

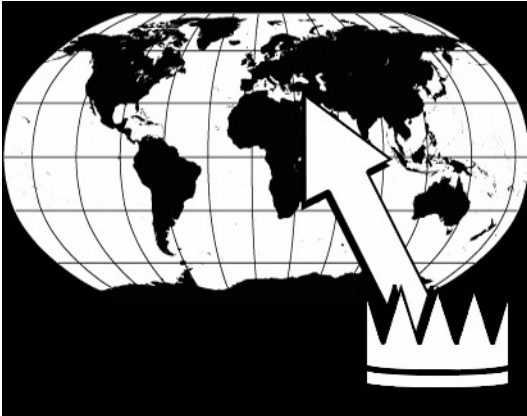


YOUR KINGDOM COME

Reading: 1 Chronicles 29

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”

How many times have you said or heard these words? You will find them in Matthew 6:10. They are part of the prayer which Jesus taught his disciples. They are a prayer that God’s kingdom may come, and that His will may be done on earth as it is always done in heaven. We learn from these words that God’s kingdom will be here on this earth.



A land for God’s kingdom

Thousands of years ago God chose the land of Israel to be the centre of His future kingdom. Jerusalem is the capital city of Israel and it will be the capital of the world when Jesus Christ reigns as king on this earth. Jesus himself said,

*“But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by **Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King**”* (Matthew 5:34,35).

Some of these words are taken from Psalm 48, which shows that Jesus read the Old Testament –

and so should we! Verse 2 of the same Psalm says:

*“... beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, **the city of the great King** ...”*

Mount Zion is the hill in the city of Jerusalem on which King David’s palace was built. Notice that it is described as *“the joy of all the earth”*.

In Psalm 2 God says, *“As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill”* (verse 6). This Psalm is a prophecy of the time when Jesus Christ will reign from Mount Zion.

2 Chronicles 6:6 shows that God chose to place His name in Jerusalem:

“... I (God) have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there”.

See also Isaiah 62:1-7 and 65:17-25, where God sets out His purpose with Jerusalem.

The Kingdom of God existed on earth in Old Testament times

Jesus taught his disciples to pray for God’s future kingdom on earth. But the Kingdom of God also existed on earth in Old Testament times. Of course, it was not like the wonderful kingdom for which Jesus prayed. It did not have the wonderful leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ and its people were rarely faithful to God and His laws. This Old Testament Kingdom of God on earth was the Kingdom of Israel. David, its second king, said these words,

*“And of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons) he has chosen Solomon my son to sit on **the throne of the kingdom of the LORD** over Israel”* (1 Chronicles 28:5).

This shows that, although the Old Testament Kingdom of Israel had human kings, it was God’s kingdom.

A kingdom has:

- a **people**
- a **land** where the people live
- **laws** to govern the people
- a **king** to rule over the people.





The Kingdom of Israel was God's kingdom because:

- God had chosen the people of Israel to be His own special **people** (Exodus 19:5)
- God had given them the **land** of Israel for a home
- God had given the **laws** by which they were to be governed
- God was their true **King** (although human kings ruled for God).

King David clearly understood that the Kingdom of Israel was God's kingdom:

"Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all"
(1 Chronicles 29:11).

The prophet Isaiah wrote that God was the true King of Israel:

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god' " (Isaiah 44:6).

Because God was the true King, Solomon is described as ruling from God's throne:

"Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king in place of David his father. And he prospered, and all Israel obeyed him" (1 Chronicles 29:23).

The Kingdom of Israel had some righteous kings, like David. They realised that it was God's kingdom and that they were ruling for Him and not in their own right. They encouraged the people to serve Him.

One purpose of God's kingdom on earth in Old Testament times was to show the surrounding nations the benefits and blessings of serving the true God. During the reign of Solomon, the Queen of Sheba visited him and said,

"Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on his throne as king for the LORD your God! Because your God loved Israel and would establish them for ever, he has made you king over them, that you may execute justice and righteousness" (2 Chronicles 9:8).

Notice that the Queen of Sheba also recognised that God was the true King over Israel, and Solomon was ruling for Him.

God's kingdom overthrown

After Solomon, hundreds of years passed with king after king reigning from Jerusalem, all of them descendants of David. Some were righteous kings, following God's ways, and others were very wicked, worshipping the idols of the surrounding nations. With the benefit of God's laws and secure in their own land, God's people should have been godly people, but much of the time they failed. Instead of being an example to the surrounding nations, they copied their wicked practices.

