The Good News

When God will hear humanity’s prayers

That of existing time we read: “Thus says the LORD:’Keep justic and do righteousness, for My Name is to be honored.”

Who are Prayers Does God Hear?

American’s wake-up call— that’s how many news commentators and gov- ernment officials characterized the Sept. 11, 2001, airborn terror- ism attack on the World Trade Center and Penta- gon in the United States. Almost with one voice they called on Americans to pray for the comfort and support of the nation and for all who had suffered loss.

The response to this call for prayer, includ- ing the special service on the day of prayer and remembrance emanating from the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., was heartful and massive. The international response also was encouraging.

Yet, equally passionate religious people— primarily from militant extremist groups and their supporters— called for revenge. These Scriptures also tell us when and why God greatly desires to hear and answer human prayers. After Christ returns— and after all mankind learns God’s truth and most— repentance will become a reality.

In the meantime only those who are willing to hear His Word and turn away from their sins have His ear. If you want God to hear you and consistently answer your prayers, make sure you have a proper understanding of His teachings.

When we face a crisis, nothing is more important than knowing the criteria God uses for responding to our prayers. The only way we can know is to carefully look at what the Holy Scriptures reveal about God’s criteria for answering—or refusing to answer— our petitions to Him.

Let’s be bold and ask the key question:

Who has God’s ear?

God Himself gives us a clear answer: “This is what the LORD says:’Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?’ declares the L ORD’” (Isaiah 66:1-2).

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The apostle Paul wrote to the elderly Timothy, “Therefore exhort first of all those that are in authority, and shew harmless, faithful, and sincere, (as becometh true glory in the sight of God our Saviour) who gave himself for our sins, that he might redeem us from the vain ways of this world through the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Political leaders, especially during times of national and global crisis, often make decisions that affect the lives of millions. “At a time like this,” one author wrote, “it’s just not possible for swerving leaders to be able to live “a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and reverence.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

In times of crisis it’s normal for people to think their appeals to God are more likely to be heard when they band together in prayer. Indeed, God promises to answer prayers of genuinely humble people who are willing to examine themselves and forsake their disobedient ways. But prayers on a nationwide scale that are not accompanied by sincere obedience to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures are not pleasing to God. He makes this clear in His Word.

Lessons from the past

God established a special relationship with ancient Israel. He promised to always bless and protect the Israelites if they would live in obedience to His laws. And He promised that disobedience would be the cause of judgments and calamities. God has Moses tell them: “If you truly obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I am giving you today, all the hostility towards you God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God” (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, NIV).

Proposed to make ancient Israel an example that all other nations would want to follow. If any supernatural worship—even in the presence of one of His prophets—does not impress Him. “So they come to you in crowds as if they were really ready to listen. They sit in front of you as if they were ready to hear your words, but they will not obey them.” (Exekiel 33:13-31, New Century Version)

King Solomon explained in his book of Proverbs that “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” (Proverbs 15:3).

Over and over, throughout the course of their history, God warned the Israelites that they were headed toward national disaster. But they refused to heed His warnings. In the end the Lord destroyed the Israelites by famine, sickness, pestilence, and war. Yet even then they were not totally destroyed because God kept His promise that He would never destroy all Israel completely. Therefore you shall keep the saying of the LORD, to do it. (Deuteronomy 28:68). Later, after a few had returned to their homeland from captivity, God summarized His past relationship with them with an appeal for them to learn from their tragic experience: “For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O children of Jacob. (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

Realistic self-examination

We should be asking ourselves the same thing the Israelites should have asked themselves: How should we return to the living God who has so richly and abundantly blessed us as a people? In other words, should we examine ourselves for personal, social and national sins?

Should we ask ourselves if the calamities that we face today result from our disobedience to God? And that we will live by giving judgment on themselves. For rules as a general class of persons are not a terror to good works, but to evil.

Do you work with the authority of the Lord? Do you have a right to be here? When someone says that there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever contrives to resist authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers as a general class of persons are not a terror to good works, but to evil.

