

The Lord's Prayer

Lesson 2

"Thy Kingdom Come"

Introduction.

I. Recently we began a series of lessons on what is commonly called, "The Lord's Prayer."

II. Let us now study the very first petition of the prayer "Thy [Your] kingdom come."

I. "Thy Kingdom Come"

A. Jesus taught His disciples to pray for the coming of the kingdom.

B. They were to pray "Thy kingdom come." (Matt. 6:10; Lk. 11:2).

C. The announcement of the coming kingdom and Jesus teaching His disciples to pray for it would have created great excitement.

1. Multitudes were being baptized for the forgiveness of sins and in anticipation of the coming kingdom. (Matt. 3:1-6; Mk. 1:4; Lk. 3:3). Even Jesus Himself, though sinless, was baptized. (Matt. 3:16).

2. Most probably thought He was referring to the restoration of the kingdom of Israel.

3. The United Kingdom had begun with Saul in 1050 B.C., and ended with the reign of Solomon - 930 B.C..

4. The Northern Kingdom had ended in about 722 B.C., and the Southern Kingdom has ended about 587 B.C.. Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

5. Israel had not had a king since the fall of Jerusalem, and the nation was under the domination of Rome in the time of Christ.

D. This is not a reference to human kingdoms, but to "the kingdom of God" [the kingdom of heaven].

1. The kingdom is sometimes called.

"a kingdom" (Heb. 12:28).	"kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 4:17).	'kingdom of God" (Mk. 1:15).
"My kingdom" (Jn. 18:36).	"kingdom of the Son of His love" (Col. 1:13).	"His kingdom" (Matt. 6:33).

2. The word "kingdom" sometimes refers to heaven. (Gal. 5:21; 1 Cor. 6:9; 2 Tim. 4:18; 2 Pet. 1:11).

a. When Jesus taught the "kingdom" was "near," He was referring to establishing His kingdom and reigning in the hearts of its citizens throughout the Christian age.

b. He was not teaching "heaven" was near.

- c. Faithful believers will enter heaven after the resurrection at the end of time. (Jn. 5:28, 29; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- d. The resurrection will be on “the last day.” (Jn. 6:39, 40, 44).
- e. The wicked will also be raised on that day (Jn. 5:28-29) - not a 1,000 years or 365,000 days later.

II. Kingdom Had Not Come

- A. Jesus is teaching that God’s kingdom had not come. (Matt. 6:10; Lk. 11:2).
- B. It was to be established in the days of the 4th empire. (Dan. 2:44).
 - 1. The four world empires were the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian and Roman empires.
 - 2. John and Jesus were making their announcements during the time of the Roman empire. (Matt. 3:2; 4:17).
- C. The King (the Ruler, the Messiah) would be a descendant of king David and reign on his throne. (Psa. 132:11).

132:11 The Lord has sworn to David, A truth from which He will not turn back; "Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne.

- 1. Most Jews understood this literally and thought it referred to a material kingdom like the united kingdom. (Saul, David, Solomon).
 - 2. The New Testament reveals it would be a spiritual reign. (Jn. 18:36; Lk. 17:20, 21).
- D. These words of Jesus were spoken about 27 or 28 A.D..
- E. John the Baptist and Jesus had earlier taught that the kingdom was near. (Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:7; Mk. 1:14, 15).
 - 1. See Lk. 10:9, 11.

LUK 10:9 and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ' **The kingdom of God has come near to you.** '

LUK 10:11 'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that **the kingdom of God has come near.** '

- 2. Joseph of Arimathea “was waiting for the kingdom of God” at the time of Christ’s death. (Lk. 23:51).
- 3. Jesus spoke of the kingdom as future. (Lk. 21:31; 22:16, 18).

LUK 21:31 "Even so you, too, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near.

LUK 22:16 for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. "

LUK 22:18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes. "

- F. It would soon be established. (Matt. 16:28; Mk. 9:1; Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:6-8).

