

THY KINGDOM COME

The believer is alive to establish the Kingdom of God.

Jesus quotes the line in the title when the disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. Together with praising the name of the heavenly Father, the request is immediately made for the Kingdom of God to be established on Earth. The quest then to understand this and to see it fulfilled is urgent, or at least ought to be, upon every believer.

There are various kingdoms at work in the world at any one time.

There is the kingdom of darkness that includes demonic and satanic influences upon man and his environment. This kingdom is largely responsible for evil and every form of darkness and oppression of creation. Demonic attacks and possession of individuals or communities are the work of the kingdom of darkness.

There are also the kingdoms of men. These are political governing systems that work as they are influenced by the supernatural kingdoms. Daniel's prayers were delayed by the prince of Persia. The political kingdoms have spheres of influence that extend into the supernatural.

Then there is the kingdom of this world. This is a kingdom whose power and influence is mainly through culture, entertainment and education. They are less involved directly with the spirit but with intellect and emotions but the objective of the battle is the same: to have absolute control of the soul over the spirit of man.

When Jesus appears for ministry, He finds John proclaiming that the Kingdom of God has come, calling men to repentance. Jesus picks up from there and both of these ministries are confirmed by the miraculous. Jesus declares *"if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you."* (Luke 11:20). This is a demonstration that a higher kingdom has come and is ready to subdue all inferior kingdoms.

Therefore when Jesus inserts that our prayers should include a request for the kingdom of God to be manifested on earth, He is proclaiming that the battle is for superiority. The stronger man will have the spoils.

The church in its beginning faced a lot of persecution from the kingdoms of this world (religious and political governments). The prayer of the apostles is very telling as to what has to happen for the gospel to continue; *"Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."* (Acts 4:30). In their prayer they confirm that the rulers of the world are and have conspired against Christ and the preaching of the gospel and the response is, "Let the gospel be borne witness by miracles!".

Jesus while giving the great commission sends the disciples to preach the gospel, to heal the sick and to cast out devils. The gospel and the life of a believer must be accompanied by miracle and signs for the witness to be effective.

May you heart be moved to ask God for the demonstration of power that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth to heal the sick and set free that captives. Paul proclaims that the gospel is not in words but in power. This is the power that we must seek. This is the power that the preaching of the gospel must crave and have.

Oh Lord, may your kingdom come!