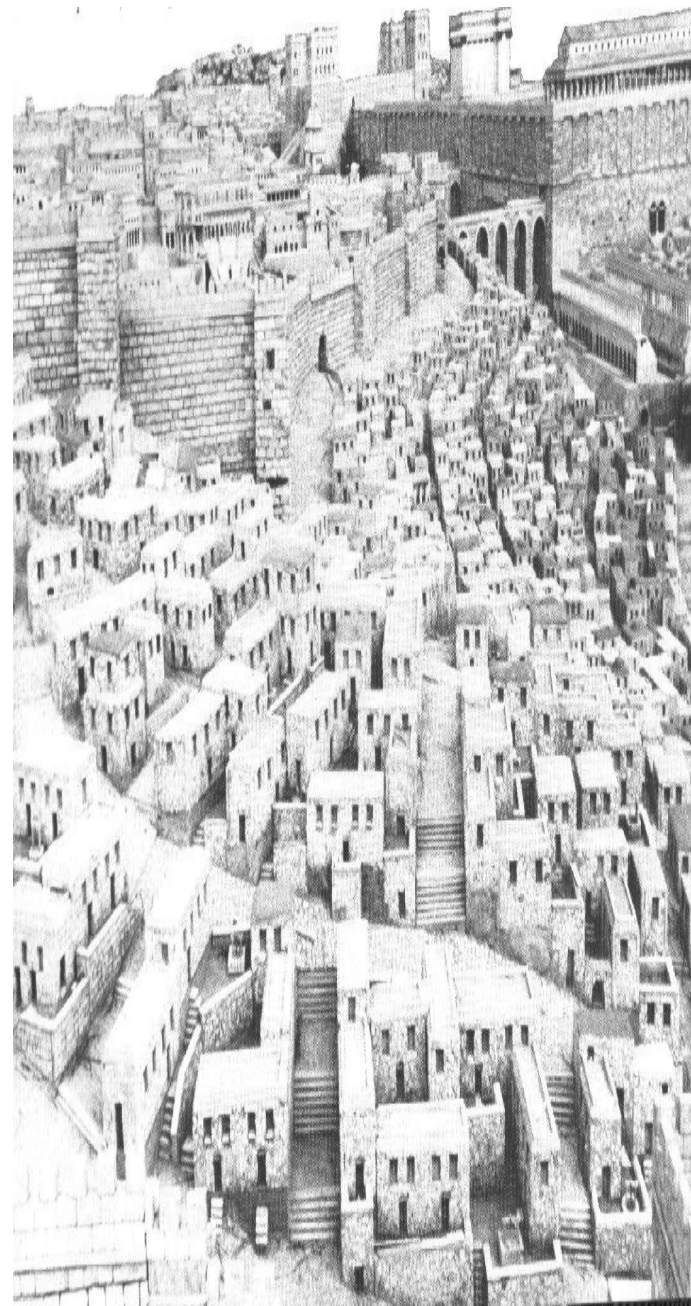




CENTRAL SYDNEY
Presbyterian Church

Changing God's World Through God's Word



THE LORD
HIS
PRAYER
AND
HIS
PEOPLE

EIGHT LESSONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

16. We need to pray for lots of things but our prayer often descends to a 'wish list' how can we maintain the 'kingdom' edge?

17. Think of the two different directions 'outward' and 'inward'. Which word best describes the Lord's Prayer?

18. What word best describes our prayers normally?

Pray the Lord's Prayer!

THE LORD HIS PRAYER AND HIS PEOPLE

EIGHT LESSONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

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4. *What is the antidote to being a hypocrite in prayer?*

5. *How can we pray in a group and avoid hypocrisy?*

If the first mistake is misusing prayer because we don't recognise who we are, the second mistake is made because we don't recognise who the true God is.

6. *How does this failure to understand the nature of the true God demonstrate itself in prayer?*

7. *What don't the pagans understand about God?*

One thing becomes clear, we must avoid saying the Lord's prayer over and over again – we must not use it as a mantra!

Read Luke 11v1-13

8. *What is the point of the parable in Luke 11v5-8?*

9. *Do you think that Israel might have given up on God's plan to save the world? Why?*

1. PRAYING WITH YOUR EYES OPEN

Read the Lord's Prayer Matthew 6v9-13

Blind Familiarity

There are people who will scour the countryside looking for a 'find'. They hope that somewhere, someone is throwing out something not only old, it's also worth a very great deal.

The throw-ee has had that 'old thing' (a table) lying around in the shed for years. It belonged to a great-grandmother and has been doubling as a bench since the children were born. It's old. It's ugly. It has so many layers of paint that the fine edges have been blurred by each successive application. The final colour, 'burnt orange', indicates it last saw a paintbrush in the late sixties, early seventies. The \$50 is gratefully received.

Back in the workshop it undergoes a transformation. The layers of paint are stripped back revealing magnificent wood and craftsmanship. The clean elegant design is revealed. It's restored to its original condition and it is magnificent.

