

# May the Lord Stoop Down

## Overview

I just want to say to you just on the side that I see Eliaeser as a type of the Holy Spirit who has come to find a bride for the Lord Jesus Christ. And when he comes, he comes loaded with wonderful gifts and pours out those gifts upon us. We'd be very, very wise to watch the camels, to know when they're kneeling down, watch in a service for when we sense the move of the Holy Spirit. Watch in your own life for signals that camels must be kneeling. God the Holy Spirit is up to something.

So I checked this out to find out what is this expression about, and I've already been talking about it here. For some of you are going to say, here he goes again. But the kneeling motion, the Hebrew word is barak. I knew you'd want to know that. The kneeling word is barak, but there's a reason why I'm telling you about that. Because as I dig into strong numbers of the Greek and of the Hebrew, here's what I've found, and this bless me because it just puts more confidence in me about what this kneeling means. Kneeling means it implies, kneeling implies the word barak implies to bless God in an act of adoration.

So why are the camels kneeling? Well, it's just like around here we run out of words. I've noticed as I'm going down the Queen Elizabeth way, there's Ontario Street. You told somebody to come and visit you in the Niagara area, you live on Ontario Street, you better tell them which one, because we got a few of them. I'm always thinking, they were really running out of words. Why couldn't they name it Minerva Avenue or something? And I can't tell you because I'm not a linguistics expert, but I do know that in other cultures, not unlike ours, unique words are used in a variety of ways.

How many love ice cream? How many love turkey dinner with all the trimmings? How many love your wife? Which one do you love more? There's a story about a fellow who wanted to try something out? He locked his dog and his wife in the trunk of his car for 15 minutes. When he opened up the trunk, he asked his friends, which one do you think was happy to see me? Sorry, ladies, I thought it was cute. Coming down, we have to see

it this way, to the Hebrew people. They were in a gargantuan way a very religious community.

When you went to school as a child, you didn't learn all of the things that we cherish and believe education should be, you know, reading, writing, arithmetic, and whatever. No, when the child went to school, there was only one text and it was the Word of God. Then I've been so blessed recently watching with my wife the series called The Chosen. Pastor Peter made such a do about it. I was far too busy and occupied to get at it and he'd say, I can't believe you're not watching. I can't believe you're not watching it, but yeah, I have to watch. Now I know what he was going on about.

This is filled with glorious imagination and so many things about the Bible and about the stories of Jesus just make more sense when somebody puts it down into a sense, more humanity. Like all we know about the disciples is, yeah, there were 12 of them and maybe we can name them all off. But the writer of that show, sorry I'm off on attention, just like Peter Cough. This is to honor him today. But what the writers of The Chosen have done is they sort of drill down on what we know from the Bible about the disciples and then they sort of expounded on it.

They're sort of saying, hey, what if Matthew the tax collector, what if he went through extreme, extreme persecution by the Jews for working along with the Romans? What a beautiful, beautiful picture when he seeks forgiveness. It's a glorious thing. It's a wonderful thing. The gospel is just beautifully brought to life through this thing. And so what I'm gaining again as I watch The Chosen is how everything about them was religious. When they got up in the morning, they'll all pray to certain prayer. For every meal they prayed that same prayer before they went to sleep. But I mean their life was a life of prayer. Everything about them was religious. So when they were choosing, may I say, when they were choosing perhaps wording and wordiology to express certain things, the word kneeling, that they wouldn't use it for, well, my camel is going to do this or what's that?

Coming to them was the posture of adoration before God. So the first explanation of the word kneeling is adoration and blessing to God. **3** And it means to kneel down and bless him. So it's not out of character that the word kneeling is used in the camel story. Pastor Dave, why did you bring that? Like, well, what's the gravity of this thing? Because I never would have known had I not dove into the Greek in the original Hebrew. When the camels are kneeling down, I want to walk. Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? Why? of the Holy Spirit as He comes to you and He blesses you and He blesses you. There's that word He blesses you. How does He bless you? He comes to where you are. For as low as you have gone, He kneels down to discover you, to touch you, and to lift you up. He kneels down.

