

Day Six

"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 'Give us this day our daily bread. 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.' -Matthew 6:9-13

Your kingdom come.....

Kingdom: βασιλεία basileia (*bas-il-i'-ah*) properly *royalty*, that is, (abstractly) *rule*, or (concretely) a *realm* (literally or figuratively): - kingdom, + reign.

It has been noted that in order for a kingdom to exist, it must meet at least four basic criteria. It must have a Ruler (God) it must have Laws (God's Word) it must have a territory (man's heart) and it must have subjects (Christians today). God's Kingdom meets those standards as you can plainly see. We are not to think that a physical kingdom is what the Church is all about. The Kingdom of God is not enlarged by the conquest of countries. The Kingdom of God is enlarged when men and women become subject to God in obedience.

This phrase the Jesus uses has caused some confusion through the ages. At the time He uttered this prayer John the Baptist was still declaring as was Jesus that the Kingdom was still at hand, or still yet to be established. *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. -Matthew 3:1-2. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. -Matthew 4:17.*

The term Jesus uses here "at hand" means near or approaching.

The term Kingdom and Church are often interchangeable for the purpose of describing the redeemed. We are added to the Church and the Kingdom when we are baptized. Paul tells us that at the time he wrote to the Church at Colossae: *(For He) delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, -Colossians 1:13.*

So, we find that somewhere between Jesus' preaching and Paul's letter to the Colossians, the Kingdom was established. In fact, Daniel prophesied that in the days of the Roman empire this Kingdom would be established that would never end. *"And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. - Daniel 2:44.* Jesus told His disciples that there were those standing among Him that would in fact see this Kingdom come with power. *"Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom." -Matthew 16:28.* Only Judas would not see this on the Day of Pentecost, for he hanged himself the day of the crucifixion.

How then, can we continue to use this term "*Thy Kingdom come*" if it has indeed already come? The fact is, now more than ever we need to pray that. For the Kingdom we pray to come is the rule of God in the hearts of those who have yet yielded to God in obedience. This should ever be upon our lips as we go forth into the world to proclaim the Gospel. It is the conquest of people's hearts that we are seeking for God's Kingdom.

While it is true that the Kingdom was established upon the cross and the resurrection of Christ and its beginnings on Pentecost, we are ever vigilant to increase those borders into broken and contrite hearts of those who would yet be subjects in God's Kingdom.

Prayerful Thoughts: O Lord, Thy Kingdom is glorious and shall never be toppled. We look unto the Day that we shall be ushered into Thy heavenly gates adorned in white garments.