We need to do the same with the Lord's prayer.

We can treat the Lord's prayer in the same way. We see it covered with the associations, ideas and theology of the centuries. We know that it is important and dear, it should be useful but it fails to inspire. But if we take the time to strip back the additions and allow it to speak in its own setting, it has a brilliance and magnificence that's breath taking.

We need to have our eyes open to what this prayer that Jesus taught would have meant to the disciples of the first century, so we can grapple with what it might mean to be a disciple of Jesus today.

We need to pray this prayer with our eyes open. Finding the context of this prayer is not a matter of just a

HISTORY THE EXODUS

The word basically means the 'way out'. It's also the name of a book that deals with the exodus event.

The Exodus is one of the defining moments in the story of Israel's history.

The exodus is the story of Israel's release from bondage and slavery in Egypt and her journey to the land God promised to their ancestors.

The Promised Land was the goal of the Exodus. It was to be the place where Israel would live in the Lord's presence in faithfulness and love.

idol NONSENSE

Before the exile, Israel was plagued with idolatry.

The true God specifically and absolutely prohibited anyone representing Him by an dumb lifeless idol.

The true and living God spoke and acted in the history of his people.

The true God would be represented by the life of Israel not by wood, stone, silver or gold.

When Israel habitually failed to worship God alone and made idols – she became corrupt. The most profound description of idolatry from God's point of view is when he calls the Prophet Hosea to marry a woman who would be unfaithful to him as a means of showing Israel what they were like to him.

quick look at the verses surrounding it, we need to see how Jesus' ministry fits into the history and hopes of the people of Israel.

No Place Like Home!

God had big plans for his people Israel. He was going to use her to attract the world back to Himself. The world was, and is, in rebellion against God's rule – His kingdom. Rather than just giving up on humanity as a bad joke, the Bible tells us, he chose Abraham and his family – Israel, to be the means of bringing the world back to blessing and wholeness.

Israel was to be God's 'audio visual' to the world. A living, breathing model of what it meant to live in God's kingdom and under his blessing and rule.

But rather than being the solution that God wanted they became part of the problem. Israel also rebelled against God's rule!

Look up the following passages to see how and where Israel went wrong. It's only by understanding their story that we will understand the climax to the story – Jesus and what implications his prayer had and has.

1. *What did Israel do just after the LORD has brought them through the Red Sea and defeated the Egyptians. (Exodus 20v1-6 and Exodus 32v1-10)*
2. *What did Israel do in the desert with the Promised Land in sight? (Numbers 14v1-25)*
3. *When Israel came into the Land, the Lord gave her a king to lead them but the king had to live God's way. How did they fare? (Deuteronomy 17v14-20 and 1 Kings 10v14-11v13)*
4. *After Solomon died, Israel was split into two kingdoms – the greater northern part retained the name*

8. MODEL OR MANTRA?

Read the Lord's Prayer

A Prayerful Question

What are we to do with the Lord's prayer? Praying this prayer is dangerous stuff.

For the disciples it meant nothing less than becoming part of God's agenda for the world. It not only reshaped their priorities it shaped them because they found themselves through this prayer in the centre of God's actions.

Even when we 'say' the Lord's Prayer we can pray it safely. Not recognising that it calls us to be involved personally in God's over arching cosmic plan.

In this last study we look at the material that surrounds the prayer in Matthew and Luke. We'll be asking the question, "Is the Lord's Prayer a model prayer or a mantra?"

Read Matthew 6v1-15

1. *There are two ways of praying that Jesus wants his disciples to avoid. What are they? V1-8*

2. *How can we be 'a hypocrite' when we pray?*

Prayer is the expression of complete dependence upon God. It is the appropriate expression of the relationship between a sovereign God who will bring salvation to the world and his people who are waiting for it to come.

3. *Why is using prayer for our own glory completely at odds with prayer?*

Look again at the temptations that Adam, Israel and Jesus were confronted with.

Trusting in God's provision, worshiping only the Lord and taking God at his word are still issues that the people of God are tempted to doubt and make 'other arrangements' about .

In the same way we are tempted to find other ways of being God's son without pain or suffering. Jesus called us to take up our cross and follow him. By avoiding the struggle with the devil we may well be denying our birthright as the 'son' of God!

The world needs God's son to live in this world and demonstrate what it means to be blessed. (Read Matthew 5v1-12)

The challenge of the Lord's prayer is to be the 'son' of God at all times and in all places.

16. As a church how can we stand together as sons of God at all times and all places?

Pray the Lord's Prayer

Israel and the southern part was called Judah. Solomon's son Rehoboam ruled Judah, Jeroboam ruled Israel. How did the new northern kingdom begin? (1 Kings 12v25-33)

5. If Israel failed to be loyal to the Lord what had the LORD said he would do? (Deuteronomy 28v15, 49-52, 64-68)

6. What happened to the Northern Kingdom of Israel in King Hoshea's reign? (2 Kings 17v1-15)

7. What happened to Judah the Southern Kingdom in Zedechiah's reign? (2 Kings 25v1-21)

Israel was sent into exile. No more **king!** No more **temple!** No more **land!** This is no mere history lesson! Our future hope rested on Israel's faithfulness and now those hopes are dashed or are they?

