

I was recently in a small store and overheard the clerk speaking Hebrew to a man at the register. The customer bought nothing but then gave the

God bless you and protect you!

God deal kindly and graciously with you!

God bestow [divine] favor upon you and grant you peace!

Thus they shall link My name with the people of Israel, and I will bless them” (Num. 6:22-27).

Rabbi Yishmael, one of the great sages of the Talmud, reviewed one of the verses in this passage, “You shall bless the children of Israel.” He asked if the priests bless the people, who blesses the priests? To answer, he cited a verse later in the same chapter: “And they shall put My name upon the children of Israel, and I will bless them” (Num. 6:27). He concludes from this verse that just as the