Wealth…)

**Psalm 67**

Read with Comments: “Known” = experienced (vs. 2)

Derek Kidner, “The Spreading Circle”

Like ripples from a stone dropped in a pond; our blessings and thanksgivings spread.

* From material blessings to spiritual blessings.
* From a Focus on My Provision to His Purpose
* From personal or national celebration to Global concern!

From Jerusalem to all the Earth, nations, peoples (tribes)

 **Matthew 28; Acts 1:8** == This Psalm.

**ILL** – Richmond for Sending … 32 new missionaries… Lottie Moon.

**God Blesses Us on Purpose.**

--- that the nations would know Him; the peoples praise Him.