8. Read all of Isaiah 40v1-11 out aloud. This is an announcement to those in exile. What is it announcing?

Israel, or at least some of those exiled in Babylon, returned home at the time of Cyrus – but did they really come back to God? The story told through Ezra, Nehemiah and the prophets Haggai and Malachi demonstrate that Israel had only come home physically. The same old problems re-

HISTORY THE EXILE

The exile is the event of Israel being exiled from the land, and all that it entailed. They no longer dwelt in God's presence – it is in fact the reverse of the Exodus.

The question that exercised the minds of the prophets was 'would God remain angry forever?'

The prophets saw that God's anger would not last forever – he would remain faithful to his promises.

There would be a new Exodus and a new covenant. God would change his people's heart so they would obey him.

KINGDOM
OF HEAVEN
OR
KINGDOM
OF GOD

Matthew almost never uses the words, 'Kingdom of God'. The four exceptions are 12v28, 19v24, 21v31 and 43.

Mark and Luke use 'Kingdom of God' almost exclusively.

If you look at parallel passages the two titles refer to the same thing Matthew 19v23-24 is the equivalent of Mark 10v23-25.

So how do we explain the difference?

It may best be explained by understanding that out of respect for God the Jews avoided using God's name and therefore developed circumlocutions (a round about way of saying things).

Instead of 'God' they say 'heaven' - where he lives.

So if Matthew's gospel has been written specifically with the Jews in mind it shows a sensitivity to their culture. A question to think about, why the four exceptions?

main, their hearts were still far from the Lord! (Nehemiah 13, Haggai 1v1-11, Malachi 3-4)

By the time of Jesus day some Jews were thinking that where they were, was **'no place like home'**! They might be physically in the land but they weren't under God's blessing – had they really been **forgiven**? All the outward signs said **'NO!'**

They were still **spiritually** in Babylon, in the wilderness – when would the LORD do something.

9. Read about the ministry of the person who was to prepare the way for Jesus in Matthew 3v1-12. If John is quoting Isaiah 40, has Israel really returned?

10. In Isaiah 40, who is coming and in Matthew 3v1-12, who is the one who is coming?

In Isaiah 40 there is the announcement that the Lord is coming, there is a proclamation that God is now gathering his people like a shepherd gathering his sheep. We can see some of these features in the rest of Matthew 4.

11. In the rest of Matthew 4 there are a number of significant things happening: Jesus begins to preach – what does he preach? V17

The Kingdom of heaven is God's rule! His rule is setting things right.

12. Given Isaiah 40 Why was it appropriate for John and Jesus to preach 'Repent for the kingdom of

9. Look at Deuteronomy 8v3 and then read Exodus 16. Did they pass the food test?

10. Look up Deuteronomy 6v13 and then read Exodus 32v1-8. Did they pass the worship test?

11. Look up Deuteronomy 6v16 and then read Exodus 17v1-7. Did they pass the testing test?

12. God's first two sons Adam and Israel failed. Did God's son Jesus fail the temptations of the Devil?

The temptations of all three sons were essentially the same; would God's sons trust him or do things their own way?

Jesus showed that being God's Son meant walking God's way – even if it meant suffering. 4v13 says that the Devil left tempting him 'until an opportune time'. One particular instance was on the Mount of Olives the night before his crucifixion. Read Luke 22v39-46.

13. What was the temptation Jesus faced?

14. What did he ask for?

15. What temptation were the disciples about to face? (Luke 22v31-34)

Just as our sonship is of a different order to the sonship of Jesus' sonship so our temptation and grappling with the evil one will be of a different order to his. And yet the issues will be the same essentially.

highlights the difference.

God's Three Sons

It is important to see that the temptations were part of God's plan for this son of God and not just a mistake.

5. Luke 4v1 tells us that it was God's purpose for Jesus to be tempted. How does it describe this?

All three temptations turn on how Jesus understands what it means to be the son of God and how his mission was to be accomplished.

- Temptation 1 – was a choice concerning food
- Temptation 2 – was a choice between who to believe; the Devil or God
- Temptation 3 – a choice of whether to trust God at his word or not.

6. Read Genesis 3v17. What are the similarities and differences in the story of God's son Adam with God's son Jesus?

7. Did God's first son (Adam) remain faithful?

8. There is an even greater similarity with God's second son Israel. Look at 4v1 again and think about Israel's journey to the Promised Land. What is similar?

Israel was also tempted in the desert. In fact, the responses of Jesus to the Devil's temptations all come from Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy is a book of sermons Moses preached to Israel reminding her of who she was to be and where she had already failed.

heaven is near'? What is repentance a forerunner to?

13. What is Jesus doing in Matthew 4v18-22?

Jesus begins calling a new Israel into existence with the calling of the disciples. The twelve disciples represent the twelve patriarchs – the sons of Jacob.

