

Prayers that were answered in the Scriptures

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There are some interesting prayers that God answered in his holy Word. I have known people who question what God would be concerned about. There are books published with titles such as "Prayers for all occasion."

I believe that God honors words that are spoken from the heart. In fact, the Scriptures speak of prayers that are not verbally spoken, but God answers the desires of the heart. An example of this is found in 1 Samuel 1:9-20.

Hannah was distressed because she had no children and her husband was not able to console her. She was so sad that she refused to eat and her husband finally asked her, "Aren't I worth more to you than 10 sons?" Obviously the answer was "no".

She went to the temple to pray and the priest was sitting near the entrance of the Lord's house when she entered. She knelt and prayed to God and promised him that if he would grant her request for a son, she would give him back to the Lord all the days of his life. She recognized that God is all-powerful and nothing is too difficult for him. She asked the Lord to remember her and not to forget her. Eli watched her and was curious about her as her lips moved, but no words were uttered. He thought she was drunk and warned her to put away her wine. She told him that she was a troubled woman and she had not been drinking wine, but was telling the Lord about her troubles. She asked him not to think of her as an evil woman for she was praying about her problems as she was sad. Eli answered her by saying, "Go! I wish you well. May the God of Israel give you what you asked of him." Hannah said, "May I always please you." When she left she was not sad anymore for she believed that God would grant her request. The next morning Elkanah's family worshipped the Lord and returned to their home in Ramah. A few months later Hannah was holding a son and she named him Samuel meaning "I asked for him from the Lord."

In 1 Kings Chapter 3, Solomon has taken over the throne of his father, David. In verse 4, he went to Gibeon to offer a sacrifice, because it was the most important place of worship. He offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. While he was at Gibeon, the Lord appeared to him in a dream during the night. God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

Solomon mentioned that God had been very kind to his father, David. David obeyed the Lord and did what was right. God showed great kindness to him when he allowed Solomon to be the king after him. He acknowledged that he was but a child and wouldn't know how to lead God's people. He asked for an obedient heart so he could rule the people in the right way and he would know the difference between right and wrong. Otherwise, it was an impossible task for him.

God was pleased that Solomon asked this so he was granted his request plus God gave him things that he didn't ask for, riches and honor and in his lifetime, no other king would be as great as Solomon. He would be the wisest man who ever lived.

In Joshua 10, there is a very interesting event that took place. Five Amorite kings, kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon gathered their armies, went to Gibeon, surrounded it and attacked it. The Gibeons sent a distress message to Joshua asking for assistance in fighting these armies.

The Lord told Joshua not to be afraid for He would hand these armies over to them. None of them would be able to stand against Joshua's army.

The battle raged and at the end of the day Joshua stood before the people of Israel and said to the LORD:

"Sun, stand still over Gibeon. Moon, stand still over the Valley of Aijalon." And the moon stopped until the people defeated their enemies. These words are written in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and waited to go down for a full day. That has never happened at any time before that day or since. That was the day the Lord listened to a human being. Truly the LORD was fighting for Israel.

In 1 Kings 17 Elijah was sent to a widow's house to save them from starvation. He asked the woman to bring him a drink of water and as she was heading in that direction, he called after her and asked for bread to eat as well. She explained that she had just enough food for her and her son to have one meal and then there was no more. Elijah asked her to bring him something first and then feed herself and her son. She did as she was asked and the cruise of oil and flour barrel was never barren until the famine passed.

Later the woman's son got sick and stopped breathing. She said to Elijah, "Man of God, what have you done to me? Did you come here to remind me of my sin and to kill my son."

Elijah took the boy, carried him upstairs, and laid him on the bed in the room where he was staying. He prayed to God. "LORD my God, this widow is letting me stay in her house. Why have you done this terrible thing to her and caused her son to die?" He then lay on top of the boy three times. He prayed to the Lord to let the boy live again and God answered Elijah's prayer. Elijah carried the boy downstairs and gave him to his mother and said, "See! Your son is alive!" The woman acknowledged that she now believed that he really was a man from God and that God spoke through Elijah."