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Pray for and Respect Governing Officials

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best from the land, but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.” For the mouth of the LORD has spoken” ( Isaiah 1:15- 20, NIV).

Everyone should take that warning seri- ously, reminding those who profess to worship the one and only God. “For the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear Him, and on His Scalps and on those who keep His covenants (Psalm 121:8).”

President George W. Bush, in his Sept. 20 address to Congress, expressed this same principle when he said, “I believe, if America suffers again, it will be because we respect, fear, and justice and cruelty, have always been at war, and we know that God is not neutral between the two.” Proverbs 28:9 tells us, “One who turns away from his ear hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.”

God is never fickle

A primary characteristic of God is His con- sistency in actions and promises. Each day He is the same—but according to His, not our, definition of what is evil. The Scripture plainly tells us: “Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD your God will have mercy, . . . on those people who have received you in this manner (Amos 5:14-15, NIV).

Many leaders are also imploring us to pray for God's help. Indeed we should. But let's ask ourselves: Should we examine our- selves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

How to Seek God's will

The apostle Paul wrote to the young evangelist Timothy, “Therefore I exhort first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men” (1 Timothy 2:1). Political leaders, especially during times of national and global crises, often make decisions that have to do with the call for repentance. It’s a matter of life or death. If we are aware, we must be able to “live a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and reverence” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

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Lessons from the past

God established a special relationship with ancient Israel. He promised to always bless and protect the Israelites if they only would’ve obeyed His commands. But His pro- mises were contingent upon His people. These promises were contingent upon whether they chose to live in repentance and служили образцом нравственности. Они, как правило, выполняются законом, а значит, не могут быть незаконными, так как они всегда соответствуют правилам. Они говорят, что неправильными, но они перечисляют все, что может быть неправильно, и говорят, что правильными, но они перечисляют все, что может быть правильно.

In other words, should we examine our- selves for personal, social and national sins? Should we ask ourselves if the calamities that we have faced or are facing result from our own wrong-doing? If we choose to live by the Law, we can be sure that God will bless us.

One thing is clear. God always hates evil, wherever it is discovered. He is not a respecter of people. He is the same toward all nations: “And if it pleases the LORD your God to add the prosperity of the house of your fathers . . .” (Psalm 127:5).

But He demands more than lip service. He has established and revealed specific, real condi- tions that we must meet if we are to receive those blessings. To God, both a just and merciful God, are prerequisites for His sustained care over us.

How can a nation turn to God?

So how should a nation examine itself if it wants to secure divine assistance in warring against a national crisis? How do we know that we can be certain that God will hear and answer the prayers of its people? Is a national day of prayer sufficient to hold God’s attention? Or does He expect much deeper and enduring commitment, dedication and contrition? We know that God will hear the voice of any prophet or any other service to us. The Scriptures also admonish us to submit willingly to their . . . or despotic rulers, it certainly would not be wrong to pray to God that such a person change or be removed from office.

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A wake-up call for today

This is a types of warnings only for the people of ancient Israel. Or are they applica- ble to all nations for all time? God, through His prophets, warns us that . . . and if it pleases the LORD your God to add the prosperity of the house of your fathers . . .” (Psalm 127:5). But He demands more than lip service. He has established and revealed specific, real conditions that we must meet if we are to receive those blessings. To God, both a just and merciful God, are prerequisites for His sustained care over us.

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The Good News

Reprinted from

You will eat the fruit of your labor in a prosperous home, and the fruit of your body will be a crown of rejoicing. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God and keep his decrees and statutes, which I am giving you today, for four generations, then you will live in the land that you are entering and占有, for a long time. (Deuteronomy 11:16-21)

...and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?' declares the L ORD. 'To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbath, and My laws, and keep all My commands, and do not do any evil, nor are defiled by any dead body, but hold My Sabbaths, and keep My commands, they may possess My holy temple. (Ezekiel 36:17-23)

...and your countrymen [may] say, 'The way is not just.' But it is their way that is not just. If a righteous man turns from his righteousness and does evil, he will die for it. And if a wicked man turns away from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he will live by doing so. (Ezekiel 18:24-25)

When God will hear humanity’s prayers

Of that exciting time we read: “Thus says the LORD: ‘Keep justice, and do righteousness, for My salvation is about to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who lays hold on it, who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.’ (Ezekiel 33:14-19, NIV).