In Matthew's gospel the Lord's prayer occurs in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 57). There are clear comparisons with Moses' ministry to Israel. Up on a mountain, teaching them God's way and preparing the people to come to the Promised Land. Jesus' ministry is also preparing people to live in God's kingdom, to live lives full of faith and repentance.

The Lord's prayer is much more than a timeless model for prayer– it is anchored in the world of the first century. It speaks to the hopes of the people of God then and now!

The hope of Israel is ultimately our hope. Her blessing becomes a blessing to the nations. Her return is a preview of the world's return to the true and living God.

Jesus taught his disciples a prayer that asked God to make the world right – it's not as if the world is fixed up yet. We still need to pray this prayer.

Pray the Lord's Prayer

2. A FAMILY BUSINESS - PRAYER

WHOSE PRAYER - THE LORD'S OR HIS DISCIPLES?

In many respects, this prayer might be better called 'the disciple's prayer'. It is what Jesus taught the disciples to pray!

While it is easy to imagine Jesus saying most of this prayer, he would not have prayed - 'forgive me my sins'.

Read the Lord's Prayer – Matthew 6v6-13

Lessons from a Master

Imagine that you were one of the disciples. It must have been bewildering at times following along after Jesus. Jesus was a complex man. He attracted huge crowds at times and then he shunned them. He had marvellous patience with outcasts and 'sinners' but virtually none at all with the powers that be.

Yet through all the complications and apparent contradictions Jesus seems to know what he is doing. He displayed a sense of purpose that was breath taking and unnerving. You know that there is one thing that Jesus does that is the source of the balance and the purpose. You are privileged to see the inner life of this man. That's why he has chosen the twelve of you, to be his apprentices. To watch and hopefully to understand. Before he does something momentous he does this 'one thing'. You want that balance that purpose and so you go like the apprentice going to the master and you say...

"Lord teach us to pray"

In Luke's Gospel the 'Lord's Prayer' arises from the apostles' request to learn from Jesus how to pray. Jesus was praying in a certain place and the disciples come and ask Jesus to teach them how to pray just as John had done for his disciples.

Of course as Jews they knew how to pray but they wanted to pray Jesus' way. The way that John's disciples prayed defined who they were. The prayer Jesus taught the disciples would define who they were and what they were on about.

So Jesus taught them a prayer that did more than give them a list of things to pray for it defined them and their

7. TEMPTATION AND THE DEVIL!

Read the Lord's Prayer

It goes with the Territory

Being a 'son' of God means to be assaulted by temptation and the Devil, it goes with the territory.

In one part of Luke's gospel this becomes abundantly clear.

Look up Luke 3v21- 4v13

The passage can be divided into three main sections.

1. 3v21-22 - the Baptism of Jesus
2. 3v23-38 - the Family tree of Jesus
3. 4v1-13 - the Temptation of Jesus

1. *Read through this section what idea is present in each of the sections and binds them together as a whole?*
2. *How is Jesus described at his Baptism?*
3. *The Family tree of Jesus leads all the way back to Adam. How is Adam described in v38?*
4. *What forms the focus of the temptations of Jesus 4v3, 9?*

This section underlines Jesus' solidarity with Adam and Israel as other 'sons' of God but even more significantly it

they should welcome others back and not stand outside aloof from the forgiveness party.

17. *What should each church be a demonstration of?*

18. *Why is it that God's kingdom 'out posts' of forgiveness become nesting places for grudges and anger?*

19. *How can we keep working as a 'son' of God (= a church) at being the community of the forgiven and forgiving?*

20. *How does the 'world' show that forgiveness is what it needs most?*

21. *Who will show them if we don't?*

Pray the Lord's Prayer

role in the world.

The section of the Lord's Prayer we are looking at this week is:

Our Father in heaven

A Family Business

The first few words of the Lord's prayer are a call to be part of a family business. God is Father. By implication we are his children and corporately that means we are his family!

We can see from this that praying like Jesus is not a matter of a technique to learn but a relationship to live. Prayer is not about methodology it's about who we are.

1. *How can sinful human beings call a holy God 'Father'?*

Father

It's shocking! The disciples of Jesus are to call the maker of heaven and earth 'Father'! The followers of the carpenter from Nazareth are to call the Lord God almighty, 'Father'! The sinful companions of Jesus are to call God 'Father'!

This is more, much more, than just an invitation to intimacy. It is that, but it is also to claim a relationship with God that means God's business, his work of salvation will become their business. Calling God 'Father' means that Jesus ministry and mission will also become theirs.

Calling God 'Father' works in two directions. It not only invites the disciples of Jesus to know God as 'Father', it is an invitation to know themselves, *together*, as God's son with all that means.

Being God's Son

The story of the Bible is the story a 'Father and Son' family business. When the disciple's called God 'Father' they were reaffirm-

FATHERS THAT DON'T STACK UP

Some people have lousy fathers. Some fathers are absolute creeps! All fathers fail except our heavenly Father.

