

When God Answers Prayers

International Bible Lesson

Isaiah 65:17-25

Sunday, June 23, 2013

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“And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear” (Isaiah 65:24—KJV).

“Even before they finish praying to me, I will answer their prayers” (Isaiah 65:24—GNB).

“Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear” (Isaiah 65:24—NRSV).

Isaiah correctly foretold the judgments of God upon Israel and Judah that later took place during his lifetime. Isaiah also accurately foretold some of the judgments of God on Judah, Babylon, and other nations that took place long after his death. Isaiah prophesied the Messiah’s coming, how He would come, and what He would do on earth as the suffering servant. He also foretold what the Messiah would do in the far distant future, for God spoke through Isaiah and said, “For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind” (Isaiah 65:17). In his God-given vision of the future, the Apostle John saw Isaiah’s prophecy fulfilled after the return of Jesus the Messiah. John wrote, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away” (Revelation 21:1).

During this time between Jesus’ first and second coming, people can rely on Isaiah’s prophecies and teachings. God promised through Isaiah that He would answer the prayers of His people before they call out to Him or form all the words they intend to speak. Jesus taught that what God promised about prayer through Isaiah was true, for Jesus taught that when God’s children pray to their heavenly Father they should “not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do . . . for your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (Matthew 6:7, 8). God created us, knows us, knows our situations, and most importantly God loves us. God knows our needs, and throughout eternity God will meet all the needs of His children.

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Thinking Further

1. When God creates a new heaven and earth, what are some of the things that will be different from this old heaven and earth?

2. What are some of the best things you can think of regarding God's new creation?

3. What would you like to change in your behavior that would delight God?

4. Will you pray that God will help you change the behaviors you need to change and trust in Jesus Christ to help you change?

5. What does God say about hearing the prayers of His children?