Eventually God's people were so wicked, and the king who reigned in Jerusalem was so evil, that God could not allow the kingdom to continue any longer. Ezekiel 21:25,26 refers to Zedekiah, the last king, and shows that he would be punished and his crown removed:

"And you, O profane wicked one, prince of Israel, whose day has come, the time of your final punishment, thus says the Lord GOD: Remove the turban and take off the crown. Things shall not remain as they are."

In the next verse God says that the kingdom will become a ruin and no longer exist (*"this also shall not be"*). This was the end of God's kingdom on earth in the past:

"A ruin, ruin, ruin I will make it (the kingdom). This also shall not be, until he comes, the one to whom judgement belongs, and I will give it to him" (Ezekiel 21:27).

However, God also says in this verse that He will give the kingdom to someone else at a future time. This means that God will one day provide a king to restore His kingdom on earth. From the day that Zedekiah was removed from the throne, right up to the present day, there has never been a king of Israel ruling in Jerusalem.





This verse does not give us the name of the king who will restore the Kingdom of Israel. It simply tells us that eventually there will be a man who has the right to be king and God will give the kingdom to him.

Jesus Christ, the coming king!

In Luke 1 we read that the throne in Jerusalem will be given to the Lord Jesus Christ – he is the rightful king. Verses 31-33 contain the words spoken by an angel to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Speaking of Jesus before his birth, the angel said in verse 32,

*“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And **the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David ...**”*

The Lord Jesus has a right to the throne of the Kingdom of God for two reasons:

- he was God’s Son
- his mother, Mary, was descended from King David.

When the Lord Jesus returns he will restore God’s kingdom to Israel and reign with righteous judgement. God’s future kingdom will be the restored Kingdom of Israel.

God’s kingdom and ourselves

If the Kingdom of God is based on Israel, how is it relevant to Gentiles? The future Kingdom of God will indeed be centred on Israel but will cover the whole earth – that includes the country where you live.

There are many misunderstandings about the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ in the future Kingdom of God. It is essential to realise that:

- Jesus Christ will reign as king on this earth
- his throne will be the throne of David in Jerusalem
- Jerusalem will be the capital city of the Kingdom of God
- the Kingdom of God will be centred on Israel but will cover the whole earth.

This is why Jesus Christ is coming back to the earth. God tells us that His purpose is with people on the earth:

*“For the **earth** will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).*

Scripture does **not** teach that people go to heaven when they die, or that the Kingdom of God is in heaven. God does, of course, rule in heaven, but His purpose is to send the Lord Jesus to the earth to rule the world from Jerusalem. He will reign over Jews and people from all nations. The faithful people from all ages will be given immortal life.

Jesus claimed to be a king. Pilate asked him at his trial, “*So you are a king?*”, and Jesus replied, “*You say that I am a king*” (John 18:37). This is the Jewish way of saying, “Yes, I am”. Over Jesus’ cross was written, “*This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews*” (Matthew 27:37, John 19:19). His enemies meant to mock him, but what they said was true.

The Kingdom of God is at the centre of God’s plan of salvation. The Gospel that Jesus preached is the good news of the Kingdom of God:

“Soon afterward he (Jesus) went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God” (Luke 8:1).

The good news is that the Lord Jesus will return to restore the Kingdom of God on earth.

So we pray, “*Your Kingdom come*”, and we also pray that when Christ Jesus returns, he may say to us:

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34).





	GOD’S KINGDOM IN THE PAST	GOD’S KINGDOM IN THE FUTURE
Capital city	Jerusalem	Jerusalem
Land	Israel	Centred on Israel but will cover the whole earth
People	The people of Israel (all mortal)	The immortal believers and mortal people from all nations of the world
Ruler(s) (for God)	Saul, David and all the kings descended from David	The Lord Jesus Christ, with immortal believers
Length of the kingdom	It lasted for about 500 years – the last king was Zedekiah, who lived about 600 years before the birth of Jesus	Christ will reign for 1,000 years and then deliver the kingdom to God

Summary

1. The Kingdom of God existed on earth in the past. This was the Old Testament Kingdom of Israel.
2. God was the true King (although human kings ruled for God).
3. God brought the Kingdom of Israel to an end but will restore it when Christ returns.
4. God’s future kingdom will be the restored Kingdom of Israel. It will be centred on the land of Israel but will cover the whole earth.
5. The Lord Jesus Christ will reign as king from David’s throne in Jerusalem over Jews and people from all nations.
6. God’s faithful people from all ages will be given immortal life and will help the Lord Jesus in his great work of ruling the world.

A verse to learn: Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

Verses to read:

1 Samuel 12:12 – Samuel reminded Israel that God was their true King.

*And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, ‘No, but a king shall reign over us’, **when the LORD your God was your king.***

Also read Isaiah 35 – this chapter gives a picture of the future kingdom.