We struggle, I think, with some thoughts of God kneeling before us. What about the day that Jesus knelt down and made some mud and passed a fellow's eye? I believe that Jesus knelt down frequently. I believe at times when He prayed for people that he knelt down before them. When somebody... I see this woman taken in the act of adultery and Jesus dispels her accusers and there she is in the ground. He didn't stand like a king and potentate and pointed her. I see Jesus kneeling down to this woman who's broken, this woman who's tormented, this woman who's just been dehumanized in front of a great crowd. Jesus knelt down where she was and said, where are your accusers? I believe as He lifted up her hand to raise her up out of the dust. And as He said, neither do I condemn you. Those words riveted her heart.

She'd never forget those words as long as she lived. Jesus knelt. So this word blessing works two ways. The Lord wants to bless you. But then we're also told that we should bless one another. And this never occurred to me until I was digging and getting ready for my message today, where Isaac was blessing Jacob. He was blessing his own son. And these were the words that he said to his son Jacob, those who curse you will be cursed. And those who bless you will be blessed. So the Lord wants to bless you, but in turn He wants you to bless one another. How do we bless one another? In humility you poor savage sinner. I've just come to kind of straighten you up.

For Jesus John 3: 17 came not into the world to condemn the world, but the world through His kneeling down would be saved. So one of the primary objectives for this whole preacher today is to encourage you, bless one another. Love me with my warts and my hair loss, not totally lost. I got quite a crop growing out of my ears. We have to love each other. There has to be a sense of a dormant. What is it that I love about you? You're God's children and there's a natural affinity that arises out of your God's child with all of your errors and your frailties, my errors and my frailties. We all came from the same womb.

It's called the tomb. When you rose we arose with Him. We're to adore one another, love one another, support one another and check out the terminology one another in the gospels. It's an endless list. Love one another, forgive one another, wait for one another, encourage one another, bless one another. It goes on, serve one another, it goes on and on and on. So let us bless one another. How shall I bless somebody by saying something generously kind? It's so good to see you today. We can say that rather haphazardly or we could say it with such genuineness. You know when I come to the house of the Lord I always expect to see you there and it's always a blessing for me just to see you.

That encourages people. So the blessing speaks of a subjective way in which God blesses me, but the Bible speaks of me blessing others, and there's so many ways to do so. We're going to be blessing some people with bad sheets. We blessed homeless

people a few weeks ago as we went on the streets and we gave them out of our own pantries, we helped them. We blessed the Ukrainian people in ways that we found. We blessed them. We helped them. And watch this. When you bless others, God will bless you. Give and it shall be given. Bless and you'll be blessed. I've had people say to me in a church, I just don't have any friends. I said, how friendly are you? Who wants friends must show themselves to be friendly? Nobody ever invites me to their house for brownies and tea. How long has it been since you made up some brownies and steep tea and invite someone to your table? Ouch!

Pastor, don't say that. Bless one another. Bless your neighbors.

We're new on Victoria Ave. We've moved down here to Victoria, I'm already working on all my neighbors. The weeks after Christmas, I went over and knocked on the door, not knowing who I would find when they opened the door. I met a man three times my size and black is coal. I stood there looking and I wanted to be funny, but I didn't. I wanted to say, I don't know what to say. But I reached out to my hand and I said, I'm your neighbor. I'm Dave. Oh, you moved into that house. I did. And he said, well, what do you want? I said, nothing. I came to be your friend. And I said, I have a determination, Alex. I have a determination that someday you will say to another party, Dave and April are the best neighbors I've ever had. I said, I'm going to be working on that. And he, his face shone.

This whole time I had something behind my back. I said, you know, I said, I'm a pastor and I said, I kind of help lead my congregation through a celebration of Christmas. Oh, he says, I'm a Baptist myself. I said, well, we'll get all get past that. And he said, what are you? I said, Pentecostal. What's that? I said, you don't want to know. So I went on with this thing behind my back. I said, unless I let our congregation through Christmas. And I said, you know, familiar terminologies at Christmas are these three words, gold, frankincense and myrrh. I said, it's a little late to be, to be bringing Christmas gifts like gold, frankincense and myrrh. So I said, I decided I'd present something else. And I whipped up my hand like this. I said, a little jar of homemade strawberry jam. He reached out and took it. And he said, thank you very much. Every day later he came over and knocked on my door and he gave me a jar, the same size as the one I gave him. And he said, now you can try my jam. He and I are training little secrets. We're being friends.

