

1st Week of December

God Answers Prayers

- **Text:** Revelation 8:3~5 (December 3 text)
- **Bottom line:** God must answer the prayers of the saints who offer them sincerely.

≡ 1. Praise

(Hymn 361) 기도하는 이 시간

≡ 2. Prayer

God, our family comes before you in worship. Let us put You at the center of our lives, long for the word of truth, and live uprightly in this imperfect, fallen world.

≡ 3. The Word

Read Revelation 8:3~5 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, 4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

<NASB>

3 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense ascended from the angel's hand with the prayers of the saints before God. 5 Then the angel took the [e]censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and hurled it to the earth; and there were peals of thunder and sounds, and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

Understanding Text

The prayers of the saints are all contained in the golden censer placed in front of the throne of God. An angel fills a golden censer with the fire of the altar and pours it on the ground, causing the heavens and the earth to tremble. Our prayers never fall to the ground, and God hears them. When the time comes, God will deliver a fearful judgment in answer to prayer.

Understanding the text for leaders

Due to the Roman emperor's persecution of Christians, the Apostle John was exiled to the island of Patmos. During that time, God gave John visions and revelations and allowed him to write the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation brought great comfort and hope to the persecuted Christians and the church at that time. Today's text is about the Lamb opening the seventh seal of the seven. The seven angels received the seven trumpets, and the judgment of the seven trumpets is more powerful than the previous judgment. Before the first trumpet was blown, an angel offered God a golden censer with the prayers of the saints. It must have been the prayers of the saints in their suffering. This scene must have given great hope to the saints of the early Church who were persecuted and suffering. When the fire of the altar was poured into the golden censer with the prayers of the saints, there was thunder, a loud noise, thunder, and lightning. This shows that God hears the prayers of the saints and will bring terrible judgment upon the wicked. Here is the comfort and hope of the saints. Even in the midst of suffering that seems to never end, the saint must be patient and never stop praying. After all, everything will be revealed before the seat of God's judgment. The living God hears all the prayers of the saints and judges the wicked.

4. Sharing

1) What happened when an angel filled the golden censer with the prayers of the saints and poured it on the ground? (verses 3, 5).

Upper Grades

What happened when the golden censer containing the prayers of the saints was poured on the ground? (verse 5).

Lower Grades

What happened when the golden censer that held the prayer was filled with the fire of the altar and poured on the ground? (verse 5).

Question Guide

When an angel pours a golden censer with the prayers of the saints on the ground, fearful things happen. Remind each other of the fact that the prayers of the saints have something to do with God's judgment. And share with us why God responds with fearful judgment.

Comments for Leaders

The text shows us how the wrath that began from the throne of God is poured out on the earth as fire. In other words, it shows that the prayers of the saints and God's judgment are connected. The fact that there was thunder, lightning, and a loud noise when the golden censer was poured out on the ground is a sensual depiction of God's mighty presence in the midst of the wicked and His judgment. God hears the prayers of the saints and retributes the wicked on earth with a terrible judgment. Do not leave the wicked alone, but be sure to judge them when the fullness of time comes. Therefore, there is hope for the saints who pray patiently in faith even in the midst of suffering. The prayers of the saints have the power to move heaven and earth.

2) What is my sincere prayer to God who hears my prayers? Share prayer requests and pray together.

Upper Grades

What is the prayer I want to offer to God?

Lower Grades

What do you want to pray to God who hears my prayers?

□ Question Guide

God hears all our prayers. Examine yourself to see if anything is holding you back from praying, and share your prayer requests with confidence that God hears your prayers.

□ Comments for Leaders

I want you to remember that the prayers of the saints go up before God and that God works through those prayers. Sometimes I wonder if there is any point in praying because my difficulties seem bigger than God's. Or they pray for a long time, but nothing changes, so they get discouraged and give up praying. But through today's verse, I hope that we will clearly engrave in our hearts the reason for our prayer. Our prayers are put in the golden censer of the throne of heaven, Remember, God hears all our prayers. And I hope that no matter what the situation, we will not give up praying, but pray and experience God's answer.

≡ 5. Be grateful

When we pray, thank God for always listening to us and delighting to answer.

≡ 6. Prayer

We trust You, God, that You hear and answer our prayers. Even if our prayers are not answered quickly, let us not get discouraged or give up, but keep on praying. May we be a family that accumulates many fragrant prayers on the throne of heaven.

- End the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer.