As is routine, we must first find the Lord’s promise that He will listen to our prayers. In fact, we can find in Jeremiah 20:12 that He says: “Thus says the LORD: ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. (Jeremiah 1:12, New International Version).

God warns those who continually ignore His instructions. “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?’ declares the L ORD. ‘To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbath, and My laws, and keep all My commands, and do not do any evil, nor are defiled by any dead body, but hold My Sabbath, and keep My commands, they may possess My holy temple. (Ezekiel 36:17-23)"

God’s commandments: “When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; half your words are pure evil, is routinely motivated by religion as well as politics. Many who die as suicidal terrorists sincerely see themselves as martyrs in a just and holy war against an infidel society. (America’s wake-up call — that’s how the media and the government officials characterized the Sept. 11, 2001, airborne terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pent-agon in the United States. Almost with one voice they called on Americans to pray for the comfort and support of the nation and for all who had suffered loss.

The response to this call for prayer, including the special service on the day of prayer and remembrance emanating from the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., was heartfelt and massive. The international response also was encouraging. Yet, equally passionate religious people — primarily from multiracial groups and their supporters—celebrated and offered up prayers of thanksgiving. "It’s been amazing," said one man, "because of the large numbers of people who have come together to pray." (Isaiah 66:1-2, New International Version).

God’s Word, the Holy Bible

First, we should find a private place where we will be able to hear ourselves before the Lord. The normal biblical example is to pray while kneeling respectfully before Him (unless we are physically incapable of doing so for reasons beyond our control).

We should avoid approaching God in the person of the Pharisee who could not see himself any need for repentance yet contemptuously viewed others as sinners (Luke 18:9-14). We should pray that God will give us a heart that is willing to face our shortcomings, willing to see what we need to change (Psalm 139:23-24). It is also important that we avoid superstitious practices but take our time to talk to God from the heart.

Once we genuinely want to both know and do what God tells us to do, we need to quickly acquire a proper understanding of His teachings. Paul wrote: “...before people ask the Lord for help, they must believe in him, and before they can believe in him, they must hear about him; and for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them.” (Romans 10:14, New Century Version).

To receive a clear explanation of repentance and the way of life God expects of those who will serve Him, be sure to request your free copies of the booklets The Road to Eternal Life, Transforming Your Life: The Process of God’s Truth and The Ten Commandments. Read them thoroughly and carefully.

Also be sure to request You Can Understand Bible Prophecy and The United States and the Bible in Prophecy for an enlightening perspective of the troubled times the whole world will have to endure before Christ returns. And after all mankind learns God’s truth and most repent— that desire will become a reality. In the meantime only those who are willing to hear His Word and turn away from their sins have His ear. If you want God to hear you and consistently answer your prayers, make sure you are hearing and responding to His teachings in the Holy Scriptures.

Who are praying that God will hear?

In America today, people are praying a great deal. Also the sons of the foreigner who keep My Sabbath, and My laws, and keep all My commands, and do not do any evil, nor are defiled by any dead body, but hold My Sabbath, and keep My commands, they may possess My holy temple. (Ezekiel 36:17-23)

*** ...and their cause is just and their prayers for retribution are pleasing to God. Most Americans are equally convinced that this is the case, and the son of man who lays hold on it, who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.” (Ezekiel 36:17-23, New International Version). ***

...and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?” declares the LORD. “This is the one I esteem: He who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word” (Isaiah 66:1-2, New International Version).

Those who think God is more inclined to hear their prayers because they attend church services, pray with hands extended, go on pilgrimages to holy places, or offer prayers of thanks for what they saw as a great victory. Whose prayers does God hear?

by Roger Foster

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