

Hey there! Pastor Gerber here again. Welcome back.

Today, we are continuing with our study of the Lord's Prayer. Let's pray that together again, right now.

Our Father...

Today we are looking at the second petition of the Lord's Prayer: Thy Kingdom Come. **Explanation**

Let's take a look at a tale of 2 kingdoms. Let's look at the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan.

You have the answers written down for you as to what the location, presence, qualities, and focus of each Kingdom is, so I'm not going to read through each of those for you. That would just get tedious. But notice that each of these are opposites. The Kingdom of God is about truth and the Kingdom of Satan is about lies. Life and Death, Sacrifice and Selfishness, Love and Hate.

These Kingdoms are opposites. Complete opposites. And so we pray for God's kingdom to come.

What is God's Kingdom? Well, it's not a physical place like we might expect when we hear the word 'kingdom.' Instead, it's the rule and reign of God. In the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Mark, Jesus says 'Repent, for the be Kingdom of God is at hand.' Jesus is talking about himself. He is the Kingdom of God Incarnate.

God's Kingdom is about God Values. Truth, Life, Mercy, Love, Justice, Righteousness, and Peace.

Satan's Kingdom is quite the opposite. 2 Cor. 4:4 tells us "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers." Notice that the word god here has a lowercase g. Remember that lowercase g means that this is not referring to the one true God, but rather a false god. Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers.

And Ephesians 2 says: "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."

Satan's Kingdom is about Satan Values: Lies, Death, Hate, Murder, Injustice, Disorder.

The Kingdom of God is here. As we said earlier, the Kingdom of God is Jesus himself. But the Kingdom of God isn't fully complete. But it will be when Jesus returns and makes all things new! To be clear, though, when I say that the Kingdom of God isn't fully complete, I don't mean that it's lacking anything. I mean that it hasn't yet completely taken over and pushed the Kingdom of Satan into the depths of Hell. That will happen when Jesus returns!

So, how can we participated in the Kingdom?

Baptism. We enter into the Kingdom of God through the faith that is given to us in baptism! Or the faith that comes from hearing the Word of God. It's the faith that brings us into the Kingdom of God.

But because the Kingdom of God hasn't yet completely taken over, we live in a tension between these two kingdoms. And we pray for Christ's return, that He might make all things new and push aside the Kingdom of Satan for all eternity.

It might be easy to think that, since we are living in a tension, it might be best to withdraw ourselves from that tension, but Jesus himself prayed that the Father wouldn't take us out of this world, but what He would protect us from the evil one.

So, for what are we praying when we say "Thy Kingdom Come"?

We are praying for ourselves, that we might be protected from the evil one. We are praying for others, that they also might be protected from the evil one. And we are praying for eternity. We are praying for Christ to return, for the people of God to spend eternity with Him in the new creation, and for Jesus to send the kingdom of Satan into the depths of Hell for all eternity,

The main point for today is that we are caught in the tension of 2 Kingdoms. We play our part in bringing the Kingdom and pray for God's rule and reign!

Well, that's all for today. As always, let me know if you have any questions. See you next time!