

## God Responds To Their Prayer

**65** I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me;

I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, "Here I am, here I am,"  
to a nation that was not called by my name.

<sup>2</sup> I spread out my hands all the day  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;

<sup>3</sup> a people who provoke me  
to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
and making offerings on bricks;

<sup>4</sup> who sit in tombs,  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat pig's flesh,

and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;

<sup>5</sup> who say, "Keep to yourself,  
do not come near me, for I am too holy for  
you."

These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all the day.

<sup>6</sup> Behold, it is written before me:

"I will not keep silent, but I will repay;

I will indeed repay into their lap

<sup>7</sup> both your iniquities and your fathers' iniquities  
together,

says the LORD;

① God opens by stating He has been waiting but they have not called on Him. This is not aimed at a particular group of people but at humanity as a whole. The GENTILES ARE included as 'a nation not called by His name.'

② People pray for deliverance but not for redemption. God says He is open to these people but she have chosen the wrong path and follow their own set of values and morals. God opens His arms but they do not come.

③ Here begins a detailed explanation of how they have followed their own way. They are no longer hiding their sins but perform them openly in public. Their homes are places where they have replaced God w/ idols and w/ altars (made of bricks). Here the worship and sacrifice to other Gods.

④ They are consulting the dead and calling on spirits to guide and bless them by sitting in tombs. The secret places are where they go to be in the dark and practice their evil ways. They violate the law by eating unclean animals in open opposition to God.

⑤ The evil ones speak here. They tell God to stay away. They have discovered Holiness in their sinning. Calling evil good, and their sin is seen as acceptable and righteous. God responds to them. They are like the stink of a smoldering fire. God is well aware of their sinful ways.

⑥ THE DEEDS OF ALL ARE RECORDED TO BE REVIEWED BY GOD. All the evil those have done are recorded there. God will not be silent by their actions or evil. He will speak, and there will be payment required for all they have done against Him. In the N.T. Jesus promised to pour overflowing blessing into the lap of the righteous. (Lukes 38) Here God is stating their payment for sin will fall on them. It will be poured "into their lap."

⑦ Here it is made clear that anyone who sins will be repaid.

One generation cannot blame another. The soul that sins will die.

(see Ezek 18.20-24) This is emphasized as being stated by God Himself. The God of love does not overlook or accept sin as acceptable. All who practice sin will be repaid by God.

because they made offerings on the mountains  
and insulted me on the hills,  
I will measure into their lap  
payment for their former deeds."

- 8 Thus says the LORD:  
"As the new wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, 'Do not destroy it,  
for there is a blessing in it,'  
so I will do for my servants' sake,  
and not destroy them all.
- 9 I will bring forth offspring from Jacob,  
and from Judah possessors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall possess it,  
and my servants shall dwell there.
- 10 Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks,  
and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie  
down,  
for my people who have sought me.
- 11 But you who forsake the LORD,  
who forget my holy mountain,  
who set a table for Fortune  
and fill cups of mixed wine for Destiny,  
12 I will destine you to the sword,  
and all of you shall bow down to the  
slaughter,  
because, when I called, you did not answer;  
when I spoke, you did not listen,  
but you did what was evil in my eyes  
and chose what I did not delight in."

7b) To emphasize His intentions to repay or punish them for their sins  
God points out again their idol worship and sacrifices to other Gods.  
Each one will be fully repaid for their sinful way. This is personal.  
God will pour it into their laps.

8) God clarifies his intentions and actions. God will not destroy  
everyone. Those who follow Him are like "new wine." He will protect  
them and they will not be punished for others sins.

9) He will bring forth new follows descended from Jacob (the deceiver)  
and from Judah who will rise up for Him. They will stand on the  
mountains and worship the Living God. From Judah the promised  
one would come. (Micha 5.2) Here is the promise of the new Kingdom  
& the coming of the church. This new chosen race (1 Peter 2.9) will  
serve God on high.

10) Here is a physical picture of the coming spiritual Kingdom. It is a  
place of peace, prosperity, and blessings. "My people" are no longer  
those who are called by His name but worship other Gods. "My people"  
are the born from above that make up the church and the New Kingdom.

11) In contrast God will deal w/ those who have deserted, ignored, or  
even openly opposed Him. These have turned against God. Setting  
the table has a dual meaning. First: it is about self, wealth, and  
power. Doing anything and everything to obtain them. Second: it is  
about setting the table for evil. Openly inviting it into the  
life and heart of the individual. The mixed wine is accepting all  
and any worship of foreign Gods. Here is modern Unitarianism posing  
as worship of God while being open to all idol worship, sacrificing  
their worship to strange Gods.

