

BRING ON THE KINGDOM

“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven.” (MATTHEW 6:10)

I. The World Isn't Big Enough for Two High Kings

A. Believers know from experience that there is a world system apart from God's kingdom and it is not a nice place to be. “*Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air*, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom *also we all had our conversation in times past* in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were *by nature the children of wrath*, even as others.” (EPHESIANS 2:2-3)

B. Salvation reminds believers of the conflict with sin, its manifestations, and fruits. “*All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way*, and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (ISAIAH 53:6)

C. The normal human condition is tragic. “As it is written, *There is none righteous*, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is *none that seeketh after God*. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; *there is none that doeth good*, no, not one. *Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit*, the poison of asps *is* under their lips:” (ROMANS 3:10-13)

D. Believers pray for the overthrow of the world system and the establishment of the Bible system. “Finally, brethren, *pray* for us, *that the word of the Lord may have free course*, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you:” (2 THESSALONIANS 3:1)

II. God's New Order Must Extend to All Peoples

A. The Jews must be called; believers have a passion for the conversion of Israel. “Brethren, *my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved*.” (ROMANS 10:1)

B. Paul did what it took to reach every people, even that which most vividly rejected the Lord and the atonement. “And *unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews*; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; *To them that are without law, as without law*, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) *that I might gain them* that are without law.” (1 CORINTHIANS 9:20-21)

C. Every people, tongue, tribe, culture, and time-period becomes a proper target for the gospel and must be brought into God's kingdom for the sake of the elect within. “I pray for them: *I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me*; for they are thine.” (JOHN 17:9) “Neither pray I for these alone, *but for them also which shall believe on me through their word*;” (JOHN 17:20)

D. Eventually the nations outside the kingdom will be brought into God's Israel and national Israel will be restored to God's kingdom. “For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that *blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in*. And *so all Israel shall be saved*: as it is written, *There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob*.” (ROMANS 11:25-26)

III. The Appeal for the Coming Kingdom Is a Cluster Prayer with Multiple Sub-Parts

A. Pray for God to send the church officers, gifts, and tools for world evangelization. “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (MATTHEW 9:38)

B. Ask for nothing less than a church which matches Christ Himself. “And *he gave some, apostles*; and some, *prophets*; and some, *evangelists*; and some, *pastors* and *teachers*; *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*” (EPHESIANS 4:11-13)

C. Plead for constant purification of the church. “For *from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles*; and *in every place incense shall be offered unto my name*, and a pure offering: for *my name shall be great among the heathen*, saith the LORD of hosts.” (MALACHI 1:11)

D. Plead for purity which empowers the church. “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.” (ZEPHANIAH 3:9)

E. Pray for the state to support the church and its life rather than exclude morality from public life; we are pleading for an end to a values-free civil society. “I *exhort* therefore, *that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*” (1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2)

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