MAT 16:28 "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

MAR 9:1 And He was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who **shall not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.**"

LUK 24:49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; **but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**"

ACT 1:6 And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

ACT 1:7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

ACT 1:8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. "

Note:

- Jesus taught self-denial was necessary for salvation. (Matt. 16:24-26). We need to deny ourselves because we are accountable to God and will stand before Him in the judgment. (Matt. 16:27).
- Jesus then points out that some of them would be living when His kingdom came. (Matt. 16:28).
- Verse 27 and verse 28 are not continuous. Verse 28 would be fulfilled shortly, but verse 28 would be at some unknown time in the future. (Matt. 24:36).
- When Jesus comes again we will come with His angels. (Matt. 25:31; 1 Thess. 4:16; 2 Thess. 1:7).

III. The Kingdom Was Established On Day Of Pentecost.

A. We do not know the exact year it was established.

B. We do know it was established on the 1st Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ. (Acts 1, 2).

1. It was established on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-4). The apostles received the promised power on that day. (Mk. 9:1; Lk. 22:49; Acts 1:6-8).

a. Pentecost was 50 days after the Sabbath of the Passover week. (Lev. 23:15, 16).

LEV 23:15 ' You shall also count for yourselves from the day after the sabbath, from the day when you brought in the sheaf of the wave offering; there shall be seven complete sabbaths. 16 'You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the Lord.

b. Jesus was on the earth 40 days after His resurrection. (Acts 1:3).

c. There were 10 days between the ascension of Christ and Pentecost.

2. Peter exclaims Jesus was sitting and exalted at the right hand of God. (Acts 2:32-36).

32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.33 "Therefore **having been exalted to the right hand of God**, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you

both see and hear.³⁴ "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord,'
Sit at My right hand,³⁵ Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet. '" ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel
know for certain that **God has made Him both Lord and Christ**-- this Jesus whom you crucified."

3. **The kingdom is now present.** (Acts 2:32-36; 8:12; Col. 1:13; Heb. 1:3; 12:28; Rev. 1:9; 1 Cor. 15:24-26).

4. The scriptures also show the kingdom was present after Pentecost.

ACT 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "**Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.**"

ACT 19:8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, **reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.**

ACT 20:25 "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will see my face no more.

ACT 28:23 And when they had set a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God, and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

ACT 28:31 preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

ROM 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1CO 4:20 **For the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.**

COL 4:11 and also Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision; and they have proved to be an encouragement to me.

1TH 2:12 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

C. It was established in approximately 27-29 A.D..

1. Jesus was born in 4 to 6 B.C..

2. He was a young child when Herod died in 4 B.C.. (Matt. 2:11-16).

MAT 2:11 And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their own country by another way. 13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take **the Child** and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the **Child** to destroy

Him."14 And he arose and took the **Child** and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt;15 and was there until the death of Herod, that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "Out of Egypt did I call My Son."16 Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all **the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its environs, from two years old and under**, according to the time which he had ascertained from the magi.

Note:

- At the time of the warning He is no longer in a manger. (Lk. 2:11, 12, 16). Jesus is in a house. (Matt. 2:11).
 - Some time may have elapsed between His birth and this warning to Joseph.
3. It would appear that Herod thought Jesus might be around 2 years old or perhaps a little less.
 - a. The “two years old” may not denote those who were exactly 24 months old and younger.
 - b. It is possible to understand “two years old” to refer to those who had not reached their 3rd birthday.
 - c. We do not know how the soldiers were able to determine the exact age of the children, but evidently had some way of determining.
 - d. It may have referred to those who were still nursing or age determined through some other observable method. The soldiers likely killed any male child that appeared to be “from two years old and under.”
 4. Herod died after this in about 4 B.C.. Jesus may have been around 2 years old, and this would place His birth around 6 B.C..
- D. The “kingdom” is the reign of God in the hearts of men. (Lk. 17:20, 21; Heb. 12:28).

IV. Other Comments About Kingdom

- A. It was not of this world. (Jn. 18:36).

JOH 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

1. Jesus was emphasizing to Pilate He was not a military threat to him.
2. He would be reigning from heaven.
3. He did not mean its citizens would not temporarily dwell on the earth as pilgrims.

- B. The kingdom and church are synonymous in the Christian age. (Matt. 16:18-19).

