



## “What It Really Means to Be Blessed!”

*Genesis 12: 2b “And I will bless you, And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing; <sup>3</sup> And I will bless those who bless you,*

In the Bible, there are three words that are translated as “blessing” or “bless.” The Hebrew word most often translated “bless” is **barak**, (Hebrew: ב-ר-ק; Arabic: ب-ر-ق), literally means “to kneel” and when used in this context, it indicates a relationship between humans, who adore God by kneeling, and God, who benefits people with His presence. *Barak* means “**blessed**” as seen in Genesis 12:2

**Another Hebrew word for blessing is **esher**,** which is also translated as correction. “prosperity” or “happiness” comes when a superior, usually God, has bestowed His favor on you such as in Deuteronomy 33:29. Job was blessed and should have been happy not because everything was good but because God favored Job. [Job 5:17](#) declares: “*The one whom God corrects is happy (blessed), so do not hate being corrected by the Almighty.* This blessing is connected to the knowledge that God is at work to direct us in the right



path. God's chastisement, discipline, reprimand, and correction is a display of God's love for us, like a parent who disciplines a child who does the opposite of what they've been taught or told.

In the New Testament, there are two primary Greek words translated as "blessing." **Makarios** means "**happy, fortunate, blessed**". The Greek word translated "blessed" in the Sermon on the Mount is *makarios*, and its meaning is a little more nuanced than what we get from *happy*. The idea behind *makarios* is that something is made "large" or "lengthy."

So, when God "blesses" us, God is literally "extending" His benefits to us. God "amplifies" His mercy to us. God "lengthens" His charity in our direction. We see this in the Beatitudes of [Matthew 5](#) and [Luke 6](#) which describe the happy state of those who find their purpose and fulfillment in God. [Romans 4:6-8](#) ties this happy blessing to those whose sins are forgiven, for they know the relationship to God has been restored.

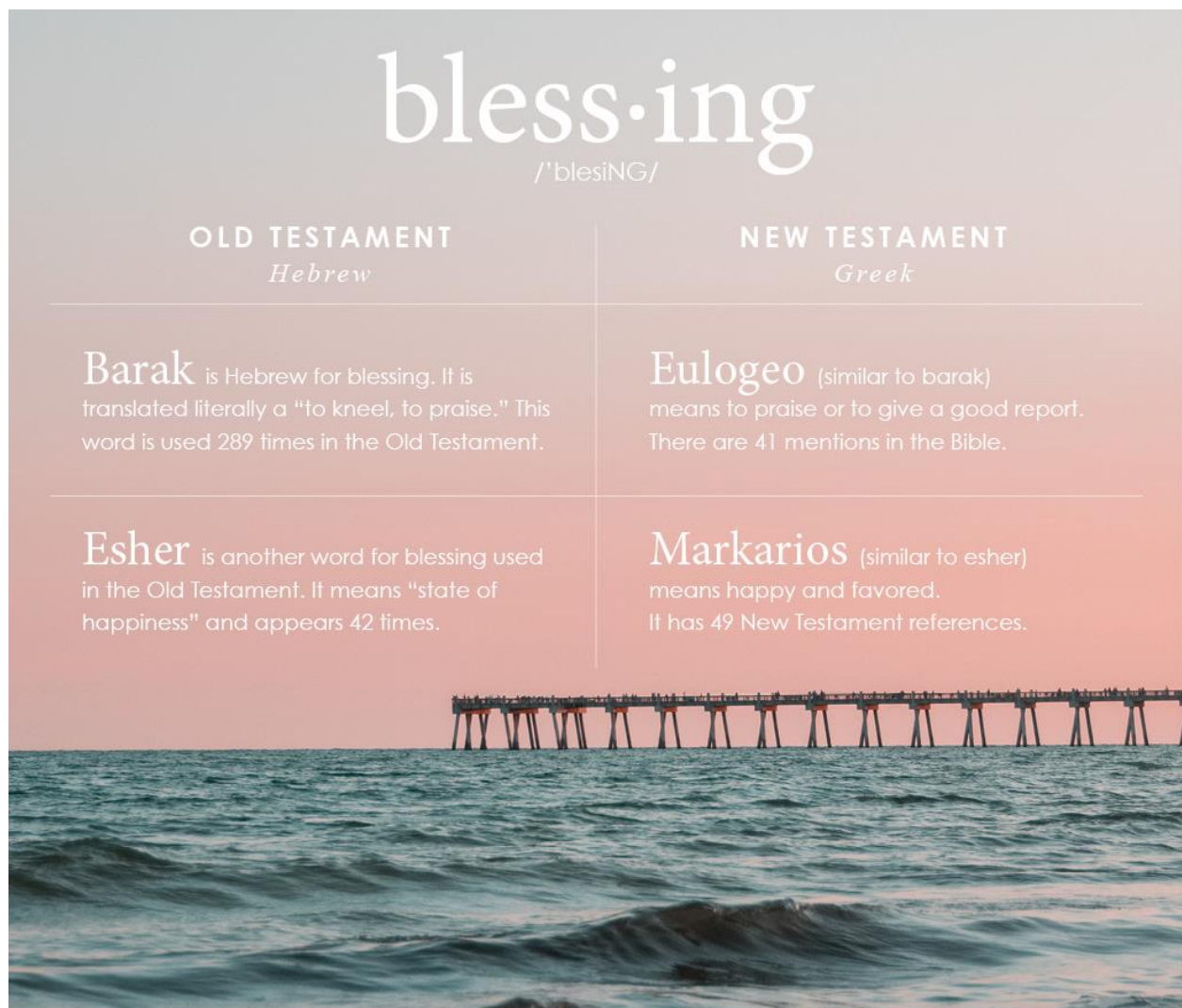
**Eulogia** (Ancient Greek: εὐλογία, *eulogía*), focuses more on good words or the good report that others give of someone and describes the blessing that we say over our food ([Matthew 26:26](#)). *Eulogía* means "a blessing" or something blessed. This word is where we also get our English word "**eulogy**," in which we speak well of someone who has died. [Ephesians 1:3](#) blesses God for all the blessings that He gives us in Christ, [1 Peter 3:9](#) instructs us to bless those who mistreat us, because we were called to receive a blessing from God.

Bringing these words together, we begin to see that a "**blessing**" is a statement of good will, unmerited favor and happiness that is said about another, as well as the condition that fulfills those good words.



These are some ways we see **barak, esher, makarios eulogia** used:

- happiness
- praise
- favor
- protection
- prosperity
- bless the food
- blessing as an inheritance
- eulogy, a good report of someone's life
- benediction



# bles·ing

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OLD TESTAMENT <i>Hebrew</i>	NEW TESTAMENT <i>Greek</i>
<p><b>Barak</b> is Hebrew for blessing. It is translated literally a "to kneel, to praise." This word is used 289 times in the Old Testament.</p>	<p><b>Eulogeo</b> (similar to barak) means to praise or to give a good report. There are 41 mentions in the Bible.</p>
<p><b>Esher</b> is another word for blessing used in the Old Testament. It means "state of happiness" and appears 42 times.</p>	<p><b>Markarios</b> (similar to esher) means happy and favored. It has 49 New Testament references.</p>