

The Lord's Prayer Part 4

“Your Kingdom Come”

~ Longing for the King ~

Introduction/Recap

If you have just joined us here tonight, we've been focusing in for a few weeks now on the Lord's Prayer found in Mathew chapter 6... It is that most famous prayer of the Lord Jesus Christ that He taught to His disciples in the Sermon on the Mount...

A prayer that is often prayed throughout the entire world though most people when they say it don't really understand what they are praying...

RECAP

Now... last time we spoke we looked at the **first** petition found in the Lord's Prayer which is the line that says “hallowed be your name...”

And what we saw was that in the ancient world your Name was tied directly to your character, your name wasn't chosen on the basis of it sounding good (like we decide on names today), but your name was chosen on the basis of **who** you were and **what** you were like!

And so when we pray for the Name of God to be honored as holy in this world; we are asking for Who God is (His character & His nature,) to **NOT** be taken as something frivolous, light-hearted, or flippant...

This is the deepest cry of a Christian's heart when they come before their heavenly Father in prayer...

Which leads us now to this second petition found in the Lord's Prayer, which is: "*Your Kingdom come.*"

And here is what we're going to see tonight:

Main Point:

Christian prayer rejoices at the Kingdom that has come in Christ, but also longs for its final installment...

Outline:

And the outline for tonight is:

The Righteous Kingdom

The Rebel Kingdom

The Restored Kingdom

Definition of the Kingdom

Now given that the Kingdom of God is such a **broad** and **massive** theological topic found on the pages of Scripture, it is always good to give a definitive definition of what one means when they say "The Kingdom of God..."

And so a basic definition is this...

The Kingdom of God is:

*“The rule and reign of God over all His creation, **but also**, in a unique and special way over all His chosen and redeemed people in heaven and on earth.”*

Mustard Seed

See sometimes in Scripture the kingdom of God is described as a mustard seed, which begins as something small and tiny, and yet over time it grows, and it expands and **becomes** this great big glorious tree where the birds of heaven come and nestle in its branches...

Yeast

Scripture will also describe the Kingdom of God as a tiny amount of yeast (leaven), which a woman took and placed in a large clump of dough, and again, over time, the yeast grows and it expands and eventually it permeates the entire loaf of bread...

And so it is with the Kingdom of God... It is something that started off as a small and tiny seed in the Old Testament era, but eventually the bible tells us that it **will** grow and it **will** expand and ultimately it **will** cultivate this entire universe that belongs to the sovereign Lord of all...

And so we can **say & rejoice** with the psalmist in Psalm 24 verse 1: *“The earth is the LORD’S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and all that dwell therein”*

But within this expansive and sovereign Kingdom that God has, there are those who **are** rebels against the King and those who are **NOT**...

There are those who **submit** to the rule and reign of the King of this world, and those who do **NOT**...

So the Kingdom of God is both the sovereign rule and reign of God over all things, (every creature, every kingdom, every inch of this universe belonging to the King), **but we also see**, the kingdom of God (in Scripture) as being displayed in **a unique and special sense** in the hearts and lives of God's redeemed people in heaven and on earth."

It is:

*"The rule and reign of God over all His creation, **but also**, in a unique and special way over all those who are His by faith..."*

The Story of the bible is about God

Now the topic of the Kingdom of God ("Kingdom of heaven" in Matthew's Gospel; different names for the same reality)... **is NOT** a theme that begins in the New Testament era alone, but the Kingdom of God **is actually** a story that is woven **on all** the pages of the bible!

In fact one could even say that the story of the bible is a story about the Kingdom of God!

And so in order to understand the concept of the Kingdom of God; what God's Kingdom is... and what it means to pray here in the Lord's Prayer: *"Father, may Your Kingdom come"* we need to go back to where it all began...

Creation

And so perhaps the best place to start this story of the Kingdom, is to begin where all good stories begin and that is... to begin in a Garden...

Genesis chapter 2, and let me just set the scene for you (before we get there)...

