

Biblical Records of Prayer

WHEN SETH'S SON ENOS WAS BORN, “.....then began men to call upon the Name of the Lord” ([Gen. 4:26](#)). Since that birth hour in the dark antediluvian night many men have “called upon the Name of the Lord.” Many of the biblical records of prayer involve petition for personal needs of intercession for the needs of others. We have the promise of God as recorded in [John 5:14, 15](#): “*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*” Here are a few of the instances of individual prayers recorded in the Scriptures:

ABRAHAM “called upon the name of the Lord” ([Genesis 12:8; 19:29](#)). “*And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain [Sodom, Gomorrah, Zoar, Admah and Zeboim], that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot dwelt.*” In [Genesis 20:17](#), we are told that “.....Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bore children.”

HAGAR was with her child Ishmael wandering without water in the wilderness of Beersheba, expecting that they would both die and she prayed. [Genesis 21:17-19](#) tells the story: “.....and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven....And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.”

ISAAC was without an heir and so in [Genesis 25:21](#) he “.....intreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.”

JACOB was in distress because of his elder brother Esau who was coming to meet him with 400 armed men – you don’t need a small army to say hello! In [Genesis 32:11](#) Jacob cried out, “*Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.*” God answered Jacob’s prayer in [Genesis 33:4](#): “*And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept.*”

JOSEPH prayed from his dungeon cell and his subsequent advancement is set forth in [Genesis 41:43](#): “*And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, see, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his*

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hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; and he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him. Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt."

MOSES, who chose to suffer affliction with his people rather than to remain a prince of Egypt, prayed and the waters of the Red Sea were moved to make a dry highway for God's people in [Exodus 14:21](#). In verse 28, the waters returned to drown Pharaoh's pursuing army. At Marah, the Israelites complained because of the bitter waters. In [Exodus 15:25](#), Moses prayer: *"And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet...."* God took care of the bitter water situation.

Later, in [Exodus 17:4-6](#) there was no water: *"And Moses cried unto the Lord saying, what shall I do unto this people? They be almost ready to stone me. And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horab, 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."* God took care of the no water situation.

JOSHUA was the successor of Moses and a man of prayer. He gained a country and united a people to hold it, and his memory was held in great esteem by the people of Israel. He saw the walls of Jericho fall down flat after he *"....fell on his face to the earth"* before the Lord in [Joshua 5:14](#).

SAMSON was the biblical Hercules, a judge of Israel, a militant soul in the midst of a disrupted nation. In [Judges 15:15](#) He *"....found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith [all of them being enemies of God]."* But take another look at Samson – putty in the hands of a pretty woman, he was overcome and made a prisoner of the Philistines who bound him, put out his eyes and took him to Gaza in [Judges 16:21](#). In [Judges 16:28-30](#) *"....Samson called unto the Lord and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me....that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood....And he bowed himself with all his might and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein [about 3,000 people]."*

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HANNAH asked for a man-child in the temple at Shiloh as recorded in [1 Samuel 1:27](#): *“For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him.”*

David, a multi-faceted man, was a man of prayer – his biography could be titled, “And David Enquired of the Lord.” David prevailed over Goliath of Gath in [1 Samuel 17:50](#). In [2 Samuel 15:31](#) he prayed, *“O Lord, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel [counselor to Absalom and part of the conspiracy against David] into foolishness.”* The failure of Ahithophel’s counsel is told in [2 Samuel 17:1-23](#). Looking back over the turmoil of his life, David said in [Psalm 18:3](#), *“I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.”*

SOLOMON, David’s son and King of Israel following David prayed for wisdom in [1 Kings 3:9](#). Solomon was legendary throughout the known world for his wisdom.

HEZEKIAH, Judah’s most versatile king prayed when Jerusalem was besieged by the armies of Sennacherib as recorded in [2 Kings 19:15-16](#). [Verse 35](#) records God’s answer to Hezekiah’s prayer when the Lord killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers – Sennacherib’s entire army – in one night.

ELIJAH, PROPHET OF Israel, prayer in private and in public. When the son of a widow in Zarepath died, Elijah prayed and the boy was resuscitated in [1 Kings 17:20-22](#).

Scripture quotations are from the King James Version