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ANSWERS TO PRAYER.

FROM THE WORD OF GOD.

"I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he answered me out of his holy hill."—Psalm iii. 4.

ALTHOUGH every individual of the human race is solemnly called upon, continually and earnestly, to engage in prayer to God, yet there is no duty so *universally* neglected, and, it to be feared, in our day, by far too much depreciated, even by the Lord's own people. With a view to stir up to, and encourage perseverance in the blessed exercise, especially at a time so full of peril to the Church of Christ, and to this country, the following prayers and answers are collected from the Word of God, bearing most emphatic testimony to the value and success of real prayer, when addressed through the Mediator, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to Him who declares—"I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek me in vain," Isa. xlv. 19; and "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find," etc. Mat. vii. 7, 8.

SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Abraham's servant and Rebekah.* "And said, O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the

men of the city come out to draw water, and let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thee: and the camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master." Gen. xxiv. 12-14.

ANSWER—*Rebekah appears.* "And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder," etc. Gen. xxiv. 15.

2. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Jacob and the angel.* "And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." Gen. xxxii. 25, 26.

ANSWER—*Jacob prevails with the angel—Esau's mind is wonderfully changed towards Jacob.* "And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel; for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." Gen. xxxii. 27, 28. "And Esau ran to meet him (his brother Jacob), and embraced him, and fell upon his neck, and kissed him: and they wept." Gen. xxxiii. 4.

3. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*The Israelites in Egypt.* "And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage." Exod. ii. 23.

ANSWER—"And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them." Exod. ii. 24, 25; see also chap. iii. 7, 8.

4. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Moses and the Israelites at the Red Sea.* And the Lord said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward." Exod. xiv. 15.

ANSWER—*The sea is divided.* "And the Lord caused the sea to be divided by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left." Exod. xiv. 21.

5. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Moses at Marah with the Israelites.* And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the Lord." Exod. xv. 23-25.

ANSWER—"And the Lord shewed him a tree, which, when he had cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet." Exod. xv. 25.

6. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Moses at Rephidim—want of water.* And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me." Exod. xvii. 4.

ANSWER—*Waters brought out of the rock.* "Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel." Exod. xvii. 6.

7. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Moses at Rephidim—war with Amalek.* Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out and fight with Amalek: to-morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the sword of God in mine hand. So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill." Ex. xvii. 8-10.

ANSWER—*Discomfiture of Amalek.* "And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down

his hand, Amalek prevailed. And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword." Exod. xvii. 11, 13.

8. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Joshua and the Israelites at Ai.* "And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the Lord until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel and put dust upon their heads," etc. Josh. vii. 6.

ANSWER—*Achan is discovered.* "And Achan answered Joshua and said, Indeed, I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: When I saw among the spoils a good Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels' weight, then I coveted them, and took them, and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it." Josh. vii. 20, 21.

9. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*The sun and moon.* "Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon." Josh. x. 12.

ANSWER—"And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel." Josh. x. 13,

10. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Hannah prays for a son.* "And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore etc. 1 Sam. i. 10.

ANSWER—*Samuel is born.* "She bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord. For the child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him." 1 Sam. i. 20, 27.

11. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Samuel and the Philistines.* “And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered it for a burnt-offering wholly unto the Lord; and Samuel cried unto the Lord.” 1 Sam. vii. 9.

ANSWER—“And the Lord heard him. . . . The Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.” 1 Sam. vii. 9, 10.

12. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Ahithophel's conspiracy.* “And David said, O Lord, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.” 2 Sam. xv. 31.

ANSWER—*Ahithophel's counsel not followed—he hangs himself.* “And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself.” 2 Sam. xvii. 23.

13. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Solomon prayeth for wisdom.* “Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?” 1 Kings iii. 9.

ANSWER—“Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and understanding heart,” etc. 1 Kings iii. 12.

14. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*The prophet and Jeroboam.* “And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Entreat now the face of the Lord thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored unto me again.” 1 Kings xiii. 6.

ANSWER—“And the man of God besought the Lord, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.” 1 Kings xiii. 6.

15. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Elijah the prophet and the drought of three years.* “And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants

of Gilead, said unto Ahab, as the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." 1 Kings xvii. 1. See also James v. and 1

ANSWER—"And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land." 1 Kings xvii. 7.

16. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*The son of the widow of Zarephath.* "And he cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, I pray thee, let the child's soul come into him again." 1 Kings xvii. 20, 21.

ANSWER—"And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived." 1 Kings xvii. 22.

17. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Elijah and false prophets.* "Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again." 1 Kings xviii. 37.

