

INTRODUCTION

Without a king, or some other ruler, as a governor, a president, a prime minister, our race would descend into a dreadful state of violence, as we did before the great flood in the days of Noah. With the rule of men who bear the sword as God's servants, there is some restraint, to keep our race from sinking to such depths again. But such kings and other rulers often bear that sword not to secure our rights, but to infringe them, making themselves a curse to the very people they ought to bless. We love when our rulers govern in righteousness, but that is seldom and little. Our Lord's apostle has taught us to pray for those who have the rule over us, that by their government we will be able to live quiet and peaceable lives. Yet we know that neither the reign of hereditary monarchs nor of military dictators, nor even of duly-elected republican representatives can save us from what we need to be saved from and provide us with what we need.

Without a king, Israel descended into a dreadful state of perversion and violence. God set a king over Israel in David, a man after God's own heart. In David, God united the tribes of Israel and subdued their enemies all around. But even David was a sinful man. His own conduct brought shame and violence upon the kingdom. His own son fell into idolatry. The kings descended from David were some wicked, some righteous, but none perfect, and finally they lost the kingdom in God's judgment on their unfaithfulness.

There is no full or lasting salvation in any kingdom of men, any kingdom of this world.

So, in the Old Testament, God spoke through His prophets of a great kingdom that would subdue all other kingdoms. It would be greater than any previous kingdom:

that it would never end

that it would cover the whole world

Therefore it is very good news that God's own son, the Lord Jesus Christ, came preaching not a kingdom of man, but the kingdom of God; a kingdom not of this world, but the kingdom of heaven.

When John the Baptist, and then our Lord Jesus Himself came preaching, they said that the kingdom of God, or of heaven, was "at hand."

When the Lord Jesus had died for our sins, had been buried, had been raised from the dead, had ascended to heaven, and had been seated at the right hand of God, He began to reign over the kingdom, and to make it spread over the whole world.

But we do not yet see all enemies under His feet; He must reign until the Father puts all enemies under His feet.

Then, He will come again and put the last enemy, death, under His feet at the resurrection of the dead.

Until that great day, the kingdom is something that has started out small, but with large potential. It is growing, and will grow, until all the purpose of God's grace in this world is accomplished.

So, while we live in this world, we pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us to pray regarding the kingdom of God.

TEXT

Matthew 6:10a Thy kingdom come.

BODY

- I. That the Kingdom of God Will Grow in Grace
 - A. That God would do His work of grace in the preachers of the gospel
 1. that God would send out preachers - Matthew 9:35-38
 2. that God would open a door for preachers to speak the mystery of Christ - Col 4:3
 3. that God would open the mouths of the preachers to speak of the Lord Jesus Christ as they ought to speak
 - a) clearly - Col 4:4
 - b) with all confidence, boldly - Eph 6:18-20
 - B. That God would do His work of grace in the hearers of the gospel
 1. that when preachers preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, sinners will believe and be baptized - Acts 8:12
 2. that disciples be made for Jesus Christ from all nations - Mat 28:19
 - C. That God would do His work of grace in the congregations of the saints
 1. that He will help each congregation to maintain the purity of the primitive, apostolic congregations
 2. that He will help us worship as He has ordained, not as men have imagined
 - a) observing His ordinances
 - b) refusing traditions of men
 3. that He will help us maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace
 4. that He will help us to walk by the Spirit, in holiness and honesty
 5. that He will help us worship in such a way that visitors will say of us, "God is truly among them"
 6. that He will help us maintain good discipline, receiving members who profess and good profession, and rejecting members who ruin their profession by gross error or unholy living
 7. that He will cause the government officials to look on us with favor, and use the sword to protect us rather than to persecute us

When we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we pray that the kingdom of God will grow in grace; and when we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we pray

II. That the Kingdom of God Will Come in Glory

- A. We are grateful that the kingdom of God is growing in grace, and spreading all over the world; but we long for the kingdom to come in glory
 - 1. the kingdom has commenced; and the kingdom continues; but we long for the kingdom to be consummated
 - 2. the marriage has been arranged, the engagement has been made, but we long for the wait until the wedding to be over; we look for the bridegroom, our Lord Jesus Christ to come for us
- B. It is absolutely sure that our Lord Jesus Christ will come again one day, not in humble obscurity, but in great glory
 - 1. He will appear in the clouds with His holy angels in great splendor and glory
 - 2. He will judge the living and the dead in righteousness
 - 3. He will establish His kingdom
 - a) bringing into it forever all who believe in Him during this life
 - b) banishing out of it forever all who have not believed in Him during this life
- C. One of the leading thoughts our Lord's apostles have taught us is to love that, to love His appearing and His kingdom on the day of judgment - 2 Timothy 4:1-8
 - 1. we live now in the sober thought of it - 2 Tim 4:1
 - 2. we love it along with the apostles - 2 Tim 4:8
 - a) this is the work of God's grace, as it is not natural for men to want the judgment of God to come
 - b) it is a mark of the immature believer to think he doesn't want it to come too soon, because he has too much to enjoy here on earth
 - c) it is a blessing from God to take a mature view of this, that there is nothing on this earth so much to our liking as that it would want the appearing of the Lord to be delayed on minute - give examples
- D. Our Lord Jesus' final words to us are, "Surely I come quickly." - Rev 22:20a
- E. Our prayer is for the fulfillment of that promise - Rev 22:20b

CONCLUSION

Pray for the preachers, your own pastor and others
Pray for the lost, your own loved ones and others
Pray for the congregations, your own and others
Pray for the government officials, both high and low
Pray that the Lord Jesus will come back

In these things you are praying as our Lord Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come."

