

**Advanced Bible Correspondence Course  
Lesson 48 – The Lord's Prayer**

**Q. 123. WHICH IS THE SECOND PETITION?**

**A. "THY KINGDOM COME"; THAT IS, RULE US BY THY WORD AND SPIRIT, THAT WE MAY SUBMIT OURSELVES MORE AND MORE TO THEE (A); PRESERVE AND INCREASE THY CHURCH (B); DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL, AND ALL VIOLENCE THAT WOULD EXALT ITSELF AGAINST THEE; AND ALSO, ALL WICKED COUNSELS DEVISED AGAINST THY HOLY WORD (C); TILL THE FULL PERFECTION OF THY KINGDOM TAKE PLACE (D), WHEREIN THOU SHALT BE ALL IN ALL (E).**

**(A) PSALM 143:10, 119:5, MATTHEW 6:33; (B) PSALM 51:18, 122:6; (C) 1JOHN 3:8, ROMANS 16:20; (D) REVELATION 22:20, ROMANS 8:22-23; (E) 1CORINTHIANS 15:28.**

**Why is this petition necessary?**

We read in Psalm 47:2: *"For the Lord Most High is terrible; He is a great King over all the earth."* If the whole earth is already God's Kingdom, why is this petition still necessary? It is true that the Lord reigns over the whole universe, but does He also reign in the hearts of His creatures? Do all people acknowledge Him as King? Do you already acknowledge Him as King over and in your heart? That is what this petition is about. This prayer is not for the coming of the Kingdom of God's power, but for the Kingdom of God's grace. That Kingdom came near when the Lord Jesus came on earth. The purpose of His coming was to institute His Kingdom on earth. He Himself says: *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel"* (Mark 1:15). Why did the Kingdom of God have to be established on earth? Because there is a kingdom of Satan on earth, the kingdom of sin. In heaven, a rebellion against God developed among the angels. And Satan and his followers dragged man along in the fall in Paradise. Man fell away from God. And thus the earth became the occupied territory of Satan, although he has no right to it! But God did not relinquish His world, He did not abandon man.

## **The Kingdom of Satan**

From the beginning, God established His kingdom against the kingdom of Satan, when He delivered Adam and Eve from the power of Satan. The advancement of God's Kingdom continues all the time. When the Lord Jesus returns that Kingdom will be complete and perfect. This is a prayer for this completion and perfection. When I pray for the coming of God's Kingdom, then I first pray that it may come into my heart. There Satan has to abandon the throne and the Lord must take possession of it. He has the first rights. When He is King in my heart, then he rules me through His Word and Spirit. I will obey God's Word. The Spirit teaches me how to understand God's Word and makes me willing to live accordingly. But the power of Satan and sin is still so strong in me. So I pray that I may more and more submit myself to the authority of God's Word. It will take my whole life for this. Paul prayed in that way: *"O wretched men that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"* (Romans 7:24).

A prayer for the preservation and extension of God's church is also included: That people may be converted, and that the work of mission and evangelism may bear fruit. We read in the Psalms: *"That Thy Name may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations"* (Psalm 67:2)

## **Satan's opposition**

Naturally, Satan will do everything to prevent the coming of God's Kingdom. He does this by deception and force. He makes use of his followers, who scheme to make God's church vanish from the earth, if it were possible. One of his weapons in this struggle is the falsification of God's Word and faulty preaching. Another weapon is mockery, opposition and persecution of the Church and of God's children. This petition is that all these attempts of Satan may fail.

It is not hopeless to pray this petition. We know that the Kingdom of God will come in heaven and on earth, but also perfectly in the hearts of all God's children. What a glorious future to wait for! Should we not often pray for that?

## ***Questions:***

1. *What are "counsels"?*

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2. *What does it mean: "to destroy the works of the devil?"*

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3. *What wicked counsels does Satan devise against God's holy Word?*

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4. *When will the Kingdom be fully perfected?*

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*Evaluator:* \_\_\_\_\_

### **Faith's Cheque Book**

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Matthew 6:33

See how the Bible opens: “In the beginning God.” Let your life open in the same way. Seek with your whole soul, first and foremost, the kingdom of God, as the place of your citizenship, and his righteousness as the character of your life. As for the rest, it will come from the Lord himself without your being anxious concerning it. All that is needful for this life and godliness “shall be added unto you.”

What a promise this is! Food, raiment, home, and so forth, God undertakes to add to you while you seek him. You mind his business, and he will mind yours. If you want paper and string, you get them given in when you buy more important goods; and just so all that we need of earthly things we shall have thrown in with the kingdom. He who is an heir of salvation shall not die of starvation; and he who clothes his soul with the righteousness of God cannot be left of the Lord with a naked body. Away with burdensome care. Set all your mind upon seeking the Lord. Covetousness is poverty, and anxiety is misery: trust in God is an estate, and likeness to God is a heavenly inheritance. Lord, I seek Thee, be found of me.