"The greatest glory Jesus brought to God was not when he walked on the water or prayed for long hours, but when he cried in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and still continued to follow God's will, even though it meant isolation, darkness and the silence of God. Thus, we know that when everything around us fails, when we are destroyed and abandoned, our tears, blood and dead corpses are the great worship songs we have ever sung."

Ziya Meral

RESTORATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Prayer Study #394

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Personal Opinion

I believe that restoration of the Kingdom of God is the main calling of the Body of Christ on earth. I also believe the Kingdom of God was established on earth as it is in heaven at creation, until Adam and Eve sinned and broke relationship with God.

The God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Genesis 1:26).

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So, the evening and the morning were the sixth day (Genesis 1:31).

…For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth…but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground (Genesis 2:5b-6.

And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:9).

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat it you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17).

So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field… (Genesis 2:20).
And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden (Genesis 3:8).

What was the central theme of Jesus' ministry?

1. His teaching was designed to show men how they might enter the Kingdom of God (Matthew 5:20, 7:21).
2. His miracles were to prove that the Kingdom of God had come upon the people (Matthew 12:28).
3. His parables illustrated to the disciples the truth about the Kingdom of God (Matthew 13:11).
4. The prayer He taught include the words, ***"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"*** (Matthew 6:10)
5. Before He was arrested, He assured His disciples that He would share with them joy and fellowship in the Kingdom (Luke 22:22-30).
6. He promised after His resurrection that He would come again on earth to bring the blessings of the Kingdom (Matthew 25:31 & 34).

How important is the Kingdom of God teaching?

1. It was the subject of the first message that Jesus preached: *From that time* [the time He began His earthly ministry after the temptation in the wilderness] *Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* (Matthew 4:17).
2. It was the subject of His last sermon on earth before His ascension: *The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God* (Acts 1:1-3).

TWO KINGDOMS AT WAR

A. The Kingdom of God: The Kingdom of God established in the Garden of Eden at Creation was a world where man had total fellowship with the Lord, where all the animals were tame, where there was no hostility between the animals or between mankind and the animals, where mankind walked in perfect health with all their needs met, where the weather was perfect all the

time, where there was no death, where birthing came easily, where love and peace and joy abound. The fullness of this kingdom on earth was destroyed by the fall of man.

B. The Kingdom that Satan Now Rules on Earth because of Man's Sin:

Satan is legally the Prince of this World we live on (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11). He is also the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:23). Although Jesus took back this position by paying the price for our sin and will ultimately take His place as the King of kings and the Lord of lords (Revelation 1:5-7 & Revelation 19:16), He is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father, UNTIL the Father (I believe at least partially using the Body of Christ on the earth), makes Jesus' enemies His footstool (Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:43, Acts 2:35, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 10:13). He is coming back to reestablish the fullness of the Kingdom on the earth. *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen (Revelation 1:7).*

A Few Characteristics of Satan's Kingdom

1. Seduction, manipulation, temptation, lying and deception (John 8:44, 2nd Corinthians 4:4, 1st Thessalonians 3:5)
2. False Religions and Occultic Practices
3. Warfare against the Bible as the Word of God
4. Warfare against moral values, perversions, pornography
5. Some sicknesses, death, murder (John 8:44)-Wants to kill, steal and destroy (John 10:10)
6. Opposition to the Cross of Jesus, the Kingdom of God on earth, redemption of people, and to the Christian Church in general (Revelation 12:17)
7. Blasphemy (Revelation 13:5-6)
8. Cursing and all kinds of profanity (James 3A:6, 10-12; Ecclesiastes 10:20
9. False Peace (1st Thessalonians 5:3)
10. Worship of Satan (Revelation 13:3-4, 11, 15)
11. Counterfeit Spiritual Gifts (2nd Thessalonians 2:10-12)
12. Abortion and death of children (Psalm 106:37-38)
13. Focus on materialism (Luke 16:13)

Wikipedia says: *Kingdom theology divides spiritual history into two great ages: This present age brought by the Fall of Man will last until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This present age is governed by Satan's "kingdom*

of darkness," and through the influence of Satan and sin, has become characterized by death, disease, sickness, godlessness, war, poverty, and evil and suffering of all kinds.

