

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done: the Lord's Prayer—part 3 of 6

Matthew 6:9-13 King James Version (KJV)

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Introduction

Five sisters in Christ were imprisoned in Siberia under the communist regime during the Soviet Union. “They witnessed for Christ even in the prison. They prayed together with the prisoners and led some to Christ. One day the prison director ordered them to stop talking about God. ‘If you continue,’ *he said*, ‘we will punish you.’ But sisters continued. So, one day the prison director ordered the sisters to undress, then gathered thousands of prisoners around them. Barefoot and wearing only their shirts, our sisters were forced to stand on the ice. The director then told them they must stand there with the other prisoners staring at them until they promised not to speak about God or Christ anymore. Standing barefoot on the ice in Siberia, our five sisters started singing praises to the Lord. The director was angry. ‘If you don’t stop immediately, I will unleash the dogs,’ the director told the five women. Still barefoot on the ice, our sisters fell on their knees and started to pray, “Our Father, who art in heaven...”. The dogs were unleashed, and the other prisoners remained quiet. Then the dogs stopped a few inches before our Christian sisters and sat down on the ice. ‘It is a miracle of God!’ the prisoners cried.” (*Five Simple Witnesses*, Sabina Wurmbbrand, p. 15, *The Voice of the Martyrs*, March 2023, Vol. 57 No. 3).

We have been doing a series on the Lord's prayer. Here's the recap. We call God in Heaven “Our Dad.” We are no longer strangers. We are His children. When we say, “Hallowed be Thy name,” we pledge to the Lord that we will not defile His name by following other gods or taking His name in vain. If we do these two things (idolatry and taking His name in vain), our prayers will be rejected, because they always provoke God to anger. Honor, revere, fear, and stand in awe before the very name of the Lord that it may be well with you. Pray in the name of Jesus the Lord, and God will answer our prayers.

Content

Today I am doing part 3 of 6 in the series: **Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done on Earth as It Is in Heaven**. To fully understand these two sentences, we need to know the timeline of God's redemption plan: from the beginning to the end.

The timeline: In the beginning, in the end, and in the time between.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1) and established His Kingdom both in the heavenly realm and on the earth. God the Creator was worshipped by all creatures. Not long after, though, the devil (a.k.a. Satan or Lucifer, Isaiah 14:12, 'morning star') envied God and rebelled against God, because he too wanted to be worshipped. Because of his rebellion, God threw him out from His presence (i.e., the third heaven) to the second heaven (he is the prince of the power of the air, Ephesians 2:2). On earth, he started deceiving the whole world beginning with Adam and Eve. People turned their hearts away from God.

In the end, Christ will come again and fully realize the Kingdom of God in all the earth. In the last days, the devil will be thrown down again, this time, from the second heaven to the earth. Listen to Revelation 12:7-9: *7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

In the Last Judgment, justice will be served (2 Thessalonians 1:5) and God will throw the devil into the eternal fire. *And **the devil** who deceived them [people in the earth] was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Revelation 20:10).*

In the time between, God sent Jesus to restore God's Kingdom on earth two thousand years ago. Jesus launched the Kingdom Restoration Project and it is still going on. The Church of Jesus Christ has been carrying out the task to bring people back to the Lord. A couple of questions on God's Kingdom on earth.

Q1: So, who's in charge of the heavens and the earth now? Of course, God is, not the devil. The LORD our God has always been, and He will be in charge forever. He is the sole ruler both in the heavenly realm and in the earthly realm. He is the king of all nations (Jeremiah 10:7). His dominion is everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation (Daniel 4:34). Let me repeat. The LORD our God is the Sovereign in the world visible and in the world invisible. It has been that way, and is, and will be forever.

Q2: Why, then, is the world in such a mess as if God isn't in control any longer? The enemy seems strong and evil seems to have taken over. It looks that way, because in the earth, for centuries, the enemy has deceived people and messed up their lives big time (*the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience*, Ephesians 2:2). That impedes God's full reign on earth.