I went to the post box about a week ago and a lady that I met about just a couple of days after Christmas. I met the mailbox and going in to get my mail. It's a new spot for me. It's down in Victoria. And the lady, there's a lady there and she turned and she said, well, hi David, how's April? I said, you was stow me. I only told you my name once. She said, you're my friendly neighbor. I'm not going to forget you. So I'm working on my neighbors and that's my beginning way to bless them and to help them. I'm letting them know I'm a pastor and I'm going to be available for them any time.

And by the way, how much money you make, we need the tithe. No, no, not that. I want to go on now to the second passage that I want to bring to your attention. I've already done so before, but it's found in the book of Numbers and it's going to appear right up here where the Lord through Moses says, speak to Aaron and his sons and this is what you're to say. This is the way you shall bless. This is the way Aaron, you're the priest. You have the privilege. You have a God-given privilege, an authority. You have power to bless the children of Israel. And this is how you will bless them. These are the words that you will say, the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Now what's so interesting that this little passage just looks like three blessings is actually six blessings because each blessing is a couplet. And this is how, but when you're reading, especially, no, when you're reading the Old Testament, not especially, the Old Testament is very much poetic in Hebrew terms. And here's how Hebrew poetry works.

There will be a statement.

And then there will be another statement that if you might be teaching somebody about this, you might say, well, the second statement, it's basically the same as the first one. That's what you'll see. But it's never truly the same. There'll be one statement made and the second statement will be there to magnify and extend deep and heightened and broaden the thought that was given to you in the first one.

Read Isaiah with that in mind. Read Isaiah 53, that chapter with that in mind. Take time to look at it. I'm not going to do that, not going to do that today because today we're in numbers. But look at this in verse 25, the Lord bless you. That's an all encompassing word. That's a big word. May the Lord stoop down and bless you. But He goes on, besides blessing you, He magnifies it with a second statement and keep you blessed. May the Lord feed you, but may He feed you three meals a day the rest of your life, the second statement. Oh, how I love you. And then you can go on to describe how I love you. So that is the poetic value that you will discover when you're reading the Hebrew Scriptures. You'll see it through the Psalm. You'll see it everywhere.

It's always there. It looks like, boy, he just said the same thing. No, no, no, no. Look at it for a moment. The Lord bless you. More than that, He keep you. The Lord caused His face to shine upon you. Does the Lord's face shine? To the point where Moses seemed blinded by the brilliance. Paul was blinded by the presence of Jesus. May the Lord's face shine upon you. Now the Lord, someone would say, he's out in the universe. How is his face going to shine on me by coming close to you? May the radiance of his face be so close that it almost takes your breath away. But while the Lord comes that close to you, it could be a fearsome thing. It could be a fearful thing. Why is it coming close? Why he's coming close? The second part of it is because he's come to be gracious to

you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you. Think of it. How would you feel if I spoke to you day like today like this? There was a preacher came to our Bible college. I won't name him because maybe some of you knew him and maybe he was your hero. His mannerism was so distracting. He took off his glasses and put them on about every ten seconds. And every time he put his glasses on, it appeared maybe he was reading something, but not necessarily. I'm a Bible school student. I want to be a preacher. I'm studying his hand movements. I'm studying his face. I'm studying the inflections of his life. I want to be a good preacher. Maybe I can learn something from him. Here's what I learn when you really want to get through to somebody, do it like this. And the Lord said he really loves you. No, he really does. And I'm sitting there saying, I'm over here. Hello, hello, I'm over here. It doesn't drive you nuts if you're talking to somebody and they're not even looking you in the eye. They're looking past you and all of a sudden they go, yee-hoo. And they're talking to somebody else. That's so distracting.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and in that moment may you sense his glorious peace. His countenance, his very presence will bring peace and satisfaction in your heart. When the Lord said through Moses to Aaron, bless the people with these words. I checked it out in the original Hebrew. Same word, barak. Kneel down and bless the people and let them know that God is going to kneel down and bless them. And what's the best posture to receive a blessing from the Lord? Kneel down and adore the one who's bestowing the blessing upon you. I don't believe that we have to always kneel, but I believe it's a good idea. I'm going to hasten through the next little portion of Scripture because my time has run away.

