

“Thy Kingdom Come”

Some people say that God’s Kingdom is here already, as a state of being in the hearts of men and women who have embraced it and seek to live according to its principles. You have to admire their attitude, but the coming Kingdom of God on earth is very much more than an attitude of heart and mind.



leaves a legacy of hundreds of orphans, and murder and strife is part of daily life for so many. In the Kingdom there will be no more boundaries, and thanksgiving will dwell in every heart.

He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth (Psalm 72:8).

Hard Times

The Bible says that before God takes over the rulership of His world, things will have deteriorated in many ways and that is what we now see happening. Troubles beset the nations on all sides: immorality, lawlessness, racism, famine, disease, tears and overmuch sorrow. The threat of modern warfare is enough to drive terror into the hearts of many. Their fears are justified, for the Bible is categorical in telling us that war will sweep the nations, and morally things will get worse. There will be no improvement until that glad day when the Lord Jesus returns in glory, to set up his rule over all the nations.

Righteousness

Psalm 72 resonates with hope. It speaks of the coming king, and says that in his days the righteous shall flourish, and there will be an abundance of peace. It speaks of an everlasting kingdom, ruled by the greatest man who ever lived. Some find it difficult to imagine what that will be like given that today’s warfare

Salvation

The modern world needs a supreme monarch who, with God’s authority, will reign over all nations. We need someone who can solve the world’s problems for all people, not just for the rich and famous. Today the needy are often trodden underfoot, exploited, driven from their homes and treated abominably. He will be their champion, and none will dare resist him. He will not only be victorious over world forces, but his justice and righteousness will be acknowledged everywhere. Listen to what the Psalmist promises:

He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper (Psalm 72:12).

Abundance

The poor and helpless are often seen queuing up for welfare handouts from various charities and agencies, but it will not be like that in God’s wonderful kingdom:

There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, on the top of the mountains; its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; and

those of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth (Psalm 72:16).

What a vision! No more pot-bellied children, their eyes covered with disease-carrying flies. The change will be dramatic. The harvest will be so abundant that there will be hardly time to gather it before it is time to sow again. The Father of all blessings will shower His abundance on the whole world. There will be freshness, beauty and vigorous growth as never before.

Glorious Earth

When the Lord Jesus rules over a worldwide empire many will be attracted to follow him and make his teaching and his law the centre of their lives, for Jesus will bring a blessing when he returns from heaven:

His name shall endure forever; his name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in him; all nations shall call him blessed (Psalm 72:17).

The sense of joy will be so contagious. The evil of the present day will contrast with the contentment of the time to come. We try to contemplate the healthy, glowing faces of the new paradise, and can only exclaim, "Blessed be God". The Psalmist is clearly exhilarated himself as he looks forward to everything he has been inspired to reveal, for he concludes the Psalm with these uplifting words:

Blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen (Psalm 72:19).

Jerusalem - a Joy

A kingdom must have a centre, and God has decided that it will be at Jerusalem. What a transformation

awaits that city. As a river flows gently to the sea gathering springs on the way, so the peoples of the world will flow to the place where they will learn of the mercy of God. The Lord Jesus will be enthroned there, and immortal saints will have the privilege of offering words of life to all. The prophet Isaiah adds to what the Psalmist has said with these heart-stirring words:

Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3).

Right-thinking men and women from all nations will want to worship God and meet His appointed King – the Lord Jesus Christ. There will be no reticence then in talking about religion, but a zeal to hear the words given. What a change for those people who have been starved of Bibles for years. It will be a splendid time. So the Christian prays, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth", knowing it is the only hope for a hopeless world. God's will is already done in heaven, but not yet on earth. That must change.

That kingdom is not here yet, but all the signs suggest we are living in an age that is the overture to Paradise. The Lord Jesus is inviting you to be with him in that day. He is the answer to mankind's need. He asks but one thing of us, "Follow me". It means self-denial now which, God willing, will result in a wonderful transformation in the future. God grant that you will answer the call.

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