The Fatherhood of God should not be easily jettisoned because of the inadequacy of an earthly father.

The Fatherhood of God is the standard by which all biological fatherhood is judged. It would be better to call our earthly father something else rather than miss the privilege of call God our 'heavenly Father'.

ing a theme that ran right through the Bible.

God's alternative to a sinful world is to have a people who will live under His rule. God chose Abraham and promised that his family would be that people – Israel.

2. *Look at Genesis 12v3 what are the promises?*

Israel was to be the means by which the world would come back to God. She would do this by demonstrating how good life was in the Promised Land under the rule of the Lord. Israel was chosen to have a special relationship with God.

The relationship with Israel proper began at the time of Moses.

Israel wasn't in the land; she was in slavery in Egypt. Read Exodus 4v18-23

3. *Who is the 'son' of God in this passage?*

4. *Read Exodus 19v3-9. Israel's vocation is summarised in v6. What is it?*

5. *Is this a part fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham? How?*

Being a 'kingdom of priests and a holy nation' is an example of Hebrew parallelism – saying the same thing in a different way. The Psalms are based on it.

What it means is that God's son, Israel, is to be like a priest for the rest of the world. She is to demonstrate what God is like to the world and be the means of bringing the world to the LORD. Israel would do this by living differently (holy) just as priests are supposed to.

Isaiah 40? (Where is the far country?)

13. *Read Luke 7v36-50 what will someone who is forgiven be like?*

14. *Read Matthew 18v21-35 what will someone who is forgiven not to be like?*

15. *Jesus death was a place of forgiveness for whom? Luke 23v34-43*

16. *What are the consequences of Jesus' death and resurrection for the nations? Read Luke 24v45-47*

The whole of Jesus ministry from beginning to end was about forgiveness –the proclamation of it, the living out of it and the dying and rising for it so it might be proclaimed.

God rules through his Son who brings forgiveness to Israel. This forgiveness then spills over to the nations. It's a sign that the kingdom of God has come.

Forgiving others shows that we are part of the kingdom that has come and continues to grow as the gospel of forgiveness takes hold of more lives.

Jesus taught his disciples to measure how much they had received God's radical forgiveness by how much they forgave others.

As the father welcomed them back from a far country so

1. *In v1-2 God speaks to his people, about what?*
2. *The Lord is coming through the desert. What needs to happen?*

A 'way' needs to be built so that God's people who are forgiven can come home along a level path. The Lord is going to lead his people home.

3. *Does the Lord understand humanity? v6-8*
4. *How will the Lord bring his people home v11?*
5. *Can God's message and promise be trusted v8?*
6. *In v9 how is this message described?*

Now turn to the New Testament.
Read Luke 3v1-6.

7. *What do these verses say about the time according to God's clock?*
8. *What was John preaching?*
9. *John's ministry was in preparation for the coming of whom?*
10. *Look at v18 what does John preach to the people? And what was its content Luke 3v16-17?*
11. *How did Jesus describe his vocation Luke 5v31-32?*
12. *Read Luke 15v11-32. How does this fit the plan of*

God's plan to save the world narrowed down to the King of Israel.
Read 2 Samuel 7v1-17.

6. *How are v8-11 like the promises to Abraham?*
7. *Who is the son of God here?*
8. *What would he do? (Look at Psalm 2)*

But Solomon and his sons failed to live as God's son. Sin in them spread to the rest of God's people and 'white anted' God's salvation plan.

Israel, God's son failed to be different to the nations, the king God's son failed to be holy and so God sent his sons away. What was needed was someone who would not fail! God did not give up because of sin he did something to solve it.

Jesus comes to fulfil the mission of the 'son' of God and be the means of saving the world. Jesus is God's true Son Luke 2v22, 9v35.

However he did not want to do it alone. He calls a new Israel into existence – his disciples. They are the beginning of a people who will learn how to be God's adopted son.

The Disciples left their jobs and start a new vocation. The vocation of being the son of God. Jesus prayer taught them to call God 'Father'.

'Our'

The Lord's prayer is a family prayer. Jesus taught his disciples to pray 'Our Father'.

The disciples of Jesus are a family engaged in the vocation of a family business.

9. *How are Jesus' disciples to do what he did?*

10. *What task did God's Son give to God's 'son' in Matthew 28v16-20?*

11. *What links are there with God's purposes in Abraham?*

Today

12. *How does the church continue to live as the 'son' of God?*

13. *What is the church's vocation?*

We are the 'son' of God as we follow the Son of God. The Lord's prayer can't be a matter of technique! Jesus taught his disciples to find themselves within the very heart of the plan of God and live out their calling as the people of God.

We have the same vocation today. The church is a people committed to being God's 'son' in the world. Showing the world the true meaning and purpose of life, struggling to live with each other and show what God's kingdom looks like in the flesh.

