

Lord, Teach Us to Pray
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Lesson 3

Thy Kingdom Come: Praying For God's Already Present Kingdom to Come

Objective: What are we requesting when we pray, 'Thy Kingdom Come?' In answering this question we will consider God's Kingdom in the beginning, the heinous rebellion that took place in God's Kingdom and the restoration of God's Kingdom. We will focus specifically on the promise of God's Kingdom in the Old Testament, the proclamation and implementation of the Kingdom in and through Jesus and finally our own participation in the kingdom now, most notably in prayer.

1. 'In the Beginning...there was a Kingdom' (Genesis 1-2)

a. God Establishes His Kingdom – Creation

- God is the Creator-King: This Is His World Brought Into Existence Through His Powerful Word
 - He Orders and Organizes: God, the Kingdom Builder
 - He Fills: God, the Generous Monarch
 - He Names: God, the Authoritative One
 - He Blesses: God, the Gracious King
 - He Commands: God, the Sovereign Lord
 - He Declares: God, the Satisfied Ruler

In a variety of ways in Genesis 1, God is pictured as *the* Monarch, the royal one whose sovereignty extends by right and power over the whole of his creation. The lightest word of a mortal king in the ancient world was to be understood as a command by anyone who heard it. But *this* immortal king speaks, and by his divine command the whole of creation springs into existence exactly as he intends...In Genesis 1, God's word of command...brings into existence a creation characterized by precision, order and harmony (Michael Goheen and Craig Bartholomew, *The Drama of Scripture*, p. 34).

b. God Entrusts His Kingdom: Humanity, the Little Kings

- Humanity: The Living, Breathing Statue of the Creator-King
 - They are to reflect God
 - They Order
 - They Fill
 - They Name
 - They Command
 - They Declare

God

Humanity

The World

2. Rebellion in the Kingdom: Disorder, Division and Death (Genesis 3)

a. Falling For a Lie: 'You will be like God...', i.e. You can be King

b. Cursed By The King: 'He (the Creator-King) drove out the man...'

3. Promised Restoration of the Kingdom

a. The Creator-King Promises to be the Savior-King (Gen. 3.15) – 'He shall bruise your head...'

- A Promise to Right All the Wrongs (Judgment of Evil)

- A Promise to Reverse the Curse (Salvation for His People and His world)
- b. **The King's People (Gen. 12) – 'I will make of you a great nation...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed'**
 - A Promise to Make Great
 - A Promise to Bless
 - c. **A King For the King's People (2 Sam. 7.13-14) – 'He shall build a house for my name...I will establish his throne...'**
 - A Promise to Set Up the Kingdom
 - The Prospect of a House for God's Kingly Name
 - d. **The Promised Return of the King (Is. 52.7-8) – 'Your God reigns...'**
 - A Promise of Good News, Gospel (Happiness/Harmony, Peace and Deliverance)
- 4. The King Has Come: Kingdom Proclamation and Implementation**
- a. **The Good News of the Kingdom**
 - The Definition of the Kingdom
 - The Powerful Rule of God
 - The Sphere Over Which God Rules

The kingdom of God...is best defined as the authoritative exercise of God's rule, reign, or sovereignty over and in the world...the kingdom of God...is the energetic rule of God present in Jesus Christ and directed in power, dominion, and sovereignty against all evil in the world. God established his kingdom at creation. Satan attacked it at the fall and established his rival reign. In Christ, God's empire has struck back to regain and restore the world and his people (David Naugle, *Reordered Loves, Reordered Lives*, p.102).
 - The Call of the Kingdom (Renounce Your Little Kingdoms and Trust the King)
 - b. **The Blessings of the Kingdom (Powerful Words, Powerful Deeds)**
 - Jesus' Healings Were Signs That God's Rule Had Broken In
 - Jesus' Words Were Manifestations of God's Truth Triumphant Over Demonic Lies
 - c. **Kingdom Judgment of Evil (Confrontations with the Enemy)**
 - Matt. 12.28 – 'But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you'.
 - d. **The Victory of the Kingdom (The King Dies and then Rises, see John 19-21)**
 - Jesus the Suffering, servant-King
 - Jesus, the Gardner-King
 - e. **All the Kingdom Promises are 'Yes' in Jesus**
- 5. Our Participation In the Kingdom**
- a. **The Kingdom Has Come, Is Coming, and Will Come Again**
 - b. **The Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7)**
 - c. **The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5.22-23)**
 - d. **Praying For the Kingdom**
 - The Heidelberg Catechism, Question 123, 'What does the Second Request Mean?'

Your Kingdom come means, rule us by your Word and Spirit in such a way that more and more we submit to you. Keep your church strong, and add to it. Destroy the devil's work; destroy every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your Word. Do this until your kingdom is so complete and perfect that in it you are all in all.