You see, God's kingdom is filled with God's attributes such as righteousness, justice, truth, love, peace, and joy (Romans 14:4). Yet, the world reflects the opposite: wars, hate, killing, violence, chaos, fear, and injustice. This is why the devil seems to be in charge of the world. In fact, Paul calls the evil one 'the god of this world' (2 Corinthians 4:4). This is what the devil does: 'steal, kill, and destroy' (John 10:10). Don't believe him even for a second, because he is the father of lies. Jesus points out, *He [the devil] was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies* (John 8:44). E.g., Did you know that the same devil tempted Jesus with the same false claim? *8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; 9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" 11 Then the devil left Him;...* (Matthew 4:8-11). Beware of the devil's scheme: deception. Night and day, he deceives people in the world pretending that he is the head of all kingdoms and nations, when he is not.

Thy Kingdom Come: To reclaim God's Kingdom on earth, God sent Jesus from Heaven. His mission was to destroy and undo the works of the devil: *... the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil* (1 John 3:8).

Jesus our Lord has commissioned us for the same mission: to destroy the works of the devil and restore God's Kingdom on earth.

So, what are we to do now? First, be aware of the spiritual warfare going on in the present days between God's kingdom and the devil's kingdom. Between God's children and the children of the devil. Between the sons and daughters of God's kingdom planted by God and the sons and daughters of the evil one sown by the devil (Matthew 13:38-42).

Next, engage yourself with courage in this spiritual warfare and win.

Paul the Apostle explains how we win in the spiritual battle: *10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to*

*stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, **take up the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 **Stand firm** therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 in addition to all, taking up **the shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And **take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.***

In this warfare, guns and cannons don't work. They are useless. We win the battle with truth, righteousness, faith, gospel of peace, salvation, prayer, and with the Word of God. Remember: we are kingdom agents fighting in enemy's territory (C. S. Lewis). Complete your mission, Jesus commands: restore God's kingdom on earth. Begin where you are. Bring people to God's kingdom. One individual at a time. One family at a time.

Thy Will Be Done: God's will and His Kingdom go together hand in hand. Both in heavens and on the earth, God rules and His will be done.

There was one person who just realized that. King Nebuchadnezzar. He was the one who invaded the Kingdom of Judah, razed Jerusalem to the ground, and took many people into exile in Babylon. Yes, that king. One day he was walking on the roof of his royal palace. Looking down at the city of Babylon, he began speaking to himself, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I **myself** have built ... by the might of **my** power and for the honor of **my** majesty?' He was full of himself, as you can see.

"While the word was still in his mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you,³² and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the animals of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'³³ Immediately the word concerning him was fulfilled; and he was driven away from mankind and began eating grass like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws.

³⁴ *"But at the end of that period, Nebuchadnezzar, raised his eyes toward heaven. His reason returned to him, and he blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever saying; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to*

generation.³⁵ *All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; **He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth.** No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”* (Daniel 4:28-35).

Let me touch a little bit on **God’s perfect will for us.** He has prepared a unique plan for each of us. He wants to see His plan fully fulfilled in our lives. For that, He needs our cooperation. Remember Jesus. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed three times, saying, “My Father, if this *cup* cannot pass away unless I drink from it, **Your will be done**” (Matthew 26:42). When Jesus submitted Himself to God’s will and went all the way to the cross, God’s perfect will was completed.

In the same way, when we submit ourselves to God, His perfect will be done in our lives. I have been reading a book written by Kevin Zadai. He writes about God’s perfect will for each of His children. In Heaven, he says, God has written all the things that we will do in our earthly life. For everyone. Your whole life and mine are already recorded in the books in Heaven. In fact, before the creation of the world! King David praised God saying, *Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And **in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them*** (Psalm 139:16).

God’s thoughts for us will be done as God has planned. Sometimes, though, our life unravels, and we feel like we are not fulfilling God’s perfect will. It is not because God’s will is faulty, but because we fail to work with Him as we doubt, fear, or disobey. But God patiently waits until we make it right, and in the end, He causes all things to work together for our good (Romans 8:28), because we love Him and because He has called us according to His purpose and His perfect will. Let’s submit ourselves to His perfect will.

Conclusion

Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, we pray. The LORD our God is the ruler of all creations both in the heavens and on the earth. His Kingdom will be fully restored when Christ comes, and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Don’t be deceived by the devil. Don’t get discouraged with what’s going on in today’s world, either. Lift up your head and know that God is in charge, not the devil. He will bring the devil into judgement in the Last Day. Also, remember you are God’s kingdom agent. You have a mission to do. Advance God’s kingdom on earth; one individual, one family, and one community at a time. Start from where you are. Amen.