'Our Father' are words of comfort but they are also a call to be part of God's family business. The sign at the front door should read:

Salvation - Father & Sons

Read the Lord's Prayer Matthew 6v6-13

6. WHEN GOD RULES

Read the Lord's Prayer

God Rules OK!

When God brings his kingdom in what does it look like?
When God rules what is the nature of his rule?

The disciples of Jesus day knew that things were out of kilter. There was something terribly wrong with the world. God was in control but sin had played its part in wrecking things up.

Sin was a tangible concept for Israel. She was God's creation, chosen by him to be his own dear possession. Her role was to show the world how to live a different reality. Israel was to show how faithfulness to the true God – the LORD, was the way of blessing.

She had failed to fulfil her vocation and had paid the consequences. Exile! Israel had become so much like the nations that the LORD made Israel part of them. He scattered her throughout the world! That wasn't the end. For the sake of his name he promised to bring them back and bless them again.

Israel had come back but only physically! The great prophets had made great promises and there had been moments of apparent fulfilment but these were only the forerunners to the usual failures.

Israel was in the land but so were the Roman armies. There was a king on the throne but he was a foreigner. There was a grand temple but it was occupied by a power hungry non-legitimate priesthood.

You could make a pretty strong case that God was still angry with Israel.

Isaiah said **forgiveness** would be the sign of God ruling in Israel again!

Read Isaiah 40v1-14.

with God, the spiritual side of things, but it is to also effect the physical side of life, even down to the everyday job of feeding ourselves.

Further in the sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus addresses more fully this subject of our physical needs

Read Matthew 6v25-34

13. *Why don't the birds sow or reap?*
14. *What does Jesus say is important in life?*
15. *What isn't important?*
16. *As God's people, if God is going to give us everything we need, what does this leave us to focus our lives upon?*
17. *What will your life look like if you are losing this focus on God's kingdom?*

Pray the Lords Prayer

3. WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Read the Lord's Prayer

Names

There are a lot of tense moments when a baby is on the way. But few are as trying, tedious and dangerous as choosing **the name!**

Which side of the family will be favoured? Who will be offended? Can you really burden a baby with a name like 'Cecil'? Sure he will grow into it but it will take all of sixty years!

What if you choose a popular name, can it be spelt in such a way so as to give your child a sense of being an individual – like David with a silent 'p' or 'Gillian' spelt 'Gyllian' (obviously the Welsh version).

Often the last thought given to a name is 'What does the name mean?' All names mean something.

Here are some names to avoid if the meaning counts:

- | | | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Brody | - unusual beard | Cameron | - bewitched |
| Barbara | - stranger | Cecily | - blind |
| Deirdre | - sad | | |
| Barton | - Placename of where barely was grown | | |

Names in the Bible

Names in the Bible are important. In the Bible names and nature (meaning) often go together.

Look up these example and fill out the table

Text	Name (meaning)	New Name (if changed) (meaning)
Genesis 17v5		
Genesis 17v15		
Genesis 21v3-7		
Genesis 25v25		
Genesis 25v26		Genesis 32v28

WHAT IS HALLOWING?

Hallowing is not a form of greeting found in some countries. Essentially it is treating something as holy, that is as special and distinct.

The problem is when we think about the Lord's prayer and hallowing God's name, we easily slip into thinking how some people use the name of the LORD as a swear word. That is certainly not hallowing God's name!

We also need to see that Jesus had a much bigger agenda – changing the world.

God's Name – Nature and People

God's Name is part of the story of the Old Testament. Read Exodus 3v1-22

1. *What is God's name?*

The 'LORD' is the way we translate the name that's given by God to Moses and Israel.

2. *What did it mean?*

The very history of Israel was to be an explanation of who the LORD was and is. In a very real sense Israel's story is 'His-story'! The LORD ties his name to the story line of his people, in all of its ups and downs and shows his nature by it.

This is seen very clearly in Exodus 33v12-23. Prior to this Israel has made a golden calf in direct breach of the first three commandments. The LORD is angry and punishes Israel with a plague and threatens not to go with them to the Promised Land. Moses intercedes and the Lord relents. Moses asks to see the glory of the LORD v18.

3. *As the Lord shows his glory what does he proclaim? v19*

4. *So what is the LORD's name? v19*

5. *What is the difference between his name and nature?*

There is a fundamental relationship between God's name, his nature and his people's 'fortune'.

Israel and God's Name

Israel was to reflect the nature of Lord to the world. Look at Leviticus 11v44-45 (Deuteronomy 28v9-10).

6. *How was the nature of the Lord to be reflected in the nature of His people?*

As Israel went into the Promised Land she once again failed to be holy. God brought a judgement upon her; she failed to take the town of Ai. The consequences for Israel and the Lord are clear, so is the connection between Israel's destiny and the name of the Lord.

Our Daily Bread

10. *Quickly, summarise what has been said so far in the Lord's Prayer, in regard to God's relationship with the people.*

What God is like:

What His people are to be like:

When you hear 'Sydney 2000', you think Olympics. When the people heard Jesus pray for their daily bread, they would have been reminded of God's provision to their forefathers of the manna from heaven.