In Genesis 1:1 the bible opens up with these words, "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...*" and so right there on the opening pages of the bible (in the very first verse) we have Creator and we have creature; we have Creator and creation, we have a King creating a Kingdom...

And this King goes on to create everything we see here today... The sun, the moon, the stars, the animals, the trees, the mountains, the clouds, the light, the day, the dark, the night, all of creation a rich tapestry of the beauty, and the wisdom, and the power of this King!

And at the very center of it all... you have this King who creates something utterly unique! Utterly unlike any other created thing in this world...

The King creates creatures made in His very image! Human beings made to reflect the royal King here in His Kingdom!

Eden

And so Genesis chapter 1 is the overview of all things, the overview of the creation of this kingdom...and then Genesis 2 goes into a more detailed account of what we see in chapter 1...

So you have the big-picture introduction in chapter 1, and then readers are gripped as the camera now zooms in for us to see what life in this Kingdom is like...here in chapter 2...

And so Genesis chapter 2 starting in verse 5 (have a look with me):

When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land...

Now if we stop there we actually notice that at this point in the creation, there is no bush of the field, no plant springing up, and no water watering the ground... this is what you would call a desert... this is a desert being described here in verse 5... and then look what happens...

Verse 6:

And a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground

So first you have a desert, with no bush, or trees, or water... and then all of a sudden God creates a midst that comes up from the ground to come on the whole face of the land, and from that mist God creates a Kingdom!

Verse 7:

*“Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God **planted a garden** in Eden, in the east, **and there** he put the man whom he had formed...”*

Verse 15:

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the **Garden** of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

Gardens are for Kings

Now something very significant to note at this point: the concept of Gardens according to Ancient cultures is **NOT** how we think of Gardens today... oftentimes when we think of gardens we think of tomatoes, carrots, fruit, vegetables, and all those things (which is true of a garden!!! but in the ancient world, **NOT** the main point!)...

You see in the Ancient world a Garden was **NOT** where you would grow produce; a Garden was something that a King possessed...

Right you think of all the Kings in the bible, and even the kings in history past, most kings had private Gardens to which they would retreat, they would rest and they would enjoy themselves...

And so what do we see God doing on the seventh day of creation?

God is resting...

And what do we see God doing at the end of Genesis chapter 1?

God saw everything that He had made. And (He says) behold it was very good!

God is delighting in His creation!

And so here in Genesis chapter 2; the King is resting and enjoying Himself in His Royal Garden...

This is very specific language being used here in Genesis 1 & 2...

In fact have you ever noticed the intention of God in the story of the bible; where the story begins in a Garden, and where does it end up?!?! (Revelation 22) In a city with a Garden...with the tree of life...where God is walking with His people...where God's presence is most fully enjoyed...

The Kingdom of God was always the plan for this world!

Make the rest of creation beautiful

And so God takes the man, places him in the middle of this Garden, and He creates a woman and gives her to the man...

And God tells them to go out, have dominion over the world, subdue the creation, and make the rest of the **world** look like this Garden...

Make the rest of creation look like my Kingdom!

Life is about Joy

This Kingdom where...there is no pain, there is no death, there's no suffering, no chaos, no destruction; no darkness... because you have the King dwelling with His people!

And when the King dwells with His people, life is most fully enjoyed!
Humanity is most fully satisfied, and joy is most fully had!

Life is about joy in the presence of the King!

A King & His Kingdom

And so in Genesis 1 & 2:

1. You have a King building His kingdom...by creating life, and beauty, and peace and joy on this earth...
2. You have a King who creates servants (or viceroys) made to represent the King in His Kingdom...
3. You have a cultural mandate to work and to keep the King's Garden, and to make all the other parts of the creation look like this Garden...

4. And lastly you have a decree (a royal law) given by the King Himself (Do not eat of the fruit of the tree), because obedience to this King is the way in which life was designed to work best!!!

- God's people
- In God's Kingdom
- Under God's rule

The Kingdom of God!

Not our world?

