

The Lord's Prayer

The Second Petition

"Thy Kingdom Come"

"Kingdom"

- Q: What is a kingdom?
 - Etymologically, the word comes from combination of "king" and the OE "-dom" (statute, authority, jurisdiction, judgement). Hence, a kingdom is that realm over which a king has authority to rule; the jurisdiction of a king.
 - It refers primarily to an expanse of territory, but also to the resources and people of that territory.

Is God A King?

- Scriptures:
 - God is King over all creation: Psalm 10:16; 24:1 (note our definition of a kingdom earlier); and 24:7-11; Psalm 29:10; Psalm 45:6; 47:2; Psalm 95:3; 103:19.
 - God is King over Israel, particularly: Exodus 24:1-10; compare Deuteronomy 33:1-4; also 1Samuel 8:6-7

Is Christ A King Now?

- Scriptures:
 - Matthew 3:2; 4:17. Jesus is not offering a kingdom if they repent; but telling them they must repent for the kingdom is "at hand" (Greek *eggus* = "near, nearby")
 - Terms "kingdom of heaven" (literally, "kingdom of the heavens / heavenlies") and "kingdom of God" are synonymous terms. See Matthew 19:23-24; cf. Luke 18:24-25 for same event, but with only "Kingdom of God."
 - How are we to understand the kingdom that Christ brought in His earthly life? What kingdom was "at hand"? (Matthew 13)

Is Christ A King Now?

- Compare Psalm 2 with Acts 4:23 ff; 13:33; Hebrews 5:5; & Revelation 12:1-5. Christ's rule begins at His resurrection / ascension. (Matthew 28:18).
- See also Luke 19:12 ff; 1Corinthians 15:23-25.
- 1Timothy 1:15-17; 6:13-16.
- Ephesians 1:19b-23.

Is Heaven The Kingdom?

- Matthew 26:29; compare 1Corinthians 15:24
- Christ's appearing:
 - 1Corinthians 6:9
 - 2Timothy 4:1, 8
 - Matthew 25:31; Revelation 20:11

Conclusions About The Kingdom

- God has always been, is, and will always be the absolute Sovereign King over all creation.
- There is a sense in which God's kingdom has suffered revolt: Satan and his angels; mankind as a race in Adam; and all persons individually.
- At each stage of history, as God works to undo this revolt and its effects, God's kingdom "comes" - it extends its influence in creation.

Conclusions About The Kingdom

- Thus, each stage of redemptive history is "the kingdom coming."

Israel	The spread of the gospel in the world
Jesus' birth	The spread of the gospel in <i>me</i>
His resurrection	The conquering of the Word over false idols of men
His ascension and rule over the world	The Second Coming

Conclusions About The Kingdom

- As the first column has occurred already, when we pray for the kingdom to come, we are praying for the second.
- Q: If God is sovereign, why pray that He will call His elect into His kingdom? Won't He already do that without our prayers?
- Q: If God has already determined the date of the Second Coming, why pray for it? Won't it come when He has determined, and not before?

Conclusions About The Kingdom

- The three petitions regarding God show that the realization of each is settled - and yet we pray that it will be accomplished.
- God's kingdom is not advanced until men first respect and reverence God Himself. Why submit to a King whom you suspect of evil?
- God's will is not done on earth until men submit to God as King. There should be no expectation that men will obey until they first are humbled into submission to God.

Applications

- Pray for the growth of God's kingdom in you first.
- Evangelism must include the preaching of the kingdom.
- Work for the advance of the kingdom. Give, pray, use your gifts for the church, support missions, write, discuss - advance the kingdom.
- Take great comfort - God, the Greatest King, is your King. He will defend you from all enemies - including yourself.