

THE AARONIC BLESSING (NUM 6:23–27)¹

Hebrew Text: Num 6:23–27

English Text (ESV)

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| דִּבֶּר אֶל-אַהֲרֹן וְאֶל-בָּנָיו
לֵאמֹר | 23 | “Speak to Aaron and his sons,
saying, |
| כֹּה תְבַרְכוּ אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֲמֹר לָהֶם: | | Thus you shall bless the people of
Israel: you shall say to them, |
| יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ: | 24 | The LORD bless you and keep you; |
| יְאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיְחַנֶּנְךָ: | 25 | the LORD make his face to shine
upon you and be gracious to you; |
| יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם
לְךָ שָׁלוֹם: | 26 | the LORD lift up his countenance
upon you and give you peace. |
| וַיִּשְׂמוּ אֶת-שְׁמִי עַל-בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֲנִי אֲבָרְכֶם: | 27 | “So shall they put my name upon
the people of Israel, and I will bless
them.” |

¹ Note: the blessing itself is found in vv. 24–26; vv. 23 and 27 are the frame introducing the words of the blessing and explaining what God intends to do by it. I provide all of these verses here for my Hebrew students to memorize the blessing in its immediate literary context. The blessing is also sometimes called the Priestly Blessing or the Priestly Benediction (in Hebrew, בְּרִכַּת כֹּהֲנִים).