And so you come away from reading all that and you look out into the world today...and you think to yourself... What happened?!?! Where did this Kingdom go?!?! What happened to joy, peace, life, here in Genesis 2?

That's not the Kingdom that I live in today right?!?!

And that is because this Kingdom turns from being a righteous kingdom into a rebel Kingdom....

Genesis 3

In Genesis chapter 3... there is this ear piercing rebellion that comes shuttering through the pages of Scripture as we see Adam and Eve **disobeying** the decree to **NOT** eat of the fruit of the tree...

And all of a sudden that beautiful Kingdom; that wonderful place that was once the dwelling place of God with man is now shattered! It is fractured! And it is broken...

There is now **treason** in the Kingdom & **rebellion** against the King!

Banished from the Garden!

And because this King is a good and righteous King, the King must act according to His nature....

And so Adam and Eve are banished **from the Garden**...never to return again...

The bible actually tells us that God **drove** them out of the garden... almost as if you can picture the man and the woman digging their nails deep into the ground as they are literally being dragged away from life itself...

And you can imagine that if this were a movie...this is the part where the scene would fade to black and the only thing you would hear is the faint & distant weeping of the man and his wife, sitting outside of the Garden broken and lost...

The rest of the Bible

And in fact the rest of the bible is seen to be the **heartbreaking story** of mankind going His own way, living His own life, and trying to build His own Kingdom here on this earth.... Rejecting and rebelling against this beautiful King...

That is the world that you and I recognize!

As one pastor has said: *“After the fall we had made a glorious mess for ourselves...”*

There is another scene

And yet the most unbelievable thing is **NOT** that we rebelled and rejecting the good king in His kingdom!

I mean that is crazy!

But **the most unbelievable thing** is that despite the wickedness!!!
Despite the treachery!!! Despite the rebellion against the King!!!

There is actually another scene that we have missed...

The most unbelievable thing in all of this...is that right before this King drives out these rebels from His Kingdom...

The good King makes a promise that is beyond unbelievable!

The King promises to **rebuild** and **redeem** and **repair** this Kingdom of treason and rebellion through the seed of this rebellious woman...

That one-day, a Savior would come to **repair** what was **broken**... to **restore** what was **lost**; and to **re-build** what was **shattered**...

And this is in fact, the story of the bible!

The story of the bible is a story about the Kingdom of God!

Abraham

God comes to a man named Abraham and God promises Abraham that through him a great nation would come, but it **wouldn't** just be any regular nation...but a nations of Kings!

Genesis 17:6:

...**Kings shall come from you** Abraham!

Moses

Fast-forward over 400 years later and God comes to a man named Moses... and God brings the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt through Moses...

And the people of God settle at the bottom of this Mountain where Moses goes up and speaks to God on the mountain, and God tells Moses that if the people of God obey His voice and keep His royal decrees, then God will make them into (hear this) a **Kingdom** of priests (Exodus 19:6)...

God continues to repair what was lost...

Judges

Fast forward now and you get to a time in Israel's history where every man and woman did what was right in their own eyes... a very long

period of disobedience and decline through the series of a number of judges...

After the people of Israel recognize that judges aren't really working out for them, they figure that they need an earthly King to rule over them... after all God did promise that they would be a kingdom of priests...

King Saul

They of course elect one of the worst kings they probably could have elected... And this is the story of King Saul, they elect this King who is tall, and handsome, and a warrior... a king who seems to be a keeper on all levels of what you need in a king... except there is one major problem...

This king Saul has (what we would call) a fundamental heart problem...

See, you can change your outer appearance all you want brothers and sisters, but at the end of the day...you cannot change your heart...

And so it is with King Saul...

Under all that bravado and all that false humility ... was a king who was selfish, cowardice, and weak, a **man** who time and time again forgets **who God is...who he is...**and what God is doing in repairing & rebuilding this rebelled Kingdom...

On top of this, King Saul finds a way to lose the ark of the covenant... (what the 10 Commandments used to sit in)

King David

Now that story lasts for a number of years, until Saul is then replaced by the very famous King David... we like King David, we remember King David, but again king David is very flawed himself...

