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The Provision of Spiritual Blessing in Messiah 1: 3

The provision of spiritual blessing in Messiah DIG: What is the problem with comparing ADONAI, your heavenly Father, with your earthly father? How do we get "every spiritual blessing?" What can you do to gain all that Messiah has for you as you study Ephesians?

REFLECT: What are some situations in your life where you have vividly felt you didn't belong? How did you discover you were highly regarded by someone? What did that feel like? How did it affect you? What are some of the spiritual blessings you have in Messiah?

We receive our heavenly blessing by living in the power of the Ruach Ha'Kodesh.

As **Rabbi Sha'ul** begins **his** letter to these followers of **Yeshua**, it is not surprising that **his** first thought is to recount some of **the blessings** that have come from our **Father in heaven**. This also explains why **verses 3-14** are actually one long Greek sentence. **Praised be ADONAI, Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who in the Messiah has blessed us with every spiritual blessing . . . in the heavenly places.**

Praised be ADONAI: This is another common Jewish phrase seen in such central prayers as the Amidah or the blessing before any meal (*Baruch Atah ADONAI – Blessed are You, O LORD our God*). **There is an entire Tractate of the Oral Law** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ, to see link click Ei – The Oral Law**) **that teaches the details and importance of saying such blessings (Tractate Berachot). Among the interesting suggestions is that the lover of God should say at least a hundred blessings per day in thanks to God, a custom said to have been started by King David (Tractate Menachot 43b; Numbers Raba 18:21).**[54]



Long before **Yeshua's** day, the word **ADONAI** had, out of respect, been substituted in speaking and in reading aloud for **God's** personal name, the four Hebrew letters *yod-heh-vav-heh*, variously written in English as **YHVH**. **The Talmud (Pesachim 50a) made it a requirement not to pronounce the Tetragrammaton**, meaning the four-letter name of **the LORD**, *Yod-Hey-Vav-Hey,* since the ancient manuscripts do not give any vowel sounds, and this remains the rule in most modern **Jewish** settings. In deference to this tradition, which is unnecessary but harmless, I will be using **ADONAI** where **YHVH** is meant. In ancient times when the scribes were translating the Hebrew Scriptures, they revered the name of **YHVH** so much that they would use a quill to make one stroke of the name and then throw it away. Then they would make another stroke and throw that quill away until the name was completed. **His** name became so sacred to them that they started to substitute the phrase *the Name*, instead of writing or pronouncing **His Name**. Over centuries of doing this, the actual letters and pronunciation of **His Name** were lost. The closest we can come to is **YHVH**, with no syllables. The pronunciation has been totally lost. Therefore, the made-up name "Yahweh" is only a guess of what the original name sounded like. Both **ADONAI** and **Ha'Shem** are substitute names for **YHVH**. **ADONAI** is more of an affectionate name like *daddy*, while **Ha'Shem** is a more formal name like *sir*. Therefore, Jews, being respectful of the Third Commandment, use these words as replacements. **The Talmud explains, "In the Sanctuary, the Name was pronounced as written; but beyond its confines a substitute Name was employed (Tractate Sotah VII.6).** **God** has only one name, **YHVH**. All **His** other "names" like **ADONAI Elohei-Tzva'ot**, **ADONAI Elohim**, **ADONAI Nissi**, **ADONAI Tzidkenu**, and **ADONAI-Tzva'ot**, merely reflect **His** attributes.

Contrary to what some religious groups say today, no one can say with confidence

how to pronounce **God's Name**. The "name" Jehovah, for example, is a made-up word by a Franciscan monk in the dark ages. He took **YHVH**, and inserted vowels between the known letters to invent a new word: **Y**e**H**o**V**a**H**. Jews never, NEVER, use this made-up word. The last book of the B'rit Chadashah tells us that when **Yeshua** returns to the earth, **He** will reveal **the Name that no one knew but Himself (Revelation 19:12)**. It seems best to leave this lost pronunciation unresolved until the **Messiah** comes.