Deuteronomy 33 and verse 26, I'm going to race through this. It's Moses. He's already gone and Deuteronomy 33, Moses has in a prophetic way spoken uplifting words to every tribe, tribe, family, right? The twelve families of Israel. And upon each one of them naming the head of each family, he pronounced a blessing. This is Moses' final message. I hope I said it was Moses preaching. In Deuteronomy 33, it's Moses' final words. His congregation number is probably in a couple of million out there in the desert. These are his final words. God has told him this is your last day to be breathing on terra firma. Talk to the people and God inspired them. Say this over each family and lift them up. And then he gets to the end of the twelve family and he pauses for a moment. And then he says a word that is for all twelve tribes combined.

So there was a word for each tribe, but now there's a word for the entire twelve. And this was it. There's no God like your God who rides across the heavens to help you and on the clouds of His majesty. God can get to you in a hurry because it rides on the clouds. But I've gone to great lengths to share this at some point in the past. My memory's getting shot and I'm enjoying preaching now because I can't remember what I did. So it's okay if I redo it. But when it says the Lord will hasten to get to where you are, the theology that I understand about God is He's everywhere all the time, anyhow. So why

would God rush to get to you? Well because the idea of God rushing, the idea of riding on a cloud, chariot, to get to me as fast as all get out. That's kind of encouraging. That word is for the person whose lost sight of the fact, He's as close as the breath in your nostrils. He's omnipresent. He's everywhere. So why does God have to leave point A to get to where I am, point B to minister to my need?

There's a good reason for that. And that is because at times in my life I have felt Him distant. I knew what the Word said about Him being close to me, but there have been times when I didn't feel He was close. There were times when God disappointed me and I was broken into tears. God where are you? Where were you? This is no good Lord. I've been through times of disappointment. Surely you have as well. And how do we handle those times? It's a struggle. The Lord knows about our struggles. And so I believe that this is why Moses threw this in. Are you hurting? Your right is chariot to get to you. At the mention of His name He'll be present.

There's no God like your God. I thought about this. What God? What deity made of wood? Made of hay? Made of gold? Are some weird thoughts out of some profit? What God has said, I love you with an everlasting love. I've written your name in the palms of my hand. What God has said His Son to die for are unworthy souls.

What God has said, I want to bless you. I want to kneel down where you are and lift you up. Listen to me. Every religion, check it out. Every religion out there in the world has a God that says, you don't know. What do I say? Or I'll give you a rough time. And I'm going to wait until you get your life straight. There's one religion comes knocking on my door. Why are they there? They don't get to be a part of the chosen later on until they've done their duty. Others are being told, go and make more, slit throats and kill everybody, every which where you can. Kill the infidels. And I'll wait for you to do that. But God did not wait for God so loved the world He gave. There's no God like your God who stoops down in the muck and the mire, in the septic tank and very rescues you. There's no God like your God who will rush to your attention. He rides the heavens to help you. And he comes in the clouds of his majesty, poetic words.

Does God ride in a chariot? Whatever you think. This is poetry and it's ultimate best. These precious words are jewels. These words like he rides like a chariot across the heavens to get you. They lift you up, they encourage you, and they give you a mental picture. They kind of bring it down to your level. Somebody racing to you in their fast car is the doctor coming. Yes, he's driving his Porsche. He'll be here any moment. He rides his chariot. He zooms across the clouds. Faster than shiny cars in his sleigh. Dear Lord, help us. He'll be there in a moment. Then it's poetic. He's going to do these things for you. Wherever you are, he'll be there. But then he expands on this with the next words. There's no God like your God who rides in the heavens to meet your need.

