

# Your Kingdom Come

Eric C. Coher

Matthew 6:10

---

*And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:7-10*

## THE FOUNDATIONAL AWARENESS:

Healthy, God-honoring prayer always begins with the blessed realization that God is our *Abba* Father! Jesus teaches us to pray saying, "Our Father in heaven..."

<p>THE FOUNDATIONAL PETITION #1: "Hallowed be your name..."</p>	<p>THE FOUNDATIONAL PETITION #2: "Your kingdom Come..."</p>
<p>The proper hallowing of God's name as Father must include that His kingdom will come and His will be done. Prayer for the kingdom should therefore be a part of the pattern of our prayer life.</p>	<p>Prayer for the kingdom should therefore be a part of the pattern of our prayer life.</p>

## VIEWS CONCERNING THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

1. A prayer for the second coming of Christ. (It is future in nature and has no bearing on this present life.)
2. A prayer or call to social action. (Usher in the kingdom through good works.)
3. Spiritually fulfilled in the salvation of the lost.

The kingdom transcends any of the temporal concepts that we may use to try and define it.

Thus we can say that the kingdom of God is:

1. Past
2. Future
3. Present

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you." Luke 17:20–21

## **"YOUR KINGDOM COME" RECOGNIZES THE PAST**

We need to be clear about the fact that praying, "Your kingdom come" in no way suggests that God has not been or is not currently the sovereign King of the universe. In other words, Jesus is not saying that the Father's Kingly reign is only something only to be recognized in the future. God is the king eternal. Paul, writing to Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:17, says, "To the King of the ages (αἰών), immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever (αἰών) and ever. Amen." God is already King and His kingdom spans the entire universe! The David reminds us in Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." "Your kingdom come," rather than being a negation of God's eternal kingship, is better understood as a petition for a unique manifestation of God's kingdom in the future.

## **"YOUR KINGDOM COME" IS STILL YET FUTURE**

While we understand that God's kingship is eternal, by definition existing in eternity past), the kingship and thus the kingdom has future (eschatological) implications as well. Another way to say that would be to say that although God is already King, His reign is also future. How do we know this? The Greek verb "come" (ἔρχομαι) is in the imperfect (incomplete) tense. Therefore we should understand Jesus' words, "Your kingdom come" as pointing to God's future, once and for all (uncontested) reign. When will this be? I am persuaded that Jesus is talking about His second advent, His future return, in which He will judge the world and set up His eternal Kingdom.

Contrary to the thinking of some, the ultimate perfection of the kingdom will be recognized universally only in the eternal state – not in the present world. Postmillennialists teach that the gospel will continue to spread until the current world has been overwhelmed by it, thus ushering in the kingdom. Though this may sound nice, the downward spiral of sin (Romans 1) refutes this understanding of God's redemptive plan. Helmut Thielicke, a theologian and pastor in Hamburg, Germany in the early stood before his congregation after the 1943 WWII air raids on Hamburg (The Hiroshima of Germany) and said:

*Who can utter the word [progress] today without getting a flat taste in his mouth? Who can still believe that we are developing towards a state in which the kingdom of God reign in the world of nations, in culture, and in the life of the individual? The earth has been plowed too deep by the*

*curse of war, the streams of blood and tears have swollen all too terribly, injustice and bestiality have become all too cruel and obvious for us to consider such dreams to be anything but bubbles and froth.*

Is this just extreme pessimism? No, as we will see in just a moment, it's Biblical reality. Thieliicke went on in his sermon to say, "In the world of death, in this empire of ruin and shell-torn fields we pray: 'Thy kingdom come!' We pray it more fervently than ever." That is our hope! The kingdom of God is coming! We are to pray for the full realization of God's uncontested rule in the world and eagerly await it!

Jesus didn't teach that the kingdom would expand until it conquers the whole earth. Instead, He taught that a large portion of the world would never believe the gospel and that the devils children would be present, even in the church, until the end. Turn in your Bibles to Matthew 13:

### **1. Parable of the Sower (1-9, 18-23)**

- The seed is the Word of the kingdom.
- Some hearts would be so hard as to not receive the it all – it would be snatched away.
- Others would receive it as a novelty – they would soon loose interest.
- Still others would allow the Word to be choked out by their delight in the riches of this world.
- In some the seed of the gospel would take root and bear fruit.

### **2. Parable of the Wheat and Tares (24-30)**

- Two plants grew together – one was real while the other had the appearance of wheat, but was useless for food.
- Both were to be left to grow until the time of harvest when they would be separated.
- Unsatisfactory times will remain until the end of the age.

### **3. Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Leaven (31-33)**

- The extension of the kingdom of God in the age will always be accompanied by the devil's influence.

### **4. Parable of the Net (47-50)**

- There is a day coming in which the Son of God will judge all men.
- In that day, the net will be pulled ashore and those made righteous through the death of Christ will be gather unto the Lord, while those who have rejected the kingdom (King) will be put away from Him forever.

## **“YOUR KINGDOM COME” IS FOR THE PRESENT**

When Jesus came into the World He, in one sense, brought the kingdom of God to earth in His own person. When He began His public ministry he proclaimed, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” Matthew 4:17. The kingdom was a major theme in Jesus’ preaching. The word Kingdom appears 49 times in the book of Matthew alone, 16 in the book of Mark, and 38 times in the book of Luke – 103 times in all! Before He went to the cross Jesus said, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose” Luke 4:43. Likewise after His resurrection Luke records for us in Acts 1:3 - To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. God’s kingdom is eternal and has always existed. God’s kingdom is future and still to come. God’s kingdom is present in the sense that it exists wherever his rule is established on earth in the hearts of men and women.

How did Jesus bring the kingdom? Primarily by bringing men and women into conformity to the Father’s will. Those who are in God’s kingdom are to strive to do the will of the King! Jesus’ prayer is personal and demands:

**1. Repentance** – To pray “Your kingdom come” means we do what God wants!

Now after John had been taken into custody, 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.*” Mark 1:14–15

**2. Commitment** - To pray “Your kingdom come” is commit ourselves to Him!

But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62

**3. Passionate Pursuit** – To pray “Your kingdom come” is to pursue it!

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33

**4. Profound Dependence Upon God** - To pray “Your kingdom come” means I’ve come to the end of me!

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3

## **WHAT ARE WE PRAYING FOR**

1. The final and ultimate establishment of God's kingdom.
2. Our continued conformity to the will of God in this world.
3. God's rule would come to others through our gospel influence in this world.