

VEZOT HA'BRACHA (AND THIS THE BLESSING)

“BLESSING THE TRIBES”

Parasha 54 - Deuteronomy/Devarim 33:1–34:12 — Elementary Lessons

THE STORY

Have you ever seen a famous person's body guards? They walk with them and protect them from anyone who tries to get too close. Yeshua's disciples tried to be like His body guards, but Yeshua didn't like that!

Yeshua took His disciples down to the area of Judea and across the Jordan River. People soon found out Yeshua was in town and this got the people really excited. Some of the adults went home and got their children. They wanted to give their children a chance to see Yeshua and let Him bless them! But when the parents brought their children to Yeshua, the disciples stopped them. They were probably trying to protect Yeshua from the large crowd. They told the parents to take their children away from Yeshua.



But when Yeshua heard what the disciples were saying, He was not happy with them! He knew that the disciples still did not understand what was important to Him. Yeshua said, “Let the children come to me. Don't keep them away.” Then Yeshua told His disciples that it was important to believe and trust in Him the way a child would. He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.

Yeshua wanted to bless these children because they were important to God. Actually, all people are important to God and God wants to bless all people. Yeshua came as God's greatest blessing to all people. We see in this story how much Yeshua loved those children that came to see Him. Yeshua wanted to bless the children. Indeed, He wants to bless all people. The greatest blessing Yeshua has given to us is salvation.

We need salvation because Yeshua knew that all people mess up. He knew that people would do bad things called sin. He also knew that our sins keep us from getting His blessings. He wants us to be with Him and see Him in Heaven. Yeshua wanted us to have a way to be with Him. Yeshua took the punishment for us and died on the cross for our sins. Then three days later He came back to life so that we could have our sins taken away. All you need to do to receive Yeshua's blessing of salvation is to have the faith of a child.

What does it mean to have the faith of a child? Children trust their parents completely. They don't have any doubts about their parents not being right. This is how God wants us to trust Him—completely. We can come to Him the way a little child runs to their Mom or Dad. And God is always there for us. When we ask Yeshua to forgive our sin, he saves us and starts giving us many blessings.

LET'S LEARN HEBREW!

The Hebrew word of the week is **Barakh** which appears in the first verse of the Parasha **Vezot ha'Bracha**:

בָּרַךְ

This is a very common word. We start all our “blessings” with the word “Barukh” which comes from the same word. In English this word means to kneel, bless or praise. The word gives us the idea of humbling ourselves (i.e., kneeling before the LORD in submission and obedience) and receiving personal blessing from Him.



DEUTERONOMY/DEVARIM 34:1

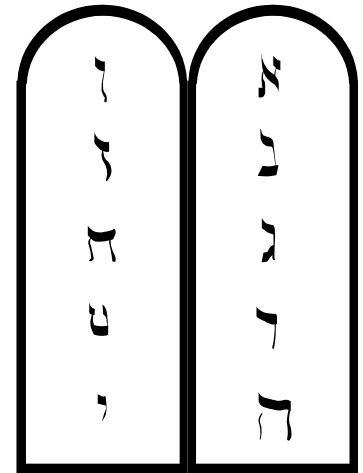
Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the sons of Israel before his death

MARK 10:13-16

And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Yeshua saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all." 16 And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.

MOSES BLESSES THE TRIBES

Tribe	Blessing
Reuven	Blessed with life
Judah	Success in battle
Levi	Serving in the Temple and being teachers of Torah
Benjamin	"Beloved" by God
Joseph	Blessed with sweet fruits on his land
Zebulun	Success in trade
Issachar	Success in Torah study
Gad	A lot of land
Dan	The might of a lion
Naphtali	Fertile land and sea
Asher	Sons and olive oil



THE WORD FIND PUZZLE

Find the hidden words within the grid of letters.

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Asher | Gad | Judah | Reuven |
| Benjamin | Issachar | Levi | Zebulun |
| Dan | Joseph | Naphtali | |



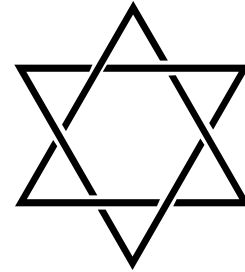
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F M H G E F R L X N G L N A D
J I A Z J A B R K Z V E R M O
Q D T V B Y E Q Z D C V F I O
N E M K W Q N A I O O I P U Y
E U D U S X J E G Z K Z Z H K
V O L Q X A A T H S Q C P U W
U P G U A S M F X P Q E R C O
E I A H B J I L U I S Q N X D
R W E S Z E N W S O J U D A H
E G E H H B Z S J K L J E D N
U D R N C E A I L A T H P A N
X S Q G B C R S M K A E B X V
A A V S H H F I I L G A A G O
G F M A Q C T S L C N M K T G
L E R O U E B D N S M V U Z T
    
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THE QUESTIONS

1. Why did parents bring their children to Yeshua?

- A. So that He could bless them.
- B. So he could fuss that them.
- C. So he could immerse them in water.