Remembering what has come before us in the Lord's prayer and the manna from heaven episode, we can now come to this part of the prayer with a greater understanding of what Jesus meant.

11. *Asking God for bread is a fairly simple thing, what do you think it tells us about our relationship with God?*

12. *What do you think is the significance of asking for "daily" bread? Why not ask for bread for a week?*

Kingdom values are to have an impact on the whole of life. Belonging to the kingdom effects not only our relationship

PROVERBS 30
"SAYINGS OF AGUR"

⁷ "Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die:
⁸ Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.
⁹ Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?'
Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

Read Exodus 16.

1. *Why were the people grumbling? v3*
2. *When the meat and the bread came, what did this tell the people? v12*
3. *How many days were they to collect manna for?*
4. *On which day is there an exception to this?*
5. *What are the people commanded to do in this situation?*

Read Deuteronomy 8.1-20. Deuteronomy is a book containing five speeches by Moses to the people of Israel. They are given at the end of their forty years of wandering in the desert and look back upon their experiences of this.

6. *Why did God want to humble and test the people? v3*
7. *What were the people to learn about God, by Him providing the manna from heaven?*
8. *Why were the people to remember the bread from heaven and their other experiences in the desert?*
9. *God had made a covenant with the people at Mount Sinai. What would happen to the people if they forgot God? v19-20*

7. *Read Joshua 7v1-9. What is Joshua's argument concerning the name of the Lord?*

The LORD graciously tied his glory to the story of his people. This is demonstrated in 1 Chronicles 17v20-22.

8. *What had God done through Israel?*

From Blasphemy to Hallowing

Israel continued to compromise her relationship with God. She no longer treated God as holy! She became like the nations. Israel was supposed to show the nations who God was but she adopted their gods and disobeyed the Lord.

Look up Ezekiel 36v16-32, read it carefully.

9. *From Ezek. 36v16-18, what did Israel do?*

10. *From Ezek. 36v19, what did God do?*

11. *From Ezek. 36v20, what was the consequence of this action?*

12. *From Ezek. 36v21, what was God concerned for?*

13. *From Ezek. 36v22-23, what did he decide to do?*

14. *From Ezek. 36v24-32, what was the means of making his name holy?*

15. *From Ezek. 36v23, what would the effect on the nations be?*

If we understand the story so far, Jesus teaching that the 'Fathers name be hallowed' is nothing less than a looking forward to this agenda outlined by Ezekiel.

The Prayer

Jesus is teaching the disciples to pray that God will act now and do all of this and make his name holy!

That means bring Israel out of her spiritual wilderness, giving her a new heart! Put his Spirit within her and causing her to walk in his ways. And so the nations will know that his name is holy for he is LORD.

When the disciples prayed this prayer they were asking for nothing less than the LORD's decisive action in the history of Israel for the salvation of the world.

Did God answer the prayer? Another way of answering that is by asking what happened in the ministry of Jesus.

16. *Were people impurities cleansed? Acts 2v41*

17. *Were people given a new heart? Acts 2v37*

18. *Was the Spirit given? Acts 2v38*

19. *Was the LORD glorified? Acts 2v31-36*

20. *Did Israel come from the nations? Acts 2v9-11 cf Isaiah 11v11*

21. *Did the nations learn who the LORD was? Acts 1v8*

What about Us?

We share in the on going mission of making the Lord's name known. We hallow his name by proclaiming who he is by our words and deeds and we look forward to the day when 'every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD to the glory of God the Father'.

Asking the Lord to hallow his name is to ask him to turn lives up side down and inside out for the glory and honour of his name.

22. *What does our church need to do to hallow the name of Jesus?*

Pray the Lord's prayer!

5. DAILY BREAD

Read the Lord's Prayer

Years ago when you walked into a shop to buy some bread, the choice was pretty easy, there was no choice! These days trying to decide which bread to buy is a mammoth task. There's whole-meal, whole-grain, soy & linseed, nut, thick slice, fruitloaf, high fibre bread, sandwich and the list goes on.

We seem to have taken what is a staple food item and turned it into a whole industry on its own. Our desires and tastes have moved on from the humble loaf of bread to the toasted herb & garlic focaccia. Once upon a time we just needed bread, now it seems we need so much more.

In this study, we turn to the somewhat menial and everyday petition when we pray:

Give us today our daily bread

So far the Lord's prayer has focused upon God and His kingdom. Here we find the Lord's Prayer turning to the physical world, for God's kingdom is not only in the realm of the spiritual but also the physical. Jesus has bridged the gap between the physical and the spiritual worlds. With his ministry came a revolution, the new kingdom is coming and great changes are taking place.

Bread from Heaven

This isn't the first time in the Bible that daily bread has been asked for. As the people gathered around and heard Jesus utter these words about daily bread, they would have been reminded of a time when the Israelites were given daily bread. The people had been saved out of Egypt, out of slavery, they had crossed through the Red Sea on dry land and the pursuing Egyptian army were drowned.

