

## **HC 123 – Petition 2: How Does God Kingdom Come?**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Most people like to build their own earthly kingdom. They spend all their lives working hard, saving their money, promoting their talents, trying to be noticed, learning to use make-up, getting cosmetic surgery, exercising, dieting, and doing almost anything that would advance themselves and their positions in life. But what a difference it is for a Christian – a true Christian! He understands how the world views success in life. He understands that success in life, as the world defines success, is not the most important thing in the world. He knows that building the kingdom of Christ, not his own kingdom, is truly the best way to be successful in life. And it is exciting because doing this not only pleases God, but it is best for the Christian, his family, and his church.

Our headings are: God must **Rule You by his Word and Spirit – Individual.** God must **Keep his Church Strong – Ecclesiastical** (教会的, 教会观的). God Must **Destroy the Devil’s Work – Eschatological** (末世的, 末世观的).

Our goals are: That **you would be moved to pray and work for the coming of God’s kingdom in all its fullness.**

123 Q. WHAT DOES THE SECOND REQUEST MEAN? A. *Thy kingdom come* means, **Rule us by your Word and Spirit** in such a way that more and more we submit to you. **Keep your church strong**, and add to it. **Destroy the devil’s work**; destroy every force which revolts (抵抗, 反叛) against you and every conspiracy (阴谋, 反叛) against your Word. Do this **until your kingdom is so complete** and perfect that in it you are all in all.

### **God must Rule You By his Word and Spirit - Individual**

**1. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying that God will build his kingdom in the hearts of his people by his Word and by his Spirit.** God builds his kingdom in you. It is common to expect the “other person” to be used by God and that you can be an observer, but God wants to use **you** – each one- for the building up of his kingdom. **a. How does God build his kingdom by his Word?** You must personally appropriate God’s Word and God’s promises to yourself. This will cause you to grow in to better “stones” in his kingdom.

Psalm 119:5 Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes! (但愿我行事坚定, 得以遵守你的律例。) 105 Your word is a **lamp to my feet** And a light to **my path**. (105 你的话是我脚前的灯, 是我路上的光。)

This is why the Psalmist asked God to teach him. He doesn’t think that his “neighbor needs God’s instruction more than he.” He wants it for himself. He knows he needs God’s Word more. Look again!

**b. How does God build his kingdom by his Spirit?** His Spirit leads you in paths of righteousness; he purifies you.

Psalm 143: 10 **Teach me to do Your will**, For You are my God; **Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.** (求你指教我遵行的旨意, 因你是我的神。你的灵本为善, 求你引我到平坦之地。)

Apostle Paul prayed for this as well. He wanted them to be sanctified – to grown in grace.

**Ephesians 3:14** For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, **to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man**, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge...

**2. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying that you will no longer submit to the Devil’s kingdom. If**

**Christ is ruling you, you may not submit to another king.** The Devil told you that you were “free” behind his barbed wire. But the ransom (赎价) has been paid and you were translated to another kingdom. You are now free in open green pastures.

**Ephesians 2:2** in which you **once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.(2 那时,你们在其中行事为人随从今世的风俗,顺服空中掌权者的首领,就是现今在悖逆之子心中运行的邪灵;3 我们从前也都在他们中间,放纵肉体的私欲,随着肉体 and 心中所喜欢的去行,本为可怒之子,和别人一样。)

When Christ rules in you by his Word and Spirit and brings you in his kingdom, men, women and children are no longer under the dominion of sin (罪的权下). When Christ rules in you by his Word and Spirit, benefits will flow to you. So pray for God’s kingdom to come.

**Matthew 6:33** "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and **all these things shall**

be added to you.

**3. When you pray “Your kingdom come,” you are praying that you will be evangelistic** (福音信息的), for this is how the kingdom comes. You work for the one to whom you now have allegiance – the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you really pray this petition (请求, 祈求) with its full scope in mind?

### **God must Keep his Church Strong – Ecclesiastical** (教会的, 教会观的)

**1. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying that God will keep his church strong.** The church is a natural outcome from personal spiritual progress and purity (个人属灵成长和成圣过程) in the lives of Christians. A strong church (where God rules by his Word and Spirit) is not one with a big building or large numbers. A strong church is where the people are growing together in grace through faithful teaching.

**Psalm 122: 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:** "May they prosper who love you. 7 Peace be within your walls, **Prosperity within your palaces.**" 8 For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "**Peace be within you.**" 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God **I will seek your good.**

Jesus affirmed **his desire to build** a strong church, and **your duty is to pray and work for it.**

**Matthew 16: 18** "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.** (阴间的权柄, 不能胜过他。)

Luke wrote that prayer was a characteristic of the church...something they did in every meeting.

**Acts 2: 42** And **they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.** 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And **the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

**2. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying that the church might be bold** (勇敢无畏的 in discipleship and discipline. Look at Peter and John's strong words to the Sanhedrin.

**Acts 4:29** -"Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that **with all boldness they may speak Your word.**

**When there is sin in the church, it must be** exposed and dealt with...even cutting-off the wicked...and withholding the Lord's food from them. Sins kept in the church will destroy it. Pray for this!

