

Prayer, From the Westminster Larger Catechism, part 5

Q191: What do we pray for in the second petition?

A191: In the second petition (which is, Thy kingdom come), acknowledging ourselves and all mankind to be by nature under the dominion of sin and Satan, we pray, that the kingdom of sin and Satan may be destroyed, the gospel propagated throughout the world, the Jews called, the fullness of the Gentiles brought in; the church furnished with all gospel officers and ordinances, purged from corruption, countenanced and maintained by the civil magistrate: that the ordinances of Christ may be purely dispensed, and made effectual to the converting of those that are yet in their sins, and the confirming, comforting, and building up of those that are already converted: that Christ would rule in our hearts here, and hasten the time of his second coming, and our reigning with him forever: and that he would be pleased so to exercise the kingdom of his power in all the world, as may best conduce to these ends.

In the beginning, God created paradise, and made Adam and Eve caretakers of it. They were completely innocent, as are children. All of their needs were met, and they enjoyed direct communion with God. They sinned, and paradise became the world in which we now live. All of the evil, pain and death experienced now, were born from that original sin. All their descendants were born corrupt, enemies of God.

Born again Christians, although freed from the judgement of sin, continue to sin and must continually confess, repent and turn back to God. Most people, as we once were, have no knowledge of the one true God, and the new heaven and new earth that *will come!* All things will be made new. Direct communion with God will be restored. Pain, death and tears will be no more. The next to last verse of the Bible, referring to Jesus, Revelation 22:20 – “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen.

When we pray, we sometimes doubt whether our prayer will be answered as we ask. How comforting and empowering it is to pray Thy Kingdom Come, when God himself has promised, revealed and guaranteed the certainty of it!

Oh Lord, my God. You are the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. You control all events in this world and the next, and I put my faith and trust entirely in you. In this world there will be trouble, but Jesus Christ has overcome the world, and through him all things will be made right and new! I pray that your kingdom will come soon. You know how the world wears me down, how it saps my energy and breaks my heart. I am downcast by the evil that runs rampant all over the earth every day, and I know and lament that part of that evil remains in me, and I am so thankful that you called me out of darkness and into the light of Jesus’ saving grace. My only hope is in you.

I pray that your true gospel will flourish throughout the world, and that you will add multitudes of believers through its hearing. I pray that you build up your church in a true belief and faith in the atoning work of Jesus, and that it will be completely faithful to your Word. That you will convert the purveyors of evil, the perverters of your Word, the liars and cheaters, murderers, rapists and molesters; or that you will utterly destroy them, as you please.

I pray that your Word will culminate in Jesus' triumphant return as ruler over all, when crying, pain, death and even faith will be no more, when You will wipe every tear from every eye, when direct communion between God and man will be restored. Oh happy day! *Oh happy eternity!*

Father, please keep this promise always in my mind, and give me the grace to believe it with all my heart and mind; as my appointed days on this earth pass, on my way home to you. I pray these things in the name of the good shepherd, who lays down his life for his sheep. Amen.