# DO NOT HOLD A FIXED INTERPRETATION OF YOUR BLESSING.

An increased appreciation of the value of one's Patriarchal Blessing will come as one grows in the understanding of God. The Patriarchal Blessing may be read as Scripture given specifically to the one receiving their blessing.

Their Blessing can be a source of inspiration in difficult times.

It can help one to keep balance in prosperous years.

It can provide companionship in lonely days.

It can stimulate when one is tired.

It can help one's private devotions.

The Patriarchal Blessing can function only when one believes God will reveal Himself today for the good of His disciples, and that He made provision in His priesthood for this inspiration.

The spirit of the Patriarchal Blessing is caught up in the benedictory prayers of Moses and Aaron.

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make his face shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace,
Now and ever more.

When you are needing God's Holy Blessing in your life; and when you have sought Him in prayer and in a serious study of the Scriptures, then, you may ask the Patriarch of your choosing to present you to God for your special Patriarchal Blessing.



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## PATRIARCHAL BLESSINGS





## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE BLESSING IS GIVEN

The candidate and the Patriarch set the time and place for the blessing. The setting should be a place conducive to worship, apart from noise and confusion. They should meet God there.

The Patriarch and the candidate will share a short time together preparing their hearts and minds for the special prayer of blessing. The Patriarch will place his hands upon the head of the candidate and offer a prayer to God and then speak in counsel to the candidate.

The Patriarch will record the Blessing. The Blessing will be transcribed and reviewed by the Patriarch. The Blessing will be printed and the original copy will be given to the candidate. A copy will be sent to the archives of the Patriarchs.

### THE PATRIARCHAL BLESSING

This special ministry is established in the Biblical record. Jacob, who was also called Israel, asked his sons to receive the benediction of God through their father. Each received from God, through the Patriarch, a calling, for each received counsel, and each obtained God's promised blessing.

#### WHAT IS A PATRIARCHAL BLESSING

The Patriarchal Blessing is a special ministry available through the Patriarchs of the Church of Jesus Christ. Usually only one blessing is given to a person in their lifetime, although special circumstances may call for a supplemental blessing. This is the kind of ministry offered by the Patriarchs of today.

Being "blessed" carries the idea of being happy. Jesus was saying in the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount that those who live God's way will experience a happiness that will be enduring.

When one grows up spiritually there ought to be more concern with spiritual blessings, therefore, one should desire only those material benefits that permit one to carry out their specific spiritual stewardship. The Patriarch will ask the Lord to make available the gifts that will constitute a blessing for Eternal Life.

## WHAT THE PATRIARCHAL BLESSING IS NOT

- (1) It is not a forecast for future life. It is not fortune telling.
- (2) It is not an answer to immediate problems.
- (3) It is not a report on one's genealogy-this is incidental. The person's identity within a Hebrew tribe may or may not be given. The important reality is that one is in the family of Jesus Christ.
- (4) It is not given to absolve one from the responsibility to make decisions.
- (5) The Patriarchal Blessing can be a guide for one's entire lifetime.

Any one problem or question is to be seen in the light of this total picture.

Often it is wise to solve any currently pressing problem before receiving one's Blessing.