He goes on and he says, oh, by the way, did I tell you not only is he everywhere, but if you get discouraged and you think he's remote, he'll come.

Did I tell you that he wants to be your home? God himself wants you to inhabit him. The eternal God, the majestic God, the creator of all things wants to be your refuge. We could have some fun here with that word refuge, couldn't we? He wants to be your home. He wants to be your strong tower. He wants to be your personal castle with a moat all around. He wants to be your war tank so that the enemy can't even break into where you are. He wants to be your 747 who flies above all of the trouble that's here upon the face of the earth. He wants to be your personal banquet. He wants to be known as your lover. He wants to be known as the one who sustains you with his own gentle. He wants to be your refuge.

So why do we hide from him? Why do we keep God waiting? He's there. And he says, when you're away from me, I want you to feel lonely. When you don't sense my presence, I want you to get anxious. I want you to come, Papa. Papa wants you. Abba Father. Abba Father. Deep within my soul I cry. Abba Father. Abba Father. I don't remember how the song ends. Oh, there it is. Our techie guy is too swift. Sing it with me. Do you know it? Abba Father. Abba Father. Deep within my soul I cry. Abba Father. Abba Father. I will never cease to worship you. Abba Father. Abba is the name for daddy. Abba. Abba has a more cherishing note to it. This is my father. That sounds very traditional and very striking. I arrived just remembering I wasn't going to include this, but I've got to.

This is hung on a close. So I got a call from my youngest from the West. She told me about a trial that she and her family were going through. She could hardly tell me she was sobbing so deeply. She was almost lost for words and as she's pouring out her soul to me I'm weeping. I can't believe what I'm hearing. The family's breaking up. We had no idea she kept it all from us because daddy I know how strong you are about marriage and we're supposed to work it out, but daddy it became impossible. Daddy daddy daddy. The following morning I was on a WestJet flying to Edmonton. I raced to a place and bought a cheap Vase - a Walmart special, \$4.44 day. I went to Costco, that's where you can get roses real cheap. I bought a pile of roses and stuffed them in that vase. It's the only thing I knew. I don't know where all the floral places are. I don't know where a nice china shop is. I was in a hurry doc. I was in a hurry.

When I arrived at this big office tower where she works, a fellow who's the guard there, he's just there to make sure nothing gets out of hand. You know these guards that you'll see in his uniform as I came through. He stopped me. This was a face he didn't know. What can I do for you, sir? I got this Vase on my arm like this and I'm looking through this pile of roses. I was like jungle gym. I said, I want to see, I'll just use our first. I want to see my Melanie. He said, that's not possible, sir. I said, why? He said, my



responsibility is to keep everybody away from her. He said, I keep everybody away from everybody. He said, my job is to keep these people protected. He said, I don't know you. I have flowers. He said, that doesn't mean anything. You could be a terrorist for all I know. But this is my daughter. He said, then you should appreciate this. I'm protecting your daughter. Get happy. I said, I flew all the way from Ontario just to see my daughter. It's been years since I've seen her. I have to see her. He said, place a phone call and leave a message. I said, no, no, I have to see her. You're not coming in here. I said, what if I'm the delivery man? He smiled. He said, yes. I said, what if I am saying I can't just drop this off? The recipient has to sign for it. He said, yes. And with that, he turned. He picked up a phone.

Moments later, I saw her. See through these windows up way up high. She stepped into an elevator and then I saw the elevator descending. Doug, I thought I was going to have a heart attack. My heart was pounding because I love her so much and she's hurting. She's broken. The elevator door opened and I actually positioned my way kind of off to the side so there was all this stuff between me and her. She wouldn't see me because I wanted her to come. She doesn't. She's been told. There's a parcel for her and then you've got to come and sign for it.

This is a pretty big place. There's a lot of people in the lobby who all worked there and some people who were anticipated blah, blah, blah. There was not just a handful. It was a busy place. And suddenly, my daughter's just stepped in the right way and I stepped in her line of vision and she saw me. She didn't even notice the flowers and this is what I heard. She yelled at the top of her lungs. That's my dad and tears running down her cheeks. She crashed through a little bit of a barrier, came running over and fell into my arms. Daddy! She didn't call me Mr. Forest. She didn't call me April's husband. She called me Daddy the sweetest word that could come out of her mouth.