Now we don't really have time to go into his sinful history at all...

But I will say this...despite his own sin and failing throughout his life...

It is actually under **King David** where Israel reaches its highest point of being a Kingdom of priests unto God...

King David takes over this foreign city that was under the authority of some other people... and once he takes it over, the city then becomes known as "*The city of David...*"

Which is of course the city of Jerusalem...

David then brings the ark of the covenant [the same one that was lost by King Saul] into the city of Jerusalem and it is there that David tells God that he wants to build a temple for God to come and permanently within because David wants...

God's people

In God's Kingdom

Under God's rule

David is longing for the King to come!

The true Kingdom

But God has other plans in mind...

God tells David that He is going to build His own Kingdom, He is going to accomplish His own purposes, He is going to establish His own Messiah, a Messiah who would come and reign on David's throne, who would make all things right

That His Kingdom would last for all generations and never fade away!

King Solomon

David then dies... and his son Solomon takes the throne...but his son Solomon is nowhere near the King God promised to David...

Solomon has over 500 wives many of whom are pagan, multiple concubines, and a lifestyle that is NOT in tune with the King's decrees...

The Kingdom Split

And so because of the continued rebellion that goes on in God's Kingdom, the Kingdom of God is split into 2 separate kingdoms under the reign of Solomon's son...

One Kingdom gets absolutely destroyed and completely wiped out and the other goes into exile in a place called Babylon...

While in exile, the people of Israel are judged for their sin and rebellion against the King, but eventually they are able to return back to the city of David, and one of the first things they do is rebuild the temple of God

that was destroyed and lost by the Babylonians when they were captured and went into exile...

A False sense of Hope

And so this is one of the first glimmers of hope that has been seen on the pages of Scripture in decades!!!

70 years of exile, as the people of God have now finally come back to rebuild the temple of God, and to re-establish the Kingdom of God, and to finally repair what was broken so long ago!

And so God's people spend years re-building and repairing, and re-establishing this temple where God can **finally** once and for all dwell with His people in the city of David, this is the promise of an everlasting throne!!! This is the promise of God coming true!!!

The Garden will be re-established! All things will be made right again!
The presence of the King will return to the temple!

400 years of silence

And the people of God finish rebuilding this temple in Jerusalem! And there are tears and there is joy and there is excitement in their hearts!!!

This is it! This is the moment! This is when it all gets better!

And then!!! God DOESN'T COME BACK TO HIS PEOPLE!!!

The presence of God does not return to His people...

And the story ends, and the people of God are left with complete and utter silence...

Hours turn into days... Days turn into weeks... weeks turn into months... months into years... years into decades... decades into centuries... century after century after century...

400 hundred years of the silence of God...

What do you think would be going through your mind if you sat for years waiting for God's promise and His presence to come back to His people???

I would imagine, that a particular scene of perhaps a man and his wife being dragged away from the presence of God out of a Garden, would be coming back to haunt your mind...

Not again God!

Please NOT this again!

This **haunting** scene is (**eerily**) familiar...

The Kingdom of God: New Testament

And this leads us into our final point here tonight:

The Kingdom that is restored...

Wellington defeated?

It was a Sunday, June 18th in the year of 1815; a man stands in the tower of England's Winchester Cathedral gazing anxiously out to sea...

The fierce military leader; the Duke of Wellington, and the French dictator Napoleon Bonaparte had fought the historic battle at the famous grounds of Waterloo, and the citizens of this land are holding their breath in anticipation as they anxiously await the news to hear what the outcome would be for this **future English Monarchy**...

As the man stood in the Winchester Cathedral, some heavy fog begun rolling through the land making visibility out sea almost impossible...however through the thick and heavy fog, the man had attempted to make out what he thought the ships were saying, and the message was nothing less than devastating: "*England has been defeated*"

With a very heavy heart the man relayed the message to his fellow citizens as news quickly spread across the entire city that their royal leader would **not** be returning home victorious...

