

Jesus' Model Prayer – Part 4

The Second Petition: Praying for the Glory of God's Kingdom

Matthew 6:10a

We must begin by recognizing that the kingdom of God has both a *present* and a *future* aspect. It is present *now* and manifested through the Church and the preaching of the Gospel, but it has *not yet* come in its fullness. This awaits the return of Christ and ultimately the New Heavens and the New Earth.

I. The Kingdom As Not Yet Come

Matthew 13:41-43

Matthew 25:31-34

Acts 14:21-22

1 Corinthians 15:50-55

2 Timothy 4:18

Revelation 5:9-10

Revelation 12:7-10

John Chrysostom observed with regard to the prayer “Your kingdom come” that:

... this again is the language of a right-minded child, not to be riveted to things that are seen, neither to account things present some great matter; but to hasten unto our Father, and to long for the things to come. And this springs out of a good conscience, and a soul set free from things that are on earth. This, for instance, Paul himself was longing after every day: wherefore he also said, that “even we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan, waiting for an adoption, the redemption of our body.” For he who hath this fondness, can neither be puffed up by the good things of this life, nor abashed by its sorrows; but as though dwelling in the very heavens, is freed from each sort of irregularity. (*A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church*, Vol. 10, p. 134)

II. The Kingdom As Already Come

Matthew 4:17

Matthew 5:3

Matthew 6:31-33

Matthew 12:28

Luke 9:62

Luke 17:20-21

Romans 14:17

Colossians 1:13

A Translators Handbook on the Gospel of Matthew aptly observes that, “the prayer requests that God establish his reign for us, not that we establish it for him” (p. 169, Logos Edition).