

## Revelation 8:1-6 God Answers Prayer

In this heavenly scene we see a dramatic moment of silence before God sends more destruction upon the Earth. The unique feature of this chapter is how this comes as a long waited for response to the prayers of the saints. God has been waiting, but the time to answer those prayers has finally come. God will always answer prayer, but how and when He answers is a lesson to be learned.

Topic- Prayer

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“there was silence in heaven for about half an hour”

Revelation 4:8 — The four living creatures... do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”

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“the seven angels who stand before God”

Luke 1:19 — “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God...”

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Revelation 5:8 — ... golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Psalms 141:2 — Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalms 51:17 — The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.

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“ the prayers of all the saints”

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Why doesn't God always answer prayer?

-Exactly when and how we want...

God DOES hear (and answer) ALL prayers

Psalms 65:2 — “O You who hear prayer...”

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God has no obligation to answer the prayers of unbelievers.

Proverbs 15:8 — The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

Proverbs 28:9 — One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

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God will not encourage/bless disobedience.

Psalms 66:18 — If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.

1 Peter 3:7 — “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding... that your prayers may not be hindered.”

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We must ask for things that are according to His will.

1 John 5:14–15 — “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

James 4:3 — “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

Thomas Watson

“God gives not always what we ask, but what we should ask.”

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We can be assured that God always hears us.

Psalms 34:15 — “The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.”

Psalms 66:19-20 — But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!

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Many “unanswered prayers” have to do with God's timing.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 — “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.”

Habakkuk 2:3 — “For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”

Galatians 4:4 — But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman...

Charles Spurgeon

“If the Lord delays, it is because the blessing is not yet ripe.”

J. I. Packer

“God's silence is never empty; it is full of purpose.”

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“The ultimate purpose of prayer is not to get answers, but to know God.”

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

“A delayed answer is often God's way of testing whether we trust Him or the gift.”

G. Campbell Morgan

“Waiting for God is not laziness; it is the highest form of activity.”

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Know that there is spiritual warfare revolving around prayer.

Daniel 10:12-13 — Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.

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What then must we do?

-Keep Praying

-Keep Waiting

-Keep Trusting

Psalm 27:14 — “Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!”

Isaiah 55:8–9 — “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”

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Remember that God's delay often comes with great purpose.

2 Peter 3:8–9 — “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

George Müller

“God delights in answering prayer at the right moment, not the earliest one.”

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Remember that the valley is where the fruit is, and that God sends us seasons which are intended to bear fruit.

Lamentations 3:31–33 — “For the Lord will not cast off forever. Though He causes grief, yet He will show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies. For He does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.”

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Remember that God's ultimate purpose in you is not happiness, but Christlikeness.

Corrie ten Boom

“Prayer may not change the situation, but it changes the person who prays.”

Romans 8:26-27 — Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:28 — And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:29 — For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

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Some of you are praying for a fresh feeling, but perhaps God in heaven is overjoyed to see you so hungry again.

Will you stay hungry if you are full?

Maybe the hunger is the part of the journey you need right now?

If you are hungry to be filled, then maybe God just wants you to show up at every meal?

Oswald Chambers

“When God seems silent, He is often doing His deepest work.”

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God's plans will always make better sense the more we keep eternity in view.

Psalms 73

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Revelation 6:10 — “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

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Luke 18:7-8 — “And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? “I tell you that He will avenge them speedily....

Isaiah 63:1-4 — Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?— “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? “I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.

Ezekiel 18:23 — “Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord GOD, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live?

-Ezekiel 18:32 — “For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord GOD. “Therefore turn and live!”