And as the man stood in utter disbelief and with a very heavy heart he began wondering what the future of this English Kingdom would soon look like as it was now owned by the French dictator, Bonaparte...

But all of a sudden, as he stood there... he looked up, as the fog was starting to lift, and the message from the ships at sea was once again sent, but this time; the message was received in full: "*England has defeated the enemy*"

Now can you imagine standing there that day, hearing the good news that the royal leader of your people was not defeated, but was now coming home victorious!!!

How much joy would be in your heart, how much delight would fill your soul when you heard the good news of this Kingdom that was coming...

And this is perhaps what we see at the beginning of the New Testament...

The coming Kingdom

After this **long** 400-year period of absolute silence from God or Him speaking...

All of a sudden one day, this strange Jewish man from a little town in Bethlehem comes along proclaiming a message...

And the message that is on the lips of this man, is utterly shocking...

Mark 1

Mark chapter 1 verse 14:

*“Now after **John** was arrested, [that is; John The Baptist]
Jesus came into Galilee, **proclaiming the good news...**”*

So Jesus is coming into Galilee, He is coming and He is proclaiming the good news to the people of the land...

But this good news **isn't** any normal message!!!

This good news sounds incredibly familiar!

Verse 15:

*“The time is fulfilled, **and the kingdom of God is at hand**; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

The time is fulfilled (the time has come; 400 years of silence is over); and the Kingdom of God is here... it is literally “*at fingertip reach...*” says *Jesus!!!*

And therefore, the good news is that the King of creation is coming back to establish His Kingdom here on the earth!

- Turn away from your sin, and run to the King!
- Turn away from your idols... and run to the Lord!
- Turn away from your rebellion and trust in the Lord of glory!!!

The Kingdom of God, **that** long awaited and long promised Kingdom that we saw in the mouths of Jeremiah, & Ezekiel, & Isaiah & Daniel, and all of the Old Testament Prophets, the Kingdom that had been shattered and broken is now here ready to be restored!

This is the good news of the Kingdom!

1 Corinthians 15

Paul In 1 Corinthians chapter 15, he lays the foundation of the Gospel (the good news) that:

“Christ died for our sins, that he was buried, [and] that he was raised on the third day...”

But he doesn't stop there!!!

Right before Paul hits the middle section of this chapter he says this in 1 Corinthians 15:25 (quoting from Psalm 110 verse 1):

For He must reign (speaking of Christ) until He has put all of His enemies under His feet!

And *That the last enemy to be defeated (in this world) is death (verse 26)*

See if death is the last enemy (the final enemy) to be defeated before Jesus come back to hand the Kingdom of God over to His father (verse 24), then that means every lesser enemy of Christ will be conquered before the end will come...

The good News of the Kingdom

You see the good news (the Gospel) is **not only** that Christ has died for our sins and been raised on our behalf... that's **NOT** incorrect but **it is** incomplete!!!

It is **true** and **glorious** and **great!!!** But **only half** the story...

Because the good news of the Gospel (the good news of the Kingdom) that Jesus brought to the people of Galilee that day was not **only** the forgiveness of sins and life in Christ...

But that He was coming into the world to bring His Kingdom through His death, burial and resurrection!

That He was going to come, and not only die on a cross, but after His death, He was going to ascend into heaven and sit on the throne of David!

Ruling and reigning over all His enemies here on the earth!

That He was going to fulfill that promise to Abraham...

That He was going to do what **Adam** failed to do in the Garden!

To do what **Israel** failed to do in God's Kingdom in the Old Testament!

What **Saul, David, Solomon, Rehoboam**, and all the **Kings** of the Old Testament failed to do in bringing salvation and reconciliation to the ends of the earth!

The good news of the Kingdom is **NOT ONLY** that one day people will go to be with God in heaven... but the good news is that God has come to rule and reign over all His creation, but also rule and reign **in a unique and special way**, over all His redeemed people here on this earth...

