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Pray for the Coming of Christ's Kingdom



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #286 ~

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. ***Thy kingdom come.*** *Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread..."* Matt. 6:9-10

One of the most well-known prayers in church history is the Lord's prayer, also called the disciple's prayer. As you know, we live in an extremely sinful world, one controlled by the kingdoms of evil men, and the only way these kingdoms can be truly dealt with is for Christ to return and set up His own kingdom. And God promised this would happen, and He told you to pray for it to happen. So be fervently praying for the coming of Christ's kingdom, for the *"summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth."* Eph. 1:9-10

Here are several truths about this kingdom prayer and the coming kingdom:
* This prayer is directed to our heavenly Father, One who is holy in every way, perfectly righteous, loving, wise, powerful, and sovereign. And His plan is to establish His glorious kingdom on earth – and only He has the power and authority to do this. 1 Chron. 29:10-13
* This kingdom will be a 1000-year kingdom, a millennial kingdom. Rev. 20:1-10
* That God has not yet answered this coming-kingdom prayer means He has more work to do in building the church, His spiritual kingdom on earth. And we are to help Christ complete His work by seeking His kingdom (Matt. 6:33), by assisting Him in building the church (Matt. 16:18), by preaching the gospel (Matt. 24:14), and by making disciples. Matt. 28:19-20

* The whole world lies in the power of the devil (1 Jn. 5:19). But the devil has not stopped Christ from doing His work in building the church. In fact, God is actually using the devil to help fulfill His plans. And in the kingdom age to come, we will see God, through His Son, Jesus Christ, perfectly carry out His plans for this earth, just as it is in heaven. Acts 2:22-24, Eph. 2:19-22, Zech. 14:9
* When this church work is finished, this age will come to an end, and Christ will return to rapture the church, judge the world, save a remnant of Jews, and begin building His kingdom on earth, one that is both physical and spiritual in nature. Psalm 72, Matt. 24:29-31, Luke 21:20-31, Rev. 7-9

* The unholy kingdoms of men won’t be here in the age to come, for they can’t coexist with the holy kingdom of Christ. There will be no kingdoms like the United States, Russia, China, Iran, Sauda Arabia, the UN, BRICS, etc., and no Antichrist’s kingdom. All evil, earthly kingdoms will slowly die or be suddenly destroyed. Ps. 2, Dan. 2:44, Rev. 18
* In the coming kingdom age, sinners will be living on earth, and Christ will be executing justice and enforcing obedience to God. With the devil

in chains and Christ in charge, life on earth will be dramatically and wonderfully different, and you will be here to see it. The coming age will be a good age, totally unlike this present evil age. Ps. 67, Phil. 2:9-11

* The word *"come"* conveys the idea of being instantaneous. The coming of Christ and His kingdom will not happen gradually like some people think but will take place suddenly, and powerfully and gloriously. Matt. 24:27-31
* In the millennial kingdom age, the earth will be restored and renovated, fit for Christ the King. Matt. 19:28 – *"… in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne."* Acts 3:21 – *"… the period of restoration of all things."* Rom. 8:21 – "… *the creation itself will be set free from its slavery to corruption."*
* The coming kingdom will be the fulfillment of many promises God made to the Jews. All believers, both Jew and Gentile, will assist Christ in reigning over the world during this millennial age. Isaiah 2, 4, 12, 60-62, 65; Heb. 11:39-40; Rev. 5:10

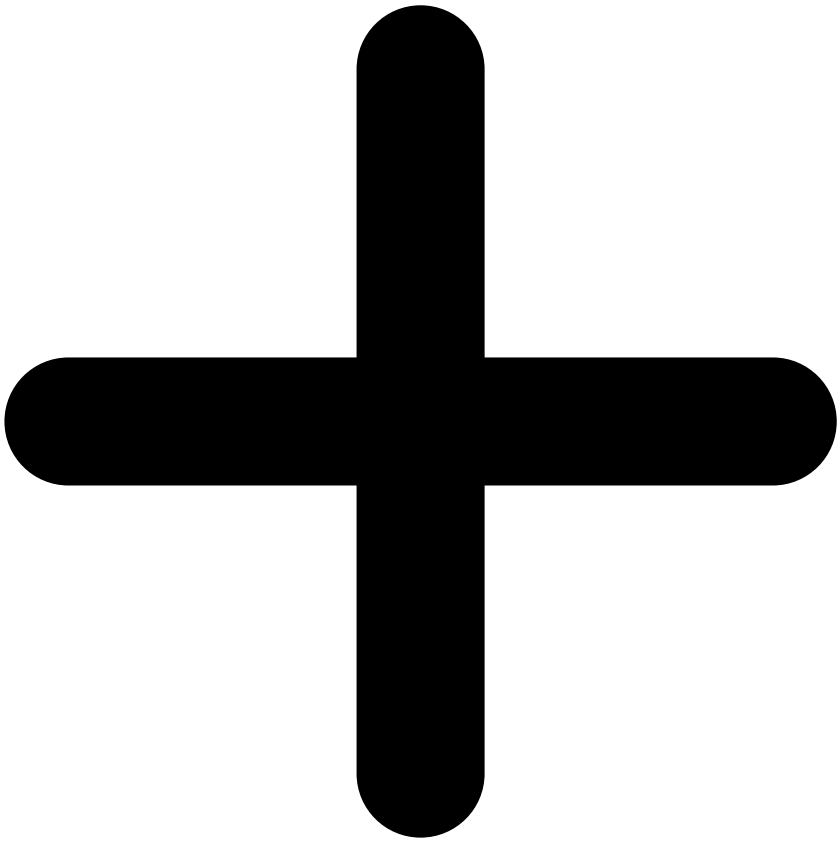
Now what were Jesus' disciples thinking? They believed Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ, but wrongly thought He'd set up His kingdom on earth at that time. In fact, just before Jesus ascended into heaven they asked, *"Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"* (Acts 1:6-7). But they didn't understand the timing of God's plan, for Jesus goes on to tell them, *"It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority."*

Ten days later, after being filled with the Holy Spirit, these disciples begin preaching the gospel and building the church, God's spiritual kingdom on earth. And here we are, close to 2,000 years later, and we are still preaching the gospel and building the church. Obviously, Christ has not yet restored the physical kingdom to Israel, for the church age is still continuing.

What makes the 1st century and the 21st century different is not just 2,000 years, but that now we live in the end-times, for millions of Jewish people have returned to Israel (Luke 20:21-24). That we are in the end-times means Christ will soon come back to earth to rapture the church, glorify the believers, and establish His kingdom on earth, a kingdom for both Jews and Gentiles. Rom. 15:8-12, Heb. 11:39-40

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever" (Rev. 11:15). *"The Lord will be King over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one; and His name the only one"* (Zech. 14:9). And all believers will say, *"God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a skillful psalm. God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne."* Psalm 47:7-8

P.S. As we help Christ build the church, keep praying for His coming and the coming of His kingdom on this earth. That Christ is coming and establishing His kingdom on earth is our hope. I encourage you to read these two related and encouraging posts – *"Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done"*, *"Christ's Kingdom is Coming."*



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