

Your Kingdom come (Outline)

Lukas 11. 1-4

Pastor Nobuyuki Uchimura (Milano Praise Church)

First of all, what is the Lord`s Prayer?

"One day, Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

"I always pray to my Father like this. So join in and pray with me. Then you will learn what prayer is about." And what he taught them was the "Lord`s Prayer".

What does "Your kingdom come" mean?

The word `kingdom` is translated from the Greek `basileia`, which means `king` and is derived from the word `basileus`. "Your kingdom come" refers to God`s rule being realised/implemented on this earth, not about our leaving this earth and entering God`s kingdom.

According to the Bible, our hope is of a physical resurrection of our bodies and of the new heavens and new earth, where God will live with men.

We struggle to accept the resurrection from the dead.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we find the account of St. Paul evangelising the Greeks in Athens. At first they listened with interest, but as soon as he spoke of the resurrection from the dead, their attitude changed completely. Acts 17:32 says: "When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

For them, the good news of a physical resurrection was nonsense. We have also been influenced by the Greek world view, but the biblical world view is different.

The final hope that the Bible teaches

We need to remember that the Bible does not teach that we will go up to heaven, but rather that God will come down to earth. Therefore, when we pray the Lord`s Prayer, we are not asking to escape from this world and go to another one, but rather we are longing for God`s rule to be realised on this earth. "The Lord`s Prayer" is the response of those who believe the words of Jesus found in Mark 1:15, where he proclaimed, "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near." By praying this prayer every day, we continue this proclamation.

The kingdom has already come and has begun to grow

In Luke 17:20-21 Jesus says the Kingdom of God will not come as the Jews expect, i.e. visibly and obviously, but that it comes quietly and is, in fact, already amongst them, already increasing.

The Bible gives us one consistent storyline.

In a story, it is important that there is not just repetition of the same happenings but that the action progresses and develops, finally reaching a conclusion. In the same way, God`s kingdom will not just be something vague and open-ended.

This present world is ruled by someone other than God and is influenced by someone whose will is different to God`s.

In the Lord`s Prayer, why does Jesus teach the disciples to pray: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"? It is because, at this present time, God`s rule is not yet fully established on this earth and neither is his will being carried out fully. Actually, God`s kingdom is in the process of invading the kingdom ruled by his enemy.

At the end of the world, God will intervene conclusively in world history and seize the kingdom for himself.

In the book of Revelation, we are told not just that God will himself become king and rule, but that his people will also reign with him. This means that Christians will be involved in carrying out God`s rule. The kind of ruling referred to here is not like the kingdoms of this world which are ruled by violence and force, but is a rule of service based on love and humility. The Christian`s ultimate hope is that God will rule as king over the whole world and that God`s people will also be actively involved in this. The New Testament also gives us a further vision for the end of the world: that God`s people will be included in the eternal love relationship that has always existed between the persons of the Trinity.