18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build **My church**; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. 19 "I will give you the keys of the **kingdom of heaven**; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

1. Jesus is King of the kingdom, and it is the kingdom of God that will be saved.
2. He is Head of the body (the church), and He died for the church. (Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23, 25).
3. After Pentecost the church and the kingdom are always presented as being in existence. (Acts 8:12; 14:22; 1 Cor. 4:20; Col. 1:13; Eph. 1:19-23; Rev. 1:9).
4. See also Acts 14:22; 19:8; 20:25, 28:23, 31; Rom. 14:17; Col. 4:11; 1 Thess. 2:12).
5. The church and the kingdom have:

Same owner - Matt. 16:18; Jn. 18:36	Same beginning date - Isa. 2:1-2; Acts 2:16, 17; Heb. 1:2.	Same terms of admission - Jn. 3:5; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26, 27; Tit. 3:5, 6.	Same glory - Isa. 2:2-3; Eph. 3:21.
Same ruler- Eph. 5:23; 1 Tim. 6:13; Heb. 1:3; Acts 2:34-36; Eph. 1:19-23	Same law - Isa. 2:3; Acts 2	Same members - Col. 1:2, 13.	Same Savior (1 Cor. 1:2; 15:24-28).
Same beginning place- Isa. 2:3; Acts 2).	Same keys -Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:14; 10:43-48.	Same memorial - 1 Cor. 11:20-27; Matt. 26:29.	Same commission (Mk. 16:15, 16; Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 8:12).

C. It is not appropriate for us to pray for the coming of the kingdom (since it is here), but we can and should pray for the growth and faithfulness of the kingdom.

1. We have the privilege and duty to pray for the kingdom (the church).
2. The early church (kingdom) devoted itself to prayer. (Acts 2:42).
3. They believed in the power of prayer.
4. God is powerful and is able to do more than we ask or think. (Eph. 3:20).

D. We should not be looking for a material kingdom.

1. We are taught to lay up treasures in heaven. (Matt. 6:19, 20).
2. Jesus is coming to destroy the world. (2 Pet. 3:10).
3. Jesus taught the earth would pass away. (Matt. 24:35).
4. When Jesus comes Christian will ascend to meet Him in the air. (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.16 For the Lord Himself will descend from

heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

4. He will deliver “the kingdom” to God.. (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

²⁴ then comes the end, when **He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father**, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death.²⁷ For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.²⁸ And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all.

5. We will be with Him forevermore. (1 Thess. 4:18).

6. Our home is heaven. (Matt. 6:19, 20; Phil. 3:20; Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Pet. 1:4).

a. Jesus promised it to “the pure in heart” and those persecuted. (Matt. 5:8,10-12).

b. We are but “pilgrims” on the earth. (1 Pet. 2:11).

c. We should be looking for a heavenly country as the patriarchs did. (Heb. 11:13).

d. Heaven is the home of the righteous. (Rev. 22:3, 5; 21:1-4).

7. **Jesus would be priest and king at same time.**

PSA 110:1 The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet." ² The Lord will stretch forth Thy strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Thine enemies." ³ Thy people will volunteer freely in the day of Thy power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Thy youth are to Thee as the dew. ⁴ The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, "Thou art a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

ZEC 6:12 "Then say to him, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts,' Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the Lord.

ZEC 6:13 "Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the Lord, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, **He will be a priest on His throne**, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices."