Every spiritual blessing: **God** has done so much for **His** children, yet some seem discontented, as if **the Father** is holding out on them. Some believers are always looking for a new blessing or experience to validate their faith **in Messiah**. **Sha'ul** emphasizes here that we already have **every blessing** available through the work of **Yeshua**. True, we may not always be experiencing all those blessings, but the problem is not that **God** is withholding from us but that we are not fully appropriating those spiritual blessings. Evidently, we do not need more of **God**, but **He** needs more of us.[55]

In the heavenly places: The abundant, unlimited blessings from **God** are in **the heavenly places**. More than heaven itself is included. **The heavenly place (Ephesians 1:20, 2:6, 3:10)** encompass the entire supernatural realm of **ADONAI**, **His** complete domain, the full extent of **His** divine operation. Therefore, believers have a paradoxical, two-level existence – a dual citizenship. While we remain on the earth, we are citizens of the earth. Yet, **in Messiah**, our primary and infinitely more important citizenship is **in heaven**. **But we are citizens of heaven, and it is from there that we expect a Deliverer, the Lord Yeshua the Messiah (Philippians 3:20).** That is why we are to **seek things above, where the Messiah is sitting at the right hand of God (Colossians 3:1).** Because we are members of **God's** domain, unlike **the worldly (Luke 16:8)**, we are able to understand the supernatural things of **God**, things which **the natural man does not accept** and **cannot understand . . . because they are spiritually discerned (First Corinthians 2:14).**

As citizens of **God's heavenly** dominion, believers hold all the rights and privileges that citizenship grants, even while we are living in the "foreign" and sometimes hostile land of earth. Our true life is in the supernatural, **the heavenly places**. Our **Father** is there, our **Savior** is there, our saved family members and loved ones are there, our name is there, and our eternal dwelling place and throne are there. But we are presently trapped in the tension between the earthly and **the heavenly**. **Paul** reflected this tension when **he** said: **We are afflicted in every way, but not**

crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed . . . as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor, yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things (Second Corinthians 4:8-9 and 6:10). The key to living as a **heavenly** citizen while living in an unheavenly situation is walking by **the Ruach**. **Rabbi Sha'ul** declares that we should **walk by the Ruach** (see the commentary on **Galatians Bv – Walk by the Ruach, and Not the Desires of the Flesh**). When we walk in **His** power, **He** produces fruit in us: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,** and **self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).** We receive our **heavenly** blessing by living in the power of **the Ruach Ha'Kodesh**.

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **Your** Awesome **love** to bless me with **every spiritual blessing "in Messiah"**! **Your** gracious **love** is so big that **You** promise me **Every spiritual blessing** and **You** deliver that promise **"in Messiah." His** sacrificial death and resurrection opened the path to heaven. **You** chose the path to be **"in Messiah".** The path to heaven is not in just anyone, but only thru the one sinless and spotless **Lamb of God (John 1:29).** All those outside of **Yeshua** died and are still dead. Only **Messiah Yeshua** has conquered/defeated death and only **Messiah Yeshua** lived a perfect life without sin.*

*Before **You** created the world, **You** knew that mankind could never be good enough to save itself. Since **You** are holy, the only way for **You** to fellowship with anyone is if they are holy and so you planned for Holy **Messiah Yeshua** to bear the sins of mankind. **All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast – all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world (Revelation 13:8).** All who choose to **love** and trust **Messiah Yeshua**, get on **His** path of holiness by being adopted as **God's children**. Thank you for my adoption, giving me the right to enter **Your** holy heavenly home and live with **You** eternally!*

*Praise **You** for **Your** Awesome **Love**! I want to thank **You** for **Your love** and blessings by blessing **You** back by living my life in loving obedience as best I can, sharing **Your** greatness with others and making time to talk with **You** in prayer. In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*