That He would reverse the sin and the corruption that had come as a result of disobedience in the Garden!

That He is going to make all things right again!

Jesus brings this Kingdom

And this is the message, this is the idea that is at the center of all that Jesus said and taught here on earth!

All of His parables, all of His miracles, all of His messages are all centered around this idea of the Kingdom that He brings!

Relation to the Lord's Prayer

And so knowing all of this background to the Kingdom of God and what it is...

We then come to our text here tonight and the petition found in the Lord's Prayer that says: "Father may your Kingdom come..."

And so we ask the question, what does it mean to pray, "Your Kingdom come?" (what are we actually praying for?)

And I want to argue that this petition is both a **present** reality and a **future** hope! **X2**

The Kingdom of God is already here, but not yet fully complete...

It has been inaugurated but is NOT yet consummated

It is now, but still not yet...

Christ is reigning **today** as Lord and King over all this world... but there are still rebels in His Kingdom!

As one preacher has said: The battle has been won, but there is still a lot of moping up to be done...

Present reality

And so in the **present** sense of this prayer (in the **present** reality), here is what we are asking:

- That God will open blind eyes to the beauty of Christ today...
- That God will open the deaf ears to the truth of the Gospel today...
- That God will overcome the rebellious hearts of those rebels who are still warring against God in His Kingdom today...
- That God will continue to bring light into darkness...order into chaos...hope into brokenness...today!!!

Future reality

And in the **future** sense of this prayer (in the **future** hope) we are asking God to bring that final Kingdom, that final reality, here to earth...

- We are praying for that day when all evil will be done away with – God bring that day!
- We are praying for that day when all sin will be eradicated in this world – Father bring that day!
- We are praying for God to bring that day when all rebellion against the King is finally destroyed!

We are asking God to bring the **final Kingdom** that is **far** better than any earthly Garden we have seen before...

Only in the 2nd Coming

And this is the **final Kingdom that will only come** that day when the Lamb returns as the Lion! When Christ comes back a second time to judge the world in righteousness!!!

This is our desire, this is our petition, and this is what it means to pray “Father, may your Kingdom come...”

It is **both** a **present** reality and a **future** hope!

Application

But it actually goes further than simply saying these words here in the Lord’s Prayer!

More than simply saying the phrase “Father, may your Kingdom come...”

How are you and I actively advancing the knowledge of God and His Kingdom in our own lives here on earth?

How are you and I representing the King here in His Kingdom?

Now that the Kingdom of God has come and is slowly permeating its way throughout the entire creation, how then shall we live?

- Well as Jesus says in Matthew 28 *“Go forth and proclaim the power of the Gospel to all the nations!”*
- Go and bring light into darkness, order into chaos, hope into the most broken situations on this earth!
- Get involved in your local Church, become a member and serve the body of Christ here today so that His Kingdom may advance within this world!
- Cook meals for the families who are struggling to feed their children, whether inside or outside of the church!
- **Fathers**, preach the whole counsel of God to your family at home and in every situation!
- **Mothers**, be a light unto your children and continue to talk about Jesus and His saving grace in every situation!

- **Singles**, redeem every conversation you have and make it a conversation that exalts the honour and glory, and worth of Christ as King!
- **Young men**, go to those who are older and wiser and much more godlier than you, and drink from the well of knowledge that they have acquired in their life...
- **Older men**, **be** that well of knowledge to the younger ones!
- Pray frequently (brothers and sisters) for the Kingdom of God to continue its work through the saving Gospel of Christ here today!
- Pray for the persecuted church around the world!
- Seek to minister and support the persecuted church around the world!
- Pray for your leaders in local parliament, that they would come to a saving knowledge of Christ and bring hope and light into those situations within state affairs!
- Pray for the ending of all abortions and the murdering of young and innocent helpless children in the womb in this state and beyond!
- Continue to give time, and money, and effort into your local church and other churches...

- Minister to the poor, the homeless, to the sick and shut-ins, to the addicts, and the abused, to those with HIV, Aids, malaria, and sickness...

