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Thy Kingdom Come

I. Introduction

II. Old Testament Expectations of the Kingdom of God

A. The Kingdom would bring God's Power - The Exodus Story

1. **Exodus 3:14 (NIV)** *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*
2. **Exodus 6:6-7 (NIV)** ⁶*"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. 'I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.'"*
3. **Exodus 15:11-13, 18 (NIV)** ¹¹*"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders? 'You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them. 'In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling. 'The LORD will reign for ever and ever."*

B. The Kingdom would bring God's Rule and Reign - David and Solomon

1. **II Samuel 8:15 (NIV)** *David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all his people.*
2. **I Kings 4:29-30 (NIV)** ²⁹*God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. 'Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.*

C. The Kingdom would bring God's Love, Mercy and Justice - The Prophets

1. **Micah 5:4-5a (NIV)** ⁴*He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. 'And he will be their peace.*

III. Jesus Proclaims the Kingdom.

A. The Kingdom is here.

1. **Luke 4:18-21 (NIV)** ¹⁸*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 'to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. 'Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, 'and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

B. The Kingdom is not yet.

1. Matthew 24:3 (NIV) *As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"*
2. Matthew 24:30-31 (NIV) ³⁰*"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. ³¹And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other."*

C. The tension of the already and not yet Kingdom.

1. Mark 1:14-15 (NIV) ¹⁴*After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*
2. Matthew 11:2-6 (NIV) ²*When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" ⁴Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ⁶Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."*

IV. How Do We Partner With God to Be Kingdom People?

A. We pray that everything we do would make God's name great.

1. Ephesians 1:11-12 (NIV) ¹¹*In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹²in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.*

B. We pray that we would bring the future Kingdom into the world today.

1. Matthew 7:7-12 (NIV) ⁷*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! ¹²So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

C. We pray that God would supply us with all we need to be Kingdom people.

1. Matthew 6:25-33 (NIV) ²⁵*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

D. We pray that we show God's mercy to those around us.

1. Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV) ¹⁴*“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

E. We pray that God leads us so we don't fall into Satan's traps.

1. I Corinthians 10:12-13 (NIV) ¹²*So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

F. We remember that we were born again to be God's Kingdom agents here on earth.

1. II Corinthians 5:17-20 (NIV) ¹⁷*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.*

V. A Kingdom Prayer

A. “Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about.” (N.T. Wright)

1. Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV Authorized Version) ⁹*“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”*

VI. Conclusion

- A. John 15:7-8 (NIV) ⁷*“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”*