2. What did the disciples say to the parents?

- A. Go and eat lunch at McDonald's.
- B. They told the parents to send their children away from Yeshua.
- C. Come back tomorrow because Yeshua wants to take a nap.

3. What did Yeshua say to the disciples when He heard what they said?

- A. "Given them money and send them away"
- B. "Take them out to eat someplace."
- C. "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away."

4. Complete the following verse, "Now this is the _____ with which Moses the man of God _____ the sons of Israel before his death." (Deuteronomy 34:1)

5. Complete the following verse, "Permit the _____ to come to me; do not hinder them; for the _____ of God belongs to such as these ..." Mark 10:14

6. Is this statement True or False? "And He (Yeshua) took them (the children) in His arms and began pushing them away... Mark 10:16

True or False

7. Is this statement True or False, "Moses led the children of Israel into the Promised Land." (Deuteronomy 34:7)

True or False

8. What was the blessing that Judah received?

- A. Success in battle
- B. Serving in the Temple and being teachers of Torah.
- C. "Beloved" by God.

9. What is the blessing that Gad received?

- A. Success in trade
- B. Fertile land and sea
- C. A lot of land



THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

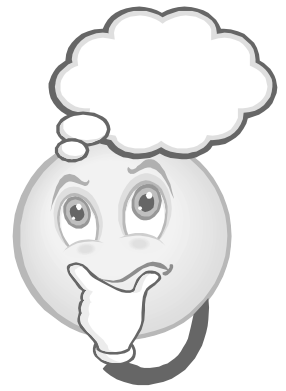
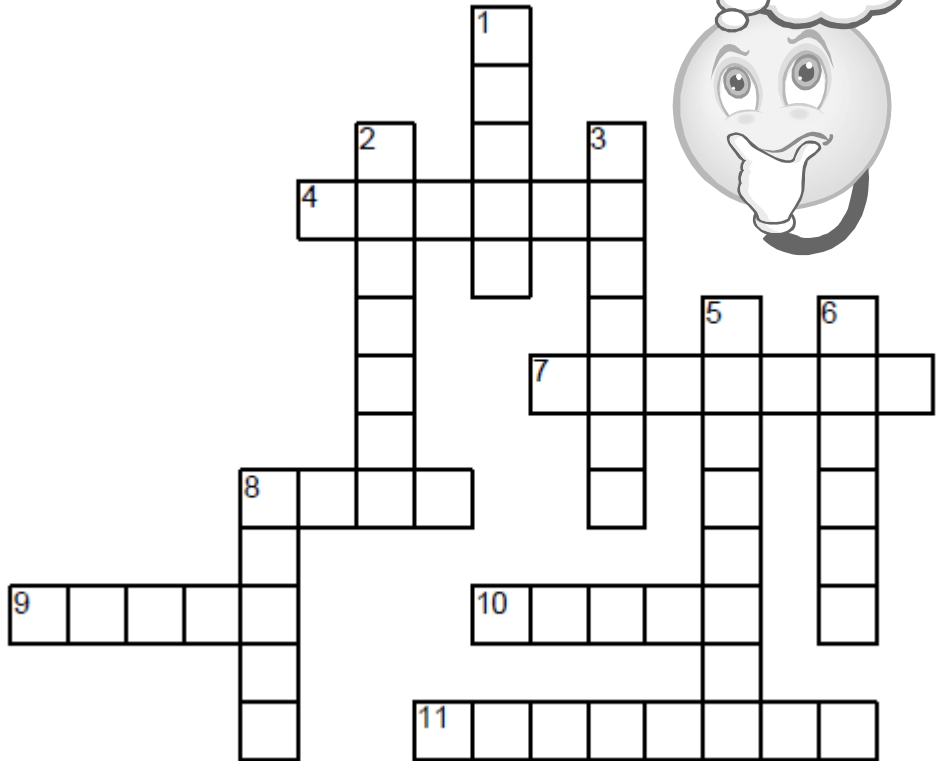
Complete the puzzle using the clues shown below.

Across

- 4. Small in size.
- 7. Bringing happiness, pleasure, or contentment to someone.
- 8. The parts of the body which connect the hands to the shoulders.
- 9. Given success in battle.
- 10. To come in contact with or to feel with your fingers.
- 11. Sons and daughters, young people.

Down

- 1. A statement accepted as fact.
- 2. A country or territory ruled by a king or queen.
- 3. Will have great success in trade.
- 5. This tribe will have success in Torah study.
- 6. Tribe that was blessed with life.
- 8. Receive a blessing of sons and olive oil.



JUST FOR FUN

In the past parents would bless children by laying hands on them. Can you find all the deliberate mistakes in the picture?