9:30 a.m. Bible Study 2022-12-25

God speaks of Himself to us as if He had human parts, or as if He were human

Psalm 34:15-16 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. (16) The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

Psalm 98:1 A Psalm. O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

Malachi 1:6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD...

It is very good for us, and, in fact, indispensable, for us, to consider God in those terms, which He has given us. Otherwise we could never know Him as He would have us know Him.

On the other hand, we need to delight in God as not a creature, as the Creator. In one way of speaking, we need to have a very high view of God, and guard ourselves of thinking of God too lightly.

1689.2.1

...a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions...immutable...

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Deuteronomy 4:15-16 Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: (16) Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,

Numbers 11:23 And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD'S hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

It is relatively easy to read about God's hand and arm, and to hold back from actually attributing human attributes to God as if He were a creature rather than the Creator. But it is relatively difficult to read about God's anger and grief and repentance, and to hold back from actually attributing human attributes to God as if He were a creature rather than the Creator.

Genesis 6:5-7 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (6) And it repented the LORD [NKJV, ESV was sorry] that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. (7) And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Jonah 3:4-10 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. (5) So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. (6) For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. (7) And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: (8) But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. (9) Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? (10) And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented [NKJV, ESV relented] of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 149 "Joy to the World" - Andrew lead

Rita - Trinity 216 "Crown Him with Many Crowns" - Alex lead

Rita - Trinity 596 "Jesus Lives, and So Shall I"

Jeff - Call to Worship - Isaiah 9:6-7

Stephen - Scripture Reading - Daniel 7:1-18

Thad - Congregational Prayer

Calvin:

We must first attend to the definition of the kingdom of God. He is said to reign among men, when they voluntarily devote and submit themselves to be governed by him, placing their flesh under the yoke, and renouncing their desires. Such is the corruption of the nature, that all our affections are so many soldiers of Satan, who oppose the justice of God, and consequently obstruct or disturb his reign. By this prayer we ask, that he may remove all hindrances, and may bring all men under his dominion, and may lead them to meditate on the heavenly life.

This is done partly by the preaching of the word, and partly by the secret power of the Spirit. It is his will to govern men by his word: but as the bare voice, if the inward power of the Spirit be not added, does not pierce the hearts of men, both must be joined together, in order that the kingdom of God may be established. We therefore pray that God would exert his power, both by the Word and by the Spirit, that the whole world may willingly submit to him.

the commencement of the reign of God in us is the destruction of the old man, and the denial of ourselves, that we may be renewed to another life.

There is still another way in which God reigns; and that is, when he overthrows his enemies, and compels them, with Satan their head, to yield a reluctant subjection to his authority, “till they all be made his footstools” (Heb_10:13.)

the substance of this prayer is, that God would enlighten the world by the light of his Word, — would form the hearts of men, by the influences of his Spirit, to obey his justice, and would restore to order, by the gracious exercise of his power, all the disorder that exists in the world.

Now, he commences his reign by subduing the desires of our flesh. Again, as the kingdom of God is continually growing and advancing to the end of the world, we must pray every day that it may come: for to whatever extent iniquity abounds in the world, to such an extent the kingdom of God, which brings along with it perfect righteousness, is not yet come.

Larger Catechism:

acknowledging ourselves and all mankind to be by nature under the dominion of sin and Satan, we pray that

the kingdom of sin and Satan may be destroyed,
the gospel propagated throughout the world,
the Jews called, the fullness of the Gentiles brought in;
the church

furnished with all gospel officers and ordinances,
purged from corruption,
countenanced ~~and maintained~~ by the civil magistrate;

that the ordinances of Christ may be purely dispensed, and made effectual to

the converting of those that are yet in their sins, and

the confirming, comforting, and building up of those that are already converted:

that Christ would

rule in our hearts here, and

hasten the time of his second coming, and our reigning with him forever: and

that he would be pleased so to exercise the kingdom of his power in all the world, as may best conduce to these ends.

Henry:

let the gospel be preached to all and embraced by all;

let all be brought to subscribe to the record God has given in his word concerning his Son, and to embrace him as their Saviour and Sovereign.

Let the bounds of the gospel-church be enlarged, the kingdom of the world be made Christ's kingdom, and all men become subjects to it, and live as becomes their character.”

