

The Natural Mechanics of Blessings

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What does it mean to be blessed by God?

Is a blessing some form of a supernatural force that manipulates both nature and events in our favor, over and above the natural order of things? Is this really what a blessing is, something unnatural, something supernatural, something miraculous? Is the reality of our world, and the fortunes of certain individuals therein, really so metaphysical, above and beyond the natural order of life? Do we really believe this? Is this the Biblical message?

If we do not ascribe any supernatural force as being the source of blessing, then what is the source? If receiving blessings is a natural thing, subject to the laws of nature, then we should be able to manipulate blessings in similar manner to how we manipulate every other natural force under our control through science and technology.

Imagine that! Controlling blessings with a technological apparatus similar to turning on the air conditioner on a hot day! If blessings are natural occurrences, and thus subject to natural laws, then they should be able to be harnessed and manipulated like everything else.

However, I do not believe that our science or technology has progressed to the point of creating a blessing machine. Yet, does this leave us to conclude that blessings are in fact supernatural, or are they natural, and thus subject to our influence, but maybe our present knowledge limits us from understanding the “how” of influence.

Then again, maybe blessings are in fact natural, and we do understand the “how” of receiving them. It appears that this final conclusion is what is presented in the Torah.

“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse. The blessing, if you will heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today; and the curse, if you will not heed the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn away from the way I command you this day, to follow other gods, which you did not know.”
(Deut. 11:26-28)

The above, are the words of Moses. He says that both blessing and curse are set before us, and that it is we who choose which one we embrace. Essentially, Moses is telling us that we will be blessed if we obey God's commandments, and that we will be cursed if we do not. If we turn to the worship of other gods this bring upon us

a curse. But why? Are we going back to that idea of blessings, and now curses, being supernatural in origin? I do not think so.

Blessings and curses are natural occurrences that manifest as the results of our human behaviors. So, what is it about our behavior that can create for us either blessing or curse? How can getting involved with other gods solicit any kind of a natural (not supernatural) negative response?

We are often very shortsighted about the influence and effects that our behaviors have on ourselves, on others around us, and even upon our environment. What is obvious and clear to the eye, we all see. Yet, when things are not so clear, or when other agendas come into play, we, for the most part, throw caution to the wind, do whatever the hell it is that we want to, and forget, or ignore, that actions have consequences, and that we are subject to them.

When bad things happens to us, we always act so surprised and claim how nothing that we have ever said, or done, could be responsible. Yet, if we were only honest with ourselves, we would admit, (at least to ourselves), how much of a lie this really is.

It is easy to see things in the short term. For example, if I offend another person, and then in response, that other person punches me in the nose, we can easily see the relationship between my action, and that other person's reaction. If I had kept my big mouth shut, I would never have solicited the response of a punch in the nose. Thus, I can see the relationship here.

But now, let us take this one step further. There are causes and effects in which we do not see the immediate relationships. Government and societal decisions that have long term effects upon the economy, world-body politics, and the social fabric of a nation or region. The decisions of small groups of individuals (or even one person) can spread out, and influence the entire world, however intended or unintended, even over a period of centuries.

Here is one example of something small becoming something very big. Would the historical Yeshu HaNotzri (Jesus) had ever dreamed that after his demise a world religion called Christianity would arise, claiming to follow him, that would then turn on his own people (the Jews) and persecute them mercilessly for centuries? Whatever his historical reality was, if we could have given him a time-machine recording of Church history to see what would be done in his name, do you not think he would have fled and pursued anonymity rather than allow that anti-semitic monster to be born to kill?

Yeshu's (Jesus) historical conflict in his days, regardless what is said or believed about it, has transformed into something so totally beyond anything he could have

possibly imagined, so totally out of his control. Do you really think that he foresaw and intended all this? In spite of whatever one believes about Yeshu, does anyone think that it was (or is) Yeshu's (Jesus) intent for any Christian Church to persecute and hate Yeshu's (Jesus) people, the Jews?

We learn from this example that even apparently small and implied insignificant behaviors might take on a life of their own, and grow into something far greater than we could possibly imagine. If this is true of negative behaviors, should it not also be true about positive ones? I should say so!

We cannot foresee or predict the future. This is why we have to be careful with the words we speak and the deeds that we do. When we act with wisdom, we can craft behaviors that are designed to have a positive rippling effect. This is how blessings are created. This works in an almost mechanical way.

When we do what is right and create positive influences, then somehow, somewhere, naturally, and certainly not supernaturally, our own good comes back to us in the form of blessings.

As the old saying goes, "what goes around, comes around."