

**Now But Not Yet**  
**2018-07-01**

Matt 6: 9-10a

*Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come"*

Communion is a picture of truths in "Kingdom come" Matthew 6:10, 1 Corinthians 11:26

- Kingdom of God is major theme in Bible: 67x in New Testament + kingdom of heaven 32x in New Testament
- "Kingdom of God/Heaven" is not in the Old Testament but the idea is....promise of a coming King who would eternally reign/rule over a people who God would gather to Himself.

Jesus inaugurated Kingdom of God at His incarnation...Where King Jesus is there is His kingdom. Luke 17:21, Matthew 4:23; 12:28, Romans 14:17

- Never separate Jesus from His kingdom so Kingdom of God is internal kingdom where Jesus Christ reigns/rules in hearts of His people.
  - With every salvation His reign is established and Kingdom of God expands.

Kingdom of God came with Jesus Christ's incarnation but is not yet in its fullest.

Romans 7:15, 18-19,

- Christians transformed by union with Jesus, but the change is incomplete.
  - Experience some blessings of God's rule like measure of victory over sin but still sinners wrestling against world, flesh and devil.
- Time is coming when complete victory over sin, Satan, death, sickness.

So Kingdom of God came (arrived with Christ), but not in its fullness so it's also yet to come! John 18:36, Matthew 8:29, Acts 1:2-3, 11, Matthew 6:10

- These 3 simple Greek words describe heart of God's plan and center/culmination of all of human history.
- One day Christ will literally, physically, bodily return in same way He left, world will end, Christ will establish His eternal, uninterrupted reign/rule and all creation honor/glorify Him as Creator, Redeemer, King.
  - His sudden/unexpected, globally visible return will institute His universal kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven.
    - That glorious day is primarily what Jesus is instructing us to pray for. 1 Thessalonians 5:2; Revelation 11:15, 22:20, Matthew 6:10

Translated "kingdom" but means rule or reign. "Thy reign come".

- "come" = let it immediately/suddenly/completely come.
  - Pray that Christ will come now for 2<sup>nd</sup> time to establish His sovereign rule as King over entire universe.
    - Reign on earth now in same way You're reigning in heaven.

Call to pray for future ultimate triumph of Christ & present spiritual victory in individuals as struggle with Satan & sin.

- Every victory against sin and Satan is advancement for Kingdom of God.
- This primary prayer for salvation of lost is in the Lord's Prayer.... "Great Commission".

- Door into Kingdom of God, the cross, gloriously placed between arrival of His Kingdom & Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. Luke 17:21, 24-27 Gospel
- Sanctification for self/Christians.... Kingdom of God would rule/reign in Christians hearts and desires.
  - more like Jesus; walk more in Holy Spirit and will of God...next week.

Regardless of your biblical eschatology, now living between Kingdom of God inauguration at Jesus' incarnation and His 2<sup>nd</sup> physical, visible return in glory.

- Kingdom of God has come but is also yet to come! Already here yet not here fully.
- So Jesus instructed us to pray that His reign would come in hearts/lives of lost, in Christians' hearts to fullness He's worthy of and someday soon to come again and set this sin-filled, messed up world right.