ANSWER—*Fire from heaven.* "Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench." 1 Kings xviii. 38.

18. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Elijah cries for rain.* "And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees," etc. 1 Kings xviii. 41, 42.

ANSWER—"And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain." Kings xviii. 45.

19. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*The dividing of Jordan.* "And he

took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" 2 Kings ii. 14.

ANSWER—"And when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over." 2 Kings ii. 14.

20. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Elisha and the Shunammite's son.* "And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed. He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord." 2 Kings iv. 32, 33.

ANSWER—*The child restored to life.* "And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes." 2 Kings iv. 34, 35.

21. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Elisha and the Syrians.* "And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the Lord, and said, smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness." 2 Kings vi. 18.

ANSWER—"And he smote them with blindness, according to the word of Elisha." 2 Kings vi. 18.

22. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Jehoahaz oppressed by Hazael.* "And Jehoahaz besought the Lord." 2 Kings xiii. 4.

ANSWER—"And the Lord hearkened unto him." 2 Kings xiii. 4.

23. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Destruction of Sennacherib.* "And ezeekiah prayed before the Lord, and said, O Lord God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth. Now, therefore, O Lord our God, I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord God, even thou only." 2 Kings xix. 15, 19.

ANSWER—*Sennacherib and 185,000 Assyrians slain.* “And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the Lord went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses”—(Sennacherib slain also), 2 Kings xix. 35.

24. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Hezekiah sick unto death.* “In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die and not live. Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, saying, beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.” 2 Kings xx. 1-3.

ANSWER—*Hezekiah's life lengthened.* “And it came to pass, after that Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord. And I will add unto thy days fifteen years.” 2 Kings xx. 4-6.

25. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*The shadow on the sun-dial.* “And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the Lord.” 2 Kings xx. 11.

ANSWER—“And he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.” 2 Kings xx. 11.

26. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*King Asa and the Ethiopians.* “And Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power to help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.” 2 Chron. xiv. 11.

ANSWER—*The defeat.* “So the Lord smote the Ethiopians before

Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled." 2 Chron. xiv. 12.

27. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Jehoshaphat and his foes.* "And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, and said, O Lord God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?" 2 Chron. xx. 5, 6.

ANSWER—*The overthrow.* "And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked into the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped." 2 Chron. xx. 22, 24.

28. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Manasseh afflicted.* "And when he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed unto him." 2 Chron. xxxiii. 12.

ANSWER—"And he was entreated of him and heard his supplication." 2 Chron. xxxiii. 13.

29. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Ezra at the river Ahava.* "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way; because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him. So we fasted, and besought our God for this." Ezra viii. 21-23.

ANSWER—"And he was entreated of us." Ezra viii. 23.

30. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Nehemiah and Artaxerxes the king.* “Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven,” &c. Neh. ii. 4.

ANSWER—“And the king granted me, according to the good hand of my God upon me.” Neh. ii. 8.

31. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.* “Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.” Dan. ii. 17, 18.

ANSWER—*The dream is revealed.* “Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision.” Dan. ii. 19.

32. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Daniel and the lions’ den.* “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber towards Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a-day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.” Dan. vi. 10.

ANSWER—*The lions are muzzled, and Daniel unhurt.* “My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.” Dan. vi. 22.

33. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Jonah and the fish.* “Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish’s belly.” Jonah ii. 1.

ANSWER—“And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.” Jonah ii. 10.

34. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Christ and a blind man.* “And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.” Luke xviii. 38.

ANSWER—*He receives his sight.* “And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight.” Luke xviii. 42, 43.

35. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*The thief on the cross.* “And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” Luke xxiii. 42.

ANSWER—“And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” Luke xxii. 43.

36. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*The promise of the Holy Ghost.* Jesus commanded his disciples, “that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me;” “but the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name,” &c. Acts i. 4. “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication” (Acts i. 14) “until the day of Pentecost.” Acts ii. 1.

ANSWER—*The apostles endowed with the Holy Ghost.* “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance,” &c. Acts ii. 4.

37. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Cornelius and Peter.* “And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing.” Acts x. 30.

ANSWER—“Thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God.” Acts x. 31.

38. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Peter imprisoned.* “Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James, the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered

him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Acts xii. 1-5.

ANSWER—*Peter delivered.* "And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands." Acts xii. 6, 7.

39. SUBJECT AND PRAYER—*Paul and Silas imprisoned.* "They caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the market-place unto the rulers. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God, and the prisoners heard them." Acts xvi. 19, 23, 24, 25.

ANSWER—*Their release.* "And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed." Acts xvi. 25, 26.

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