Preach the gospel to everybody in the world even though you only made it to the 8th grade!

Explain the colours of a rainbow to a group of blind people so that they may know the beauty of God displayed in the world of colours!

Go out into all the cemeteries and preach to all the headstones walking in cavil avenue and queen street mall!

Go down to Schoolies with operation 513, and tell the people about the King who has come into the world to lay down His life for the rebels that are still walking in rebellion against the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords...

Go into a community of deaf people and belt out at the top of your lungs every single hymn you know and treasure about Christ the King!

Go out into to all of the temples, all of the buildings, and all of the **religious cults** and tell them to repent and come to the God of Scripture who declares His glory with no other god!

Go before Kings and Queens, Governors and Princes, sovereigns and states, and tell them that unless they surrender their lives to the Risen

Lord Jesus, then they do not have a hope of happiness in this life or when they die!

Walk out before all the principalities and powers in this world, with their armies and their soldiers, with their legions, with their philosophers & Areopagites, with their universities, with their institutions, with their citadels of power, with their legal traditions, and every last one of their worldly traditions

Go forth and tell them that you are going to pull down all of their strongholds, tell them that you are at war with all of their philosophies, worldviews, and imaginations!

Go and take every thought captive that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and make it obedient to the thoughts of Christ!

Go and turn that **desert** back into a **garden!!!**

That is our prayer and that is our task in this petition we see here in the Lord's Prayer!!!

"Father, may Your Kingdom come!"

Latimer & Ridley

In the middle of the 16th century, Queen Mary had ascended the throne of England in the year **1553**. Mary (who would later come to be known as the infamous "Bloody Mary") had worked hard at getting the Church of England **away** from its protestant reformation roots & back to the Roman Catholic Church and its ominous theology ...

On October 16th 1555; Latimer & Ridley (2 great bishops within the English Reformation) were put to the stake (by bloody Mary) because of their protestant faith in the 5 Solas, and because of their **renouncement** of the Roman Catholic Church and its spurious doctrines...

While at the stake, as the flames arose ever so quickly to burn them alive, Latimer turned to his brother in Christ and encouraged Bishop Ridley with these words: *"Be of good comfort, Mr. Ridley, and play the man! We shall this day light such a candle by God's grace, in England, as I trust never shall be put out [again]."*

Here are 2 men, about to be burned, tortured, and die at the hands of wicked and evil men, and essentially they look at one another and say to themselves: "we've got them now..."

What kind of a faith is able to say those things, in that kind of a situation?

What kind of a Saviour and King must one have, in order to look at the most darkened, blackened, gloomy situation, and say with absolute confidence: *"today is the day, that God shines forth in this dark land..."*

Only a faith that believes in a supreme Kingdom with a Supreme King!

Kingdoms may rise and Kingdoms may fall, and nations refuse to heed God's call, but the word of the Lord endures forever more!

Conclusion

It was December 6th 2016, the day that Salli and I got married...and I remember it quite vividly (I mean it was less than 2 years ago so you would hope that it's still fresh in my mind...) but it's a day I don't think I'll ever forget...

I still remember the eager expectation I felt in my soul as I was standing at the end of the aisle, and I saw every single bridesmaid come down the aisle and **give me the exact same look as the last one...** that look of: she's about come down, she's about to come... get ready Rhoi... she look so beautiful!

Every single bridesmaid... one after the other after the other after the other.... Giving me the exact same look!

And I remember thinking... yeah... I no know she's coming... in fact can you girls come down in bundles, because you're walking so slow!

And the final bridesmaid came... and then there was this long 10-15 second pause between the maid of honour and Salli coming down...

And I remember that anticipation!

"This is it Rhoi, this is the moment, this is what you've been waiting for!"

And then all of a sudden the room lit up, and I heard the music, and I felt my tears, and she appeared...

Elegant, precious, bright, beautiful, dazzling!

And all of my doubts... all of my fears... everything I had thought up until that point, vanished and I was focused solely on the splendour, and the beauty of my bride!

