

40 Days of Prayer
Three Lakes Evangelical Free Church
Day 15

Maranatha Prayer
Revelation 22:20

Yesterday we discussed how life in the local church is a foretaste of heaven, and that when Jesus instructed us to pray that his Kingdom would be manifest on earth as it is in heaven, we could faithfully follow that instruction by praying for healthy churches. Today I want to take the thought of praying for the Kingdom of God on earth to its ultimate fulfillment. This thought begins in the Garden of Eden.

When God created the heavens and the earth, he put humanity in the garden. This, according to many biblical scholars, is the first manifestation of the Kingdom of God on earth. There is the King who is God. He demonstrated that he is the King by virtue of creating out of nothing. But a King needs people to rule, so God created humanity. He also needs a place to rule his people, so he created the Garden of Eden. There we have it – the King, a people to rule, and a place to rule them – the Kingdom of God on earth.

But when Adam and Eve sinned, the Kingdom of God on earth became broken. Immediately the King initiated a plan to redeem his kingdom, which was to bring forth the Redeemer from the family of Adam and Eve. Beginning with Genesis 3:15 and continuing through the entire Old Testament, we observe the generations of the family of the Redeemer, culminating in the birth of Jesus. Through the birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the renewed kingdom of God has been established on earth in the hearts of believers. Believers now bow before the King, we follow his rule, and we live on the earth – even though we are not of it. Through local churches, the Kingdom of God is alive and well, but certainly not in its perfect form like it was in the Garden of Eden. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus will return to earth and establish a literal kingdom on earth during a period known as the Millennium (Rev. 20) when he will rule, as the Father’s representative, with a righteous benevolent rule. Then, according to 1 Corinthians 15:24, the end will come when Jesus hands the Kingdom of God over to the Father and we have the renewal of the earth, the new Garden of Eden if you will, and the eternal rule of the King over his people on the new heaven and new earth.

So where does that leave us with praying the Lord’s Prayer, when Jesus said to pray for his Kingdom to come on earth? Listen to John’s prayer at the end of Revelation. He concludes his record of the revelation given to him by Jesus, in which Jesus announces that he will return and establish the Kingdom of God on earth for 1000 years.

²⁰ *He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Rev. 22:20 NIV)*

John prays, “Come, Lord Jesus” or “Maranatha.” Now, our prayers for the coming of Jesus will not hasten his arrival. God has that time already established. But such a

prayer is nonetheless very significant, because it keeps our focus on a time and a life that transcends the one we are living now.

Here is my point. Oh, how many are the times that I have cried out to God in the midst of a particularly difficult time in my life, “Come, Lord Jesus.” That prayer gives me instant relief. I am reminded that there will be a time when there will be no more tears, no more pain, no more problems, no more sin. There will be a time when I will experience the life for which I was created. Just crying out, “Come, Lord Jesus,” gives me the strength to carry on till that reality invades this world and my life is transformed. I look forward to living in the final and renewed Kingdom of God on earth, in the renewed Garden of Eden (survey its description in Rev. 21-22) under the rule of my heavenly Father, and in perfect fellowship with his people. Won’t you join with me, “Maranatha – Come, Lord Jesus.”

1. Read 1 Peter 1:1, 4-5, 17; 2:9-12. Thank God that we are sojourners and exiles from this world and that we have a greater inheritance that is being kept for us in heaven. Then pray for wisdom on how to best honor him during our journey, away from home.
2. Read John 14:1-3. Thank God for the promise of Jesus’ return and, when he comes, he will take us to a better place.
3. Read Revelation 20:3-4. Thank God for the promise that we will enjoy an unhindered life in the very presence of God in perfect peace and joy.
4. Enjoy Psalm 16:11, Psalm 27:4, Psalm 73:25-26.
5. Now pray the words of Revelation 4:8, 11.