8. The Bible presents Christ **now** as our King and High Priest. (Acts 2:32-36; Heb. 4:15, 16; 5:5,6).

Some Additional Thoughts

1. Some think the words “then is the kingdom of God come upon you” means the kingdom had already come. (Matt. 12:28).
 - a. This contradicts the statements that the kingdom was near. (Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:7).
 - b. The idea is that the kingdom is about to be established.
 - c. It was very near, but not here until Christ had ascended on high and was “exalted at the right hand of God.” (Acts 2:32, 33; Heb. 1:3).
2. The kingdom cannot be destroyed. (Matt. 16:18, 19; Heb. 12:28; Dan. 2:44).
 - a. “Everlasting” - Psa. 145:13; Dan. 4:3, 34; 7:14, 27.
 - b. “Eternal.” (2 Pet. 2:11).
3. The kingdom is composed of God’s children in the past, the present, and the future.
 - a. Some seek to prove, at times, there have been no Christians. This is based on the silence of available records and not even an exact knowledge of those records.
 - b. This is unprovable, and very unlikely.
 - c. Historians either deliberately skip or do not know or misrepresent certain facts or people.
 - d. Even if it could be proven there was a time when there were no Christians, it would not mean the kingdom had been destroyed.
 - e. The kingdom includes all the saved of the Christian age.
4. The kingdom, in the Christian Age, is composed of Jews and Gentiles who have accepted Christ. (Eph. 2:14-17).
5. Being a physical descendant of Abraham counts for nothing. (Matt. 3:9).
6. One must be a child of Abraham by faith. (Gal. 3:7, 29).
7. We must seek the kingdom first. (Matt. 6:33).
 - a. You cannot seek first what does not exist.
 - b. The kingdom did not exist at the time the words were spoken by Jesus.
 - c. It would come into existence in a short time. (Acts 2:32-36).
8. “The children of the kingdom” refers to those who had been promised the kingdom upon the condition of obedient faith. They had rejected Christ. (Matt. 8:10).”

9. The “kingdom of God” and the “kingdom of heaven” are synonymous in Christian Age.

- a. “kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 5:3, 10; 7:21).
- b. “kingdom of God” (Jn. 3:3,5; Gal. 5:21; Rom. 14:17; Eph. 5:5).

Note:

- The words “His [God’s] kingdom” are found in Matthew 6:33.
- The words “into Your kingdom” occur in Luke 23:42.

LUK 23:42 And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!"

10. Peter was given “keys of the kingdom of heaven”. (Matt. 16:19).

- a. He used them on Pentecost when he preached to the Jews. (Acts 2:14).
- b. He used them at the home of Cornelius when he preached to the Gentiles. (Acts 10).

Note: Peter did not have more authority than the other apostles.

MAT 18:18 "Truly I say to **you**, whatever **you** shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever **you** loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. “You” is used 3 times in this verse and is plural. It refers to all the apostles. They all had the same authority from the Lord.

11. The kingdom was intended for all. (Matt. 8:11; Lk.13:29; Matt. 24:14).

MAT 8:11 "And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven;

LUK 13:29 "And they will come from east and west, and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.

MAT 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come.

- a. The “end” [Matt. 24:14] is not the end of the world, but referred to the time of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D..
- b. The gospel was preached to the known world by 62 A.D.. (Col. 1:23).

COL 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, **which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven**, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

- c. Many heard about the kingdom on Pentecost. (Acts 2:5).

1) “Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven”

2) The words “from every nation under heaven” are not likely literal, but they refer to known world.

12. The kingdom belongs to those who experience the new birth and who have a childlike humility. (Jn. 3:1-5; Mk. 10:14, 15; Lk. 18:16).

13. Some sought to force Jesus to become a physical king during His ministry. (Jn. 6:15).

JOH 6:15 Jesus therefore perceiving that they were **intending to come and take Him by force**, to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

a. See Matt. 11:12; Lk. 16:16).

MAT 11:12 "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.

LUK 16:16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since then the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

b. Men wanted to be a part of the earthly kingdom and would do most anything to get into it.

c. He was not ready to become King.

1) He had more things to accomplish in His earthly ministry including giving His disciples more teaching.

2) He had to first make atonement for mankind and be raised from the dead.

3) Furthermore, the kingdom Jesus had come to establish was not the kind of kingdom they were anticipating.

d. He did not intend to ever be an earthly Ruler (Jn. 8:36), but a heavenly Ruler. (Acts 2:32,33).

e. One enters the spiritual kingdom through new birth. (Jn. 3:1-5).

14. It is a great blessing to be a part of the kingdom. (Lk. 7:28; 14:15).

LUK 7:28 "I say to you, among those born of women, there is no one greater than John; **yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.**" The "greater" pertains to blessings.

LUK 14:15 And when one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, "Blessed is everyone who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

15. Christians are a part of the kingdom now in the sense God's reigns in our hearts, but one day God will reign in the hearts of faithful believers in heaven. (Gal. 5:21; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; 2 Pet. 1:11).

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