

ברך

Meaning

- To kneel
- To bless God as an act of adoration
- To bless man as a benefit
- Sometimes, to curse

Verb, appearing approximately 330 times in the Old Testament.

The word בִּרְךָ marks important moments of covenant, worship, inheritance and hope.

Examples

In Scripture, בִּרְךָ expresses both human and divine blessing:

- God blesses humans, conveying favour, prosperity, and life - “And God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and multiply...’” ([Genesis 1:28](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigGenesis 1:28)

Hebrew וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱתֶם אֱלֹהִים וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם אֱלֹהִים פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמְלֵאוּ אֶת הָאָרֶץ וּכְבֹּשְׁתָּהּ וּרְדּוּ בַדָּגַת הַיָּם וּבְעוֹף הָאָרֶץ
 ESV And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.
 καιηυλόγησεναυτουζοθεδςλεγωναυξανεσθεκ...

- Humans bless God, meaning to praise or acknowledge God’s goodness - “Bless the LORD, O my soul” ([Psalm 103:1](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigPsalm 103:1)

Hebrew בָּרַכְתָּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְכָל הַיּוֹנָה וְכָל הַקֶּרֶבֶי אֶת שֵׁם קְדֹשׁוֹ
 ESV OF DAVID. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! NIV Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. NLT Let all that I am praise the LORD; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.

τῷ εὐλόγει ἐν ψυχῇ μου τὸν κύριον καὶ πάντα τὰ ἐν τῷ μουτὸ ὄνομα τοῦ ἁγίου αὐτοῦ...

- Humans bless others, invoking God’s favour on someone - “The LORD bless you and keep you” ([Numbers 6:24](#)plugin-autotooltip__default plugin-autotooltip_bigNumbers 6:24)

Hebrew וַיְבָרֶכְךָ יְיָ הָאֵל וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ
 ESV The LORD bless you and keep you; NIV ““The LORD bless you and keep you; NLT ‘May the LORD bless you and protect you. LXX εὐλογῆσαι σε κύριος καὶ φυλάξαι σε KJV The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: -----)

Conjugation Tables

Piel Stem — "to bless"

Perfect (past tense)

Person	Hebrew	English Meaning
3rd person masculine singular	בָּרַךְ	he blessed
3rd person feminine singular	בָּרְכָה	she blessed
2nd person masculine singular	בָּרַכְתָּ	you blessed
2nd person feminine singular	בָּרַכְתְּ	you blessed
1st person common singular	בָּרַכְתִּי	I blessed
3rd person masculine plural	בָּרְכוּ	they blessed
3rd person feminine plural	בָּרְכוּ	they blessed
2nd person masculine plural	בָּרַכְתֶּם	you blessed
2nd person feminine plural	בָּרַכְתֶּן	you blessed
1st person common plural	בָּרַכְנוּ	we blessed

Imperfect (future tense)

Person	Hebrew	English Meaning
3rd person masculine singular	יְבָרֵךְ	he will bless
3rd person feminine singular	תְּבָרֵךְ	she will bless
2nd person masculine singular	תְּבָרֵךְ	you will bless
2nd person feminine singular	תְּבָרְכִי	you will bless
1st person common singular	אֶבָרֵךְ	I will bless
3rd person masculine plural	יְבָרְכוּ	they will bless
3rd person feminine plural	תְּבָרְכֶנָּה	they will bless
2nd person masculine plural	תְּבָרְכוּ	you will bless
2nd person feminine plural	תְּבָרְכֶנָּה	you will bless
1st person common plural	נְבָרֵךְ	we will bless

Imperative (command)

Person	Hebrew	English Meaning
2nd person masculine singular	בָּרַךְ	bless!
2nd person feminine singular	בָּרְכִי	bless!
2nd person masculine plural	בָּרְכוּ	bless!
2nd person feminine plural	בָּרְכֶנָּה	bless!

Infinitive and Participle

Form	Hebrew	English Meaning
Infinitive construct	בָּרֵךְ	to bless
Participle masculine singular	מְבָרֵךְ	blessing
Participle feminine singular	מְבָרְכָה	blessing
Participle masculine plural	מְבָרְכִים	blessing
Participle feminine plural	מְבָרְכוֹת	blessing

Qal Stem – "to kneel"

Form	Hebrew	English Meaning
Perfect 3rd person masculine singular	קָרָךְ	he knelt
Imperfect 3rd person masculine singular	יִקְרָךְ	he will kneel
Infinitive construct	לִקְרָךְ	to kneel
Participle masculine singular	קָרָךְ	kneeling

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Last update: **2025/10/17 12:18**

