

**“PRAY, THEN, THIS
WAY: OUR FATHER ...
YOUR KINGDOM
COME.”**

Matthew 6:9, 10

SEVERAL SCRIPTURES ON THE KINGDOM

1. The kingdom was a major theme of Paul's preaching: “And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openess, unhindered” (Acts 28:30, 31).

SEVERAL SCRIPTURES ON THE KINGDOM

2. The kingdom was a major theme of Jesus' preaching: “Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel’” (Mark 1:14, 15).

SEVERAL SCRIPTURES ON THE KINGDOM

3. Seeking the kingdom should be our priority: “Seek first His kingdom, and His righteousness” (Matt. 6:33).

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What is it to enter the kingdom? **Mt 19:23-26**

SEVERAL SCRIPTURES ON THE KINGDOM

5. The kingdom came, in a sense, when Christ exercised His power over supernatural evil: “If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you” (Matt. 12:28). (1) The kingdom came (2) when Jesus cast out demons (3) by the Spirit.

SEVERAL SCRIPTURES ON THE KINGDOM

There is something programmatic here. Christ brings God's kingdom by destroying the kingdom of darkness by the Spirit. Sounds like what happens to us! "He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Col. 1:13).

SEVERAL SCRIPTURES ON THE KINGDOM

6. The coming age will be the kingdom in an ultimate sense. “Many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 8:11).

FOUR OBSERVATIONS

1. God's kingdom is His authority exercised, not merely declared; it is God's holding sway, His authority enacted, and "at hand" (Mark 1:15). It is in operation. It has "kicked into gear" you might say, as when Jesus cast out demons by the Spirit (Matt. 12:28).

FOUR OBSERVATIONS

2. God's kingdom is His authority exercised by Christ. Jesus said the kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:15) because He, the king, was standing right there. He said later after his resurrection, “all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me” (Matt. 28).

FOUR OBSERVATIONS

3. The kingdom has a *law/gospel* aspect to it.

It is Christ judging but also His redeeming. The Kingdom involves His casting out demons (Matt. 12:28), but it also involves His bringing sinners to enter the kingdom to be saved (Matt. 11:12).

FOUR OBSERVATIONS

4. The kingdom has a *now/not yet* aspect to it.

God's kingdom comes now when people are saved and mortify their flesh by the Spirit (Matt. 11). His kingdom has not yet come as it will when He returns to bring His people to Himself and judge His enemies for good (Matt. 8; 13:30).

TWO THEOLOGIANS

Puritan Thomas Watson described the kingdom of God as “the kingdom of grace” and “of glory,” the kingdom of grace being set up in the heart of believers now, the kingdom of glory being the final and complete form when Christ returns (Thomas Watson, *The Lord's Prayer*, 59).

TWO THEOLOGIANS

Martyn Lloyd-Jones expanded on this when he said that the Kingdom comes in three ways: it came when Christ was here, it's here at this moment in the hearts of believers, and it will come in the future when Christ reigns (*Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*, 2:63).

PRAYING “YOUR KINGDOM COME”

Praying “Your kingdom come” means praying for God to save people now through Christ and sanctify them so that His commands are obeyed and He holds sway in peoples’ hearts now. It also means praying for Christ to come again, so that God’s judgment and redemption will be fulfilled in their final and complete sense.

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Much of what you read in the Psalms are prayers for God's kingdom to come in judgment and redemption, now and not yet: “Create in me a clean heart O God” (Psa. 51:10), “Unite my heart to fear Your name” (Psa. 86:11),

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“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your thy sight, O Lord” (Psa. 19:14), “Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry” (Psa. 2:12), “Gird on your sword ... O mighty One ... and in Your majesty ride on victoriously” (Psa. 45:3, 4).