And when she entered that room, these words were being sung:

When we arrive at eternity's shore
Where death is just a memory and tears are no more
We'll enter in as the wedding bells ring
Your bride will come together and we'll sing
Lord... You're beautiful

A song that eagerly awaits the final installment of God's glorious Kingdom!

And so in our **prayers** and in our **lives** (brothers and sisters), we continue to pray and **to live** for the present joy of the reality that Christ is King!

And that He would continue to usher in the rebels found in within His Kingdom, so that they too can joyfully obey and submit, and experience what life is all about; Joy in the presence of the King!

God's Kingdom **has come** (in Christ)... God's Kingdom is **coming** (through the slow and gradual healing power of the gospel to all the nations), **and it will ultimately (finally) come** when the King of glory returns to earth to judge the living and the dead!

And on that **final day** there will be more pain, no more weeping, no more tears or suffering... there will be no sin, there will be no darkness, there will be no rebellion, there will be no brokenness, because we will **finally!** **Once and for all** be in the presence of our King, and every tear will be wiped away, every broken heart will be made right, every moment of pain and suffering will be redeemed to the glory of God...

And we will be with our King, and we will be at rest!

No more rebellion, no more pain, and no more sin...

Just the King dwelling with His people in the new heavens and the new earth....

O what a day that will be:

Let's pray.

Home Group Discussion Questions

The Lord's Prayer Part 4

Main Point:

Christian prayer rejoices at the Kingdom that has come in Christ, but also longs for its final installment

Q1. The Kingdom of God is a very broad and theologically diverse topic in Scripture. How do you understand the Kingdom of God, its nature, and its implications?

Q2. Some have taken the idea of “The Kingdom of God” and used it to tie together the theme of the bible. Do you find this a helpful way to unify the story of Scripture? What other themes could be used to unify the theme of Scripture?

Q3. Read Genesis 1 & 2. What indicators do you see in the text of Kingdom language?

Q3. What is the significance of God having a Garden?

Q4. Does the presence of God in the Garden have any implications for the nature of the Kingdom of God?

Q5. Can you see themes of the Kingdom of God in the Old Testament? If so, where?

Q6. In the New Testament, John the Baptist came baptizing people in the wilderness and proclaiming a message, what was his message and why was it such a significant message given the Old Testament story & background? (See Matthew 3:1-2)

Q7. Jesus likewise went around preaching to crowds and proclaiming a message. What was the nature of His message and what significance does it have to understanding the Kingdom of God? (Matthew 4:23; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:42-43)

Q8. Is the Kingdom of God something that is past, present, or future? Explain your answers. (See Psalm 45:6; Isaiah 9:6-7; Daniel 2:44; Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:20; 17:20-21; John 18:36; Colossians 1:13; 2 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 1:8)

Q9. What is the nature of this petition found here in the Lord's Prayer? (What does it mean to pray Your Kingdom come?)

Q10. What implications/application does the Kingdom of God have for us here today?

Application Questions

Q1. How often do you find the Kingdom of God to be a priority in your daily Christian walk & prayer life?

Q2. What are some ways to cultivate God's Kingdom here on earth?

Q3. Do you find walking with God and living for His Kingdom easier when you have spent time in prayer & bible reading?

Q4. When do you find living for God and cultivating His Kingdom most difficult? (In other words: When is your Christian walk most difficult?)

Q5. Has your prayer life improved since you first became a Christian? Is this good or bad?

Q6. What are some ways that help you personally to focus on God and His word?

Q7. Is there an importance in calling God Your “King” rather than simply calling Him “Your friend?”

Q8. What are the implications of God being a Personal King and Saviour to His children? (See Psalm 23:1-4; Psalm 46:1; Psalm 73:25-26; Psalm 103)

Q9. Can you or I live perfectly for the King? (See Romans Jeremiah 17:9; 3:9-12; 3:23)

Q10. What is our solution to the fact that no one can live perfectly for the King? (See Romans 5:6-11; Ephesians 2:4-10)