The age to come was inaugurated in the ministry of Jesus on the earth and will last in the eternal future. The age to come is governed by the kingdom of God and is characterized by eternal life, freedom from sickness and suffering, humanity's intimate knowledge of God, universal peace on earth, and God's absolute reign over all creation. In the kingdom theology framework, the present day is caught between these two ages: Jesus Christ has established the kingdom of God on earth, but will not abolish this present evil age and its kingdom of darkness until He returns.

How to Bring the Kingdom of God to the Earth

a. **Arise and Shine:** Let your little light shine: *Do all things without complaining and disputing that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world* (Philippians 2:14-15). *Arise, shine; for you light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you* (Isaiah 60:1).

b. **Declare war against the Kingdom of Darkness:** *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ…* (2nd Corinthians 10:3-5)

   A Few of the Weapons of Your Warfare

   1. **Praise** –Psalm 22:3: *But You are holy, O You who inhabits the praises of Israel.*
   2. **Prayer**-Acts 4:31: *And when they prayed, the place was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness.*
   3. **Fasting** –Matthew 17:21: ***"However, this kind* [of demon] *does not go out except by prayer and fasting."***
   4. **The Word**-1st John 2:14: *I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you.*
   5. **The Blood**-1st John 1:7: *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

6. **The Name-**Colossians 3:17-*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.* Mark 16:17a-***"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons…."***
7. **Submission to God and Resist the Devil-**James 4:7-*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
8. **Agreement with Another Believer-**Matthew 18:19: ***"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."***
9. **Giving Testimony-**Revelation 12:11-*And they overcame him* [the Accuser of the Brethren] *by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*
10. **Travail-**Galatians 4:19-*My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.*
11. **Loving People**-1st John 4:7-8: *Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*
12. **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**-1st Corinthians 12:8-10)

A. Gifts of Revelation (Think like God)
   a. Word of Wisdom
   b. Word of Knowledge
   c. Discerning of Spirits

B. Gifts of Power (Act like God)
   a. Faith
   b. Working of Miracles
   c. Gifts of Healing

C. Gifts of Inspiration
   a. Prophecy
   b. Divers Kinds of Tongues
   c. Interpretation of Tongues

c. Pray for the Mind of Christ in Everything:

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God; that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no one. For who has

known the mind of Christ that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ (2nd Corinthians 2:12-16).

c. **Walk in Faith:** *And whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith* (1st John 5:4). *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ, Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I might gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith, that I might know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death* (Philippians 3:7-10). *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him* (Hebrews 11:6). *For we walk by faith and not by sight* (2nd Corinthians 5:7). *So then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God* (Romans 10:17).

George Eldon Ladd in *The Gospel of the Kingdom* (pp. 13-33) puts it this way: *The Kingdom is a present reality* (Matthew 12:28) *and is a future blessing* (1st Corinthians 15:50). *It is an inner spiritual redemptive blessing* (Romans 14:17), *which can be experienced only by way of the new birth* (John 3:3), *and yet it will have to do with government of nations of the world* (Revelation 11:15). *The Kingdom of God is like a tiny seed which becomes a great tree; it is like leaven which will one day have permeated the entire bowl of dough* (Luke 13:18-21). *God's Kingdom is the realm of the Age to Come, popularly called heaven; then we shall realize the blessings of His Kingdom (reign) in the perfection of their fullness. But the Kingdom is here now.*

I WANT TO SEE ISRAEL MARCHING

I want to see Israel marching,
I want to hear the kingdom call!
I want to see Zion's mountain,
I want to see great Babylon fall!
I want to see Jesus reigning,
Upon King David's royal throne,
O, won't that be a glorious sight to see
When Israel comes marching home!