BREAD FROM HEAVEN

In the bible, manna is described as thin white flakes like frost. There has been much speculation regarding what it actually was. To the present time in Sinai, certain insects produce a honeydew excretion which drop to the ground in the night and are melted away by the morning sun. There has also been instances after unusual weather patterns of a flour-like substance covering the ground in Algeria in 1932.

None of these explanations really explains the biblical data. However hard we may try to figure out a natural cause, the manna from was in the realm of the supernatural as God worked to give His people their daily bread.

Why is it we always try to deny God at work by trying to find a rational explanation to everything?

12. What does Jesus hope for?

13. What does Jesus do?

Jesus remains faithful to the Father, faithfulness that sends him to death on the cross. After he has conquered death and the Devil, and he has risen again, Jesus speaks as one with authority.

Read Matthew 28.16-20

14. Who has given Jesus authority? (see also Phil 2.9-10)

15. What does Jesus then command?

17. How does this command fulfil God's will being "done on earth as in heaven?"

18. As a church how are we showing that God's kingdom has come?

19. In your life how are you showing that God's kingdom has come?

20. What are some ways that you could show God's will on earth?

Pray the Lords prayer and these issues.

4. THY KINGDOM COME

Read the Lord's Prayer

Leaving you mark

When you look back to the decades that have past they have each left their own mark on our society. In the 1960's we had the Beatles, the 1970's we had laminex and in the eighties we have mission brown, that colour that still haunts us today.

When Jesus prays:

**your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven**

He is praying for God's mark to be left upon the world. In Jesus Christ, God left his mark on the world once and for all, yet from the very beginning God had created the world to be his kingdom, which means that he was the king.

In the Beginning

The story of the bible is about God's kingdom, about this world and his rule of it.

When Israel was in trouble they cried out to God for help and he raised up a deliverer for them, Othniel.

Read Genesis

1. How did Othniel become Israel's judge?

2. What two things characterise Othniel's time as judge?

JUDGES & KINGS

In the wilderness Moses wore himself out by sitting to judge the cases that were brought before him. So he appointed assistant judges. The worked to dispense justice, punishing evil and vindication righteousness. In the book of Judges we read that 'judges were raised up, who saved the people'. The judge become a leader in battle and a ruler in peace.

THE STORY OF RUTH

The book of Ruth is an interesting story in the bible. As you begin to read it, you might be thinking 'why is this in the bible?' It makes no mention of God, it seems to be a story about one families rise from adversity.

The book finishes with a genealogy, which may or may not convince you to leave the book in your bible. Hopefully after reading the genealogy it all should come to light. The story of Ruth tells us about the ancestors of David, whom we learn about in the book which follows Ruth. So in Ruth we see God at work in King David's family.

The Israelites never seemed to learn. They continued to show disregard to God. Read Judges 3v7,8; 4v1-3, 6v1-6.

3. *God was the ruler and King of Israel. When the people disobeyed him and ignored him as King, how did God Punish them?*

3v7-8 -

4v1-3 -

6v1-6 -

4. *How did the people respond?*

From Judges to Kings

The nation of Israel was having a hard time. What made matters worse was that when they looked at the surrounding nations, they saw how much better off they were. They had kings who ruled them, not judges, and this is what Israel wanted, a king so that they could be like the other nations. God gave them what they wanted. The first King Israel had was Saul. He was the king that the people wanted, not the King that God wanted. Saul didn't want to be a king living under God's rule. Saul's life came to a sorrowful end, 'falling' on his sword in battle. However God had chosen a king and had been getting him ready in the back ground (See the Story of Ruth)

5. *Read 1 Samuel 13v13-14. How does Samuel summarise the failure of Saul's kingship? How is God's chosen king going to be different?*

6. *What has Saul missed out on?*

Read 2 Samuel 7v11-17.

7. *What promises did God make to David?*

Kingdom Coming

Israel continued along a bumpy road. Their Kings, David's ancestors, failed to live up to their calling, the people were not faithful to God. David's kingdom doesn't seem to last. They are taken into exile, and return years later but it is not the same. They are a people without a Kingdom, with a King. They wait for the promised King, one who will truly worship God.

In the New Testament, this King comes in Jesus. It is with Jesus that the revolution comes. As his ministry begins Jesus is tempted by the devil. He is taken into the desert for forty days and forty nights. But unlike the Israelites who in their desert wanderings for forty years reject God, Jesus remains faithful to his father.

Read Matthew 4.1-11

In the final and perhaps the greatest test for Jesus, the devil offers him all the kingdoms before him.

8. *On what condition are these offered?*

9. *How does Jesus respond?*

Read Matthew 4.12-17

Having shown his faithfulness to God, the King, the ministry of Jesus begins.

10. *What is the message that Jesus preaches?*

Finally it is in Jesus that the eternal Kingdom promised to David's descendants comes to fruition.

Read Matthew 26.36-46.

11. *Why is Jesus sorrowful?*