

Thy Kingdom Come: (continued)

After his resurrection, Jesus "showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and **speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:**

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, **Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."

We learn from this exchange that Jesus had with his disciples, (as recorded in Acts 1), that they had every reason to believe that Jesus would restore their ancient kingdom.

It was this earthly kingdom of Israel that was the pattern for the future Kingdom of God.

All of the Hebrew prophets had spoken

of this coming event . Daniel spoke of the end of Gentile rule, saying: "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. (Dan 2:44)

He also added: "The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom **under the whole heaven**, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."

When we repeat the Lord's prayer, we are expressing the hope that the disciples had,. That God would set up his kingdom on the earth, with Jesus as the king and with Jerusalem as the throne of the Lord. Our prayer is: **THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, IN EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.**

Things Concerning

The Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ

Volume 1 No 1

D9-98



THE PARABLE

Jesus often used parables to teach his followers about the Kingdom of God. He could have spoken to them more plainly, but he wanted to encourage those who were willing to seek for understanding.

Casual listeners were probably turned off by his approach. These appear in his parable as those who received the seed , (his word) along the path. They had no real interest in his message of hope. It was "in one ear and out the other."

Others had hearts that were like the rocky ground. The word of the gospel did not survive because they did not seek for further moisture from the teachings of the Master.

Then there were those who received the word with joy, but they filled their lives with worldly things that choked out the gospel message. These material things were represented by the thorns.

Fortunately, there were some who proved to be good soil for God's word. They heard the word, and they allowed it to root in them.

They watered and cultivated their interest in the good news of the Kingdom of God. Those who were good ground for the gospel prospered and brought forth fruit

Today, it is our turn to be the good ground for the word.

"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.

Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.

Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**This is the meaning of the parable:
The seed is the word of God.**

"THINGS CONCERNING" is a periodic supplement to the Christadelphian Advocate. This publication will be dedicated strictly to teaching the "things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ".

Our hope is to solicit short articles from the brethren that would be suitable for the presentation of the gospel to any who have ears to hear. We hope to include one section on " Hope and Comfort" from the scriptures. We appreciate that after embracing the hope of the gospel, we depend on the scriptures for comfort when we are experiencing trials and tribulations. All articles should be based on sound teaching expressed in terms that are suitable for those who are still being nurtured by the milk of the word.

LOCAL CONTACT:

Send all Correspondence to:
"Things Concerning"
27 Delphian Rd
Springfield, VT 05156

Hope and Comfort

Our lives are filled with trails and tribulations. Yes, there are many blessings, but along with these blessings there is adversity. We cannot escape from the conditions that were the result of the transgression in Eden. Life can be very difficult when we find ourselves facing trials alone. We all have family and friends, but too often they are unable to fill the need in understanding our pain. We are all inclined to be self-centered, and consequently, we often fail when it is our turn to comfort a friend during their trials. Fortunately, for all of us, we are never as alone as we may feel. We actually live, move and have our very beings as the offspring of the Creator of all life. He is never very far from any one of us. We should remember to cast our care upon him. To trust in the Lord in all of our ways, and especially during trial. The Psalmist has told us not to put our trust in "princes". We should not depend on mortal man for our comfort and our support. Man at his very best is subject to death. Time and chance allows for the potential of losing them permanently as a source of help.

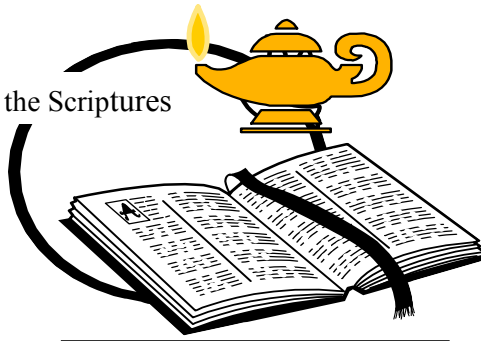
"Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing."

(Psalm 146:3-4)

The Psalmist does not leave us without alternative. He continues by reminding us that we can always depend on God, who is eternal, for our help.

"Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD

From the Scriptures



Scripture Reading: Psalm 146

his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them--the LORD, who remains faithful forever."

God is faithful forever. He will never forsake or leave us, **if** we place our trust in him. God does not play favorites, nor is he partial to those who are influential in this life.

Psalm 146 continues with it's message of hope to those who are the meek and poor in spirit:

"He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked."

When we consider that God is our help, and we realize that he alone really has the power to do something about our problems, then we should freely and willingly offer our praises unto him.

"The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!"

Thy Kingdom Come

The Disciples asked Jesus: "Lord teach us to pray". Prayer is one of our most difficult forms of communication. Attempting to talk to the Creator and Sustainer of the entire Universe requires a great deal of humility. The hardest part however, is not being able to receive a direct answer.

Yes, God does answer prayer, in accordance with his will, but we are not always perceptive enough to hear him, and accept his answer.

Our concern for the moment, is just one small part of what is universally known as the **Lord's prayer**. It was this prayer that Jesus offered as a pattern for the disciples to follow.

The prayer begins: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth**, as it is in heaven."

Jesus taught them to pray for God's kingdom to come. He made it very clear that there was a specific location for this kingdom. "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done **in earth**".

For the disciples, who were very familiar with the hope of the kingdom, these words were sufficient and appropriate.

Unfortunately, today, there are so many ideas and imaginations concerning the Kingdom of God, that even the well known Lord's prayer may need some explanation.

If we want to pray effectively for God's kingdom to come, we must attempt to understand what the disciples knew about that hope.

The disciples were Jews. They were



"The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD."

the "people of the book". The Old Testament scriptures had been given to them with ample information about God's kingdom.

They were often reminded of their heritage. The Children of Israel were called out from bondage in Egypt 2000 years before Jesus lived and taught.

Moses guided them to Mt. Sinai on the first part of their journey to the land that had been promised to Abraham. At Sinai, they were formed into *the original Kingdom of God on the earth*.

They received laws and the 10 commandments, including many types and shadows that were intended to teach them about the coming of their Messiah (God's anointed).

They understood that this Messiah would be their future king. David, one of the greatest kings of Israel during her former glory, was promised that one of his descendants would be the Messiah, and that he would sit on the throne of the kingdom forever.

When Mary was told that she would bear this son of God, she was also informed that he would "sit on the throne of his father David, and reign over the house of Jacob forever."

When the disciples learned to pray for God's kingdom to come on earth, they understood that it would be a restoration of the Kingdom of Israel.

(continued on Back cover)