12) God wants it to be clear what happens to the ungodly and those  
who turn against Him. This is both physical and spiritual punishment.  
He gave them the opportunity to repent. He called them to come back.  
They not only rejected His words but turned to sin w/ all their  
passion. Choosing to delight in that which made God pull away  
and prepare their judgment.

- 13 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:  
 "Behold, my servants shall eat,  
 but you shall be hungry;  
 behold, my servants shall drink,  
 but you shall be thirsty;  
 behold, my servants shall rejoice,  
 but you shall be put to shame;  
 14 behold, my servants shall sing for gladness of  
 heart,  
 but you shall cry out for pain of heart  
 and shall wail for breaking of spirit.  
 15 You shall leave your name to my chosen for a curse,  
 and the Lord GOD will put you to death,  
 but his servants he will call by another name, (new name)  
 16 so that he who blesses himself in the land  
 shall bless himself by the God of truth,  
 and he who takes an oath in the land  
 shall swear by the God of truth;  
 because the former troubles are forgotten  
 and are hidden from my eyes.

#### New Heavens and a New Earth

- 17 "For behold, I create new heavens  
 and a new earth,  
 and the former things shall not be remembered  
 or come into mind.  
 18 But be glad and rejoice forever  
 in that which I create;  
 for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,  
 and her people to be a gladness.

3-14 All that the wicked do to satisfy themselves will leave them hungry, thirsty, shameful, pain and wailing. Sin cannot satisfy and they will seek more and more pleasure and never be satisfied. Sin only leads to an emptiness that nothing of this world can satisfy.

15 Here the Jewish nation is seen as rejecting God so completely that those who were once His are now w/out hope. Jesus spoke on this in Matthew 23:32-36. He called on them to "fill up the measure." This last rejection of God by rejecting His son leading to the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. The new name of His servants is the church and Christians. Here is the spiritual Jews (Christians) replacing the physical Jews (Hebrews/Judah). (Romans 2:29)

16 Those who follow God bring blessings on themselves by following God. They live in God's truth (word). They who turn to God through Jesus will do so in His truth. Here is a picture of people freed by truth and following the living God. In God's forgiveness those who come find satisfaction in being set free from sin and it's repayment.

17 Paul understood this as the new spiritual truth. (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15) We are a new creation in Christ. Not merely cleaned but made new. Here is why all former sins are no longer held in account. The person is given a clean slate to start over, new. Here the creator of all is doing it again w/new creation. All the old is replaced and the former life has lost all appeal. 2 Peter 3:15 shows the hope we have in all new God has prepared for us.

18 IN contrast to a life filled with sin and grief this new word & Kingdom are a place of Gladness and joy forever. This is the new Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1-2) Here is a place w/out tears, fears, or sadness of any kind. Eternal gladness is promised to those who now are changed into new followers of God.

- 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem  
and be glad in my people;  
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping  
and the cry of distress.
- 20 No more shall there be in it  
an infant who lives but a few days,  
or an old man who does not fill out his days,  
for the young man shall die a hundred years old,  
and the sinner a hundred years old shall be  
accursed.
- 21 They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- 22 They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their  
hands.
- 23 They shall not labor in vain  
or bear children for calamity,  
for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the  
LORD,  
and their descendants with them.
- 24 Before they call I will answer;  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
- 25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,  
and dust shall be the serpent's food.  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain,"

says the LORD.

(19) Here is the foundation of Rev. 21.4. THIS new Jerusalem is the eternal city of God. Isaac is allowed to look into heaven and the eternal day.

- (20) Here we see eternal life. It is a place w/out death. There is no marriage in heaven (Matthew 23.30). The reference to babies dying is to show a contrast not to teach about Marriage or children. To live on earth can be a blessing that is rewarded or a curse that is punished. It is not the length of life but the life w/ God or the life w/out God.
- (21) These images are one the person can understand. Heaven is more than we can conceive or understand here. Heaven will be a place of Joy and where each can accomplish much.
- (22) Each person will receive personal rewards there. Since no evil can enter there nothing can be taken from the righteous. Rev. 21.27 Nothing evil or unholid can enter<sup>3</sup> heaven. This is true past, present, & future.
- (23) Nothing evil or negative can happen there. On earth people's work is stolen, or children a born to poverty or war. Nothing like this can happen in the eternal Kingdom.
- (24) Ungodly people cry out because God does not hear or deliver them. Here in God's new Kingdom God sends answers to prayers even before they are spoken.
- (25) This is not about God subduing the animal Kingdom. This is about God changing the nature of those who are redeemed. Violent men become meek (under control). Here in God's Kingdom violence is replaced w/ peace. This was 1<sup>st</sup> introduced in Isa 11.6-9 Here God w/all his people live in perfect harmony.