That's my daddy. Abba Father. Abba Father, when you're away from me, he says, I want you to feel lonesome for me. And if I know where you are in the place where you'd say, I want you. He says, I'll come and when I arrive, I'll kneel down in front of you and I'll take a hold of you. And so I'll finish that verse now. It says, there's no God like your God who rides in the heavens to help you. The eternal God wants to be your fortress, your protector, your castle, your armor bearer. And then he goes on to say, and did I mention that right now, right where you sit underneath you right now are the everlasting arms. He wants you to run to Papa, but there's times when you feel so broken, so bewildered, you feel so lost. You want to pray a prayer to Him and you can't find the words.

You are disappointed beyond words. You don't know the right words to say to the king and the potentate, the creator of all things. What's appropriate Lord? What's a pro? I don't know what to say. Come to Papa. I don't feel worthy. I don't feel worthy. Come to Papa. **16** Come to Papa. My legs don't have any strength in them. I'm wilting. I've lost

all my energy. I can't run to you. So Moses said, if you ever get to the point where you can't run to the refuge, where you haven't got the way to get to him, sit down, sit down and discover. There's not a chair under you. There's ever lasting arms. And when you sink into his arms, where do you think he's going to take you? He's going to take you home. I love to finish. I'll finish one more time.

Fran Hamilton was not afraid to let go of her feeble frame because she was sensing. The everlasting arms. She said, Pastor Dave, I'm not afraid. I want this to happen. I want to go and be with him. Those are the words of somebody who knows. There's no God like your God. Poreides in the heavens to come and meet you at your need. And did I tell you he wants to be your habitation? He wants to be the place that you run to and hide in and be protected. I need to add this. Whenever you're lost, broken, lonely, feeble, you don't know what to do. Relax. Don't let your prayer time become moments of frustration and lashing out, ringing your hands.

Sometimes the best kind of prayer that you can offer is your silence. Just sit and wait for a word from him. I'm known for too many words anyhow. Somebody told me a secret. I called, is it okay? I called the cukes the other evening. And this rascal Doug told me today, they come and pray with me before the service. He said, you know, when you called Peter Cukie, then I said, we were sitting right there. We were in their home. Oh. He said, Pastor Peter looked up and said, oh, it's Pastor Dave. They said, well, go ahead and answer it. Whereupon he said, I'd best not. If I do, it'll be a long conversation. Ouch.

How's our conversation with the Lord? Maybe we're a little too wordy. Maybe we should listen more. Maybe we should learn to listen. Heavenly Father, you're too wonderful. Beyond words, you're greater than my unlimited imagination. You are joy, unspeakable and full of glory. There's no God like you who doesn't wait for me to perform. You perform. You show up. You don't wait for me to show up. You showed up. And when I was ignoring you, you pursued me and insisted like a hound after a deer. You pursued. Thank you Lord God for pursuing. Thank you for being unwilling to give up. Thank you for being gracious beyond my imagination. Thank you for speaking to me in such beautiful words, such glorious imagery.

All right, the heavens, if I have to get to you, if you ever become so bewildered, you actually think I'm not there. Well, I'll be right there. Help me to wait. You don't have to wait. For me, you're the aggressive one. Help me to learn to wait. For your word says, if I wait upon the Lord, my courage and my strength will be renewed. Teach me, Lord, to wait. Can we close with this then with me? Abba Father, Abba Father, deep within my soul I cry. Abba Father, Abba Father, I will never cease to love you. The Lord bless you. Help me with this. I get mixed up, the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord causes face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you

and give you his peace. Finish it. Finish, finish, finish. Jesus said, my peace. Dear Lord, how great is his peace? He's never disturbed. He never rings his hands. And he says, I'm giving you that kind of peace. Stop your worrying and rest in His arms. Now you have an opportunity to bless somebody. You know how. Have at it. We'll see you again soon.