

God is Our Father
Phil 4:20-23
March 21, 2021

Salutations (Phil 4:20-23)

Phil 4:20-23 Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen. 21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Doxology (v. 20)

A form of words that offers praise to God, especially for his work of creation and redemption. Scripture records a number of these forms of praise which were used in both public and private worship.

Israel used doxology in their worship (1Ch 29:10-13; Ps 41:13; 72:18-19; 106:48; 150:1-6)

Doxologies used in spontaneous praise (Rom 11:33-36; Mt 21:9; Gal 1:5; Eph 3:21; 1Ti 1:17)

Doxologies used as a benediction (Jude 24-25; Eph 3:20-21; Rom 16:25-27; Heb 13:20-21; 2Pt 3:18)

Doxologies used in heavenly worship (Rev 4:8,11; 5:9-14; 7:12; 19:1; Isa 6:3; Lk 2:13-14)

God is Our Father

We see in both the Old and New Testament that God reveals Himself to His covenant people as Father. It is important to see that this is a love relationship based on the blood covenant and our new birth in Christ. He will not expel us from the family of God. As our loving heavenly Father he will continue to seek relationship with us even if we rebel and turn against Him. The moment we repent, He will forgive and welcome us into relationship with Himself. Jesus came to bring us into relationship with our Father. These promises are to help us to develop this relationship.

The Hebrew nation called God by many names, the name "Father," was not one of them.

1. God called Israel his firstborn son when delivering them from Egypt.

Ex 4:22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, "Israel is My son, My firstborn.

Dt 32:6 "Do you thus repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you.

2. They knew that He was a protector (a father) to the helpless.

Ps 68:5 A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation.

Ps 103:13 Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

3. Prophets tried to lead the nation to repentance, reminding them of their inheritance; they were to be sons to God their father.

Jer 3:4 "Have you not just now called to Me, 'My Father, You are the friend of my youth? "'

Jer 3:19 How I would set you among My sons and give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful inheritance of the nations! and I said, 'You shall call Me, My Father , and not turn away from following Me.'

Jer 31:9 For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn."

Mal 1:6 A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor?

4. There were prophetic words of God as father, fulfilled in Jesus and His followers.

Fulfillment in Jesus:

Ps 89:26 "He will cry to Me, 'You are my Father, My God, and the rock of my salvation.'

Isa 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isa 22:21 And I will clothe him with your tunic and tie your sash securely about him. I will entrust him with your authority, and he will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Fulfillment in His followers:

Isa 63:16 For You are our Father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not recognize us. You, O LORD, are our Father, Our Redeemer from of old is Your name.

Isa 64:8 But now, O LORD, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand.

Greet one another

Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

1 Cor 16:20 greet one another with a holy kiss.

2 Cor 13:12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.

1 Peter 5:14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Benedictions

Prayers invoking God's blessing upon others. They are often spoken at a time of impending separation, although they may sometimes constitute greetings.

Benedictions pronounced by priests (Nu 6:23-27; Dt 21:5; 1Sa 2:20; 2Ch 30:27)

Benedictions pronounced by kings (1Ki 8:54-61; Gen 14:18-20; 2Sa 6:20; 2Ch 6:3-11)

Benedictions pronounced by other leaders of the nation of Israel (Jos 22:6-8; Dt 33:1-29)

Benedictions pronounced by family members (Ru 1:8-9; Gen 24:60; 27:27-29; 48:9-22; 49:1-28)

Apostolic benedictions on the church - The blessing of grace and peace

(Rom 1:7; 16:20; 1Cor 1:3; 16:23; Gal 1:2-5; 6:16; Eph 1:2; 6:23; 1Tim 1:2; Rev 22:21)