



THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE

Thy Kingdom Come

1. The coming of the kingdom of God is the aspiration of all true believers in Christ.

- a) *"Thy kingdom come..."* is our heart's cry. We desire the fullness of the kingdom here.
- b) *Revelation 21:1-7* expresses the highest hope of the human heart.
- c) The hope of the kingdom of God is found in the heart of all as though one knows it instinctively (*"He has made everything beautiful in its time; also he has put eternity into man's mind"* Eccl. 3:11 RSV).

Jesus announced the coming of the kingdom

1. When Jesus came to earth from heaven He announced the coming of the kingdom of God.

- a) *"Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel'"* (Mk. 1:14-15)
- b) Jesus brought a measure of the invisible kingdom: *"Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, he answered them, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Lo, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you"* (Lk. 17:22-23). The kingdom is currently a reign within the heart of believers.
- d) In all of this we understand that the Kingdom of God is operative through God's sovereign rule over all things. That is to say that God is guiding all of history to His desired end.
- e) However, that does not mean that the fullness of His kingdom is operating on earth. We live in the midst of kingdoms in conflict. Satan's kingdom is conquered, yet operative. (2 Thes. 2:4)

3. The enemy and his kingdom are being overcome

a) This is the *spirit of anti-christ*, which will be overcome once and for all at the end of time, but is yet present (I Jn. 2:18, 22; 4:3). In theology this is known as a part of *the already, but not yet*.

i. Satan carries on a war he has already lost and heads a kingdom that has already been crushed.

ii. There is, however, a divine purpose and plan regarding *final things* and our Sovereign God is carrying out His plan according to His schedule (II Pet. 3:8-11).

b) Jesus has already declared His ultimate authority in all of heaven and in earth particularly with regards to the preaching of the gospel to every nation, tribe, and tongue (Mt. 28:18-20).

c) First defeat after war in heaven when the devil is cast out to earth (Rev. 12:7-11).

d) The second ultimate defeat of the satanic forces is referred to as "*the great supper of God*," where God feeds the flesh of the defeated armies of earth to the birds of the heavens (Rev. 19:11-21).

e) The final conquest comes after a 1000 year period when Satan will be bound. However, he will be loosed for another brief period that will end with the battle of *Gog and Magog* where final defeat will be accomplished (Rev. 20:7-10).

4. The heart cry of both God and man is for the fullness of the kingdom in the earth.

a) "*The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let him who hears say, "Come." And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price*" (Rev. 22:17).

b) Seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness must always be our greatest desire, highest hope, and first priority in this life and the one to come (Mt. 6:33).

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

1. The unfolding plan of the kingdom for the ages leads directly to Jesus' next pillar of prayer.

a) This is nothing short of Jesus inviting us to participate in the work of the kingdom of God in the earth here and now.

b) We are called to kingdom business just as Jesus was: *"And he said to them (His parents), 'How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'"* (Lk. 2:49).

c) Of His life mission, *"Jesus said to them (His disciples), 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work'"* (Jn. 4:34).

d) Jesus' mission and ours focuses on the harvest: *"Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together"* (Jn. 4:35-36).

2. In this part of Jesus' prayer plan, He calls on us to call upon our Father to fulfill His divine will and purpose in the earth as it is done in heaven (without hindrance).

a) We do not seek here to fulfill personal objectives. We have been invited to participate in things much greater and father reaching than we can imagine.

Personal Surrender and Submission

1. On a personal level, this segment of the prayer is bound up in surrender and submission.

a) We are called to abandon what we desire or think is best in favor of what God's perceived will dictates.

2. Jesus lived His life in absolute abandonment to the will of His Father.

a) *"And he who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him"* (Jn. 8:29).

b) He culminated His life on earth demonstrating His commitment to the will of His Father: *"And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.'"*

c) Jesus' submission to His Father is a model for our recognition of His Lordship over our lives making it the primary focus of our prayer.

d) This overarching principle of submission to the purpose of the Father ought also to govern our prayers of intercession for our families, fellow believers, churches, leaders (church and govt.), and nations of the earth (I Tim. 2:1-4).

Prayers regarding the fulfillment of the will of God

- 1. That God would fulfill the work He began in us** (Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Eph. 2:10; Col. 4:12; Heb. 12:1-2; 13:21).
- 2. Transformation through renewing of the mind to *prove* what God's will is** (Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 1:17-19, 5:14-20; Col. 1:9).
- 3. Constant acknowledgment of the will of God in every matter in our lives instills humility and discernment that enables us to walk with God in truth** (Jas. 4:13-17).
- 4. The Holy Spirit helps us in our quest to know and pray the will of God** (Rom. 8:26-27).

Give us this day our daily bread

- 1. This pillar of Jesus prayer teaching follows closely with what just preceded.**

a) In this segment we acknowledge our trust that our God, who is our ultimate source, will certainly provide for all our needs.

- 2. As we follow Jesus' *Sermon on the Mount*, we cannot miss the fact that Jesus warns us that a fear motivated pursuit of money and earthly things is a direct challenge to His absolute Lordship in our lives.**

a) *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"* (Mt. 6:19-21).

b) *"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon"* (Mt. 6:24)

- 3. Jesus teaches us to overcome our anxiety about earthly needs through faith** (Mt. 6:25-31).

4. *Contentment* is the divine solution to our anxious thoughts and ways: *"Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have* (Heb. 13:5-6)

- 5. Regarding *our daily bread* we must pray for two specific things:** 1) that God would supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19), and 2) that God would give us a supernatural *contentment* with whatever He supplied (Phil. 4:11-12; I Tim. 6:6-8).