**3. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying for the church to be strong and be willing to destroy the Devil's work by preaching** the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Preaching is the mortal enemy of the Devil 讲道是魔鬼的死敌。)

**Matthew 9: 38** "Therefore pray **the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**"

**2Thessalonians 3:1** Finally, brethren, **pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,**

The church must not be intimidated by aggression. The church must hold its head and voice up against sin

**Ephesians 6: 18** **praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.** (6: 18 靠着圣灵, 随时多方祷告祈求, 并要再此儆醒不倦, 为众圣徒祈求, 19 也为我祈求, 使我得着口才, 能以放胆, 开口讲明福音的奥秘, 20 我为这福音的奥秘, 作了带锁链的使者, 并使我照着当尽的本分, 放胆讲论。)

**4. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying for peace in the nation and for godly leadership.** Only with this peace the church is free. So pray for orderly national rule.

**1Timothy 2: 1** Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, **that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness** and reverence. (2 : 1 我劝你第一要为万人恳求、祷告、代求、祝谢; 2 为君王和一切在位的也该如此; 使我们可以敬虔端正, 平安无事地度日。)

### **God Must Destroy the Devil's Work – Eschatological** (末世的, 末世观的)

**1. When you pray “Your kingdom come” you are praying that the Lord will destroy the Devil's Work.** **God's kingdom on earth started with Adam and Eve but was corrupted when they sinned against God.** For sure, God remained King of all the earth, but he was not acknowledged in the hearts of men everywhere. God always had some, sometimes many, but never all in his kingdom. God did not have all because men sold themselves to their new father, the Devil. The destruction of the Devil's work started in Genesis 3. God promised (and Adam and Eve believed) that Christ would come to save man from his sins. By believing in a coming Savior, man was saved, and the

Devil's rule in men's hearts was defeated more and more. The Devil's kingdom started to fall apart. Pray for this.

1John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that **He might destroy the works of the devil.**

2. When you pray "Your Kingdom Come" you are praying that the Lord will **destroy the Devil's people.**

Psalm 68:1 Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him. 18 You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even from the rebellious, That the LORD God might dwell there.

To pray for the destruction of God's enemies, you must **identify them** – and specifically pray: Destroy your enemies, O God. **The trickster** (行骗者) **must be destroyed.** His destruction will cause great rejoicing in heaven. This might not be politically in our pacifistic society, but this is what God wants.

Revelation 12: 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. (我听见在天上有大声音说：“我神的救恩、能力、国度，并他基督的权柄，现在都来到了；因为那在我们神面前昼夜控告我们弟兄的，已经被摔下去了。”)

And remember that **you must not pray for God's blessings upon his enemies.** He didn't.

John 17: 9 "I pray for them. **I do not pray for the world but for those whom** You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

Romans 16:20 And the God of peace will **crush Satan under your feet shortly.** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

3. **As the church preaches the Gospel, the Devil will show his opposition more and more.** The Devil likes to get the Bible out from hotel rooms, from the courts, from schools, from any place public... The argument that there can be neutrality (保持中立) when it comes to politics and social issues is a lie from hell. You have to pray that God would be loved and honored in every part of the world and every area of society.

4. When you pray "Your Kingdom come, you are praying that God will do these things **till it is time for you to go to heaven.**

Romans 8: 22 For we know that the **whole creation groans and labors** with birth pangs together until now. 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance. (22 我们知道一切受造之物，一同叹息劳苦，直到如今。25 但我若盼望那所不见的，就必忍耐等候。)

So obviously this will not be accomplished overnight. But you have God's promise. **Keep praying without ceasing for him to rule in you, in his church, and throughout the world, to the end of the world.**

1Corinthians 15: 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (万物既服了他，那时子也要自己服那叫万物服他的，叫神在万物之上，为万物之主。)

## **Conclusion:**

Glory comes to God when his kingdom comes, so pray for God's kingdom to come in all its fullness and power. And pray this consistently.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: **It is easy to pray for God's kingdom to come in a theoretical (理论性的) way.**

**1. But it is not easy to genuinely pray in faith that God will rule your whole life,** body and soul, by his Word and his Spirit. It is not natural to want to submit to God in heaven. So you must fight against your nature when you pray.

**2. It is not easy to pray that God will keep his church strong** because it is unnatural to want to submit to the church. You prefer to submit to your own ideas. But pray that God will **remove leaders in the church who refuse to preach the whole Bible,** or who refuse to discipline (管教), or who refuse to properly administer the sacraments (正确地施行圣礼)

**3. It is not easy to pray for God's judgment on his enemies,** knowing how terrible their end will be. But you must **pray that God will remove or destroy leaders in the civil government and false religions that war against him and his people.** The destruction of God's enemies is part of God's promise (and blessing) to you his children, and to keep you safe. So pray for God's judgment with boldness and confidence. **Pray that God would destroy the work of the Devil, his demons, and the Devil's people** – as they will attack the preaching of the Gospel and try to destroy the Word of God itself. This is your covenant responsibility. You belong to Christ. Pray that you will fulfill your covenant duty.

Finally, God's kingdom is going to come in its fullness with or without you. But God offers a full and true invitation for you to come into his kingdom and enjoy its benefits. Like all who lived before and died, they know that the offer does not go on forever. May you grab hold of God's promises and enter into his eternal kingdom! (愿你把握住今天这个机会，得以抓住上帝的应许，进入他永恒的国度!) You do this by asking God to make you his child through Christ's life and death.