

Matthew 6:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Analysis

The prayer continues with two parallel petitions: 'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven' (Greek: ἐλθέτω ἡ βασιλεία σου, 'let your kingdom come'). These petitions are closely linked - God's kingdom arrives where His will is accomplished. 'Thy kingdom come' prays for God's rule to be fully established on earth. 'Thy will be done' (γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου) requests submission to divine purposes. The phrase 'as in heaven, so on earth' presents heaven's perfect obedience as the model for earthly conformity. This petition commits the pray-er to kingdom values and alignment with God's purposes.

Historical Context

Jewish messianic expectations focused on God's kingdom breaking into history to overthrow oppressors and establish justice. Jesus reframes this by emphasizing obedience to God's will as kingdom manifestation. The petition implicitly acknowledges current reality - God's kingdom is not yet fully realized on earth. This 'already/not yet' tension characterizes New Testament eschatology. Early Christians prayed 'Maranatha' ('Come, Lord') expressing similar longing for kingdom consummation.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does praying for God's kingdom to come commit us to kingdom values and actions?
2. What is the relationship between God's will being done and His kingdom arriving?
3. In what practical ways can we align our lives with the reality of heaven on earth?

Interlinear Text

ἐλθέτω δέ βασιλεία σου γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου ὡς
come G3588 kingdom Thy be done G3588 will Thy G5613
G2064 G932 G4675 G1096 G2307 G4675

ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.
it is in heaven as in G3588 earth G1093
G1722 G3772 G2532 G1909

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 10:36 (Parallel theme): For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Matthew 12:50 (Parallel theme): For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Matthew 26:42 (Parallel theme): He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

John 4:34 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (Parallel theme): In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Romans 12:2 (Parallel theme): And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

John 6:40 (Parallel theme): And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Colossians 1:9 (Parallel theme): For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Ephesians 6:6 (Parallel theme): Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Matthew 7:21 (Kingdom): Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.