

Sunday September 15th 2013
Lord Teach Us To Pray
Part Eleven

1). Mt 6:9 ¶ *"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

a). The last of these 5 short verses that we have come to call 'the Lord's prayer', is a very interesting one – we can see in it a direct connection with our not being led into temptation but instead being delivered from the evil one and the fact that the 'Kingdom', rulership from the heavens over the earth, is God's Kingdom, created for His purpose and His alone.

b). So then, because the Kingdom is God's and because He has a specific pre-determined purpose for it that involves His creation, Man, it is within the parameters of our calling that we should seek God's mighty protection that His purpose in us should be accomplished - 1Pe 1:3 ¶ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

c). Now we would know from the scriptures that it was always God's intention that His Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, was to rule with 'many sons brought to glory' after a specific fashion, for a specific purpose, within this provincial Kingdom within God's universe – Joh 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

Col 1:16 *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

d). Now we had also seen from the scriptures that at an unspecified time in eternity past, God had created an angelic being to be the anointed cherub

over the province which is ultimately to be ruled by His Son and His companions - Eze 28:13 *You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.*

e). The fact of Satan's appointment and subsequent rebellion in no way negates God's purpose for His Son and those who will rule with Him – but must rather be seen as part of the Divine calculation towards His stated end.

f). And there are maybe 2 further things we might note from this – firstly, God knew Satan would sin before He created him, in the same way that He knew Adam and the Woman would sin before they were created and He knew Israel would sin before the nation was created, and He knew that Christians would sin before they were created – but none of this prevents Him from continuing with His creation and none of it can prevent the completion of His purpose -Isa 46:9 *Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'*

And secondly, when it comes to rulership within this province the Lord always brings into being a new creation for this purpose – Satan was created specifically to be the earth's ruler, as we see from Ezekiel; the same is true for Adam at the time of the earth's restoration - Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion.....*

The same thing is true for Israel - Isa 43:1 ¶ *But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.*

And the same is true for Christians - Ga 6:15 *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.*

And we might also note alongside of these that even our Lord, God Himself in the person of Son, went through the process of natural childbirth specifically for the purpose of ruling - Ps 2:7 ¶ *"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today [Lit. 'for this day' – the 7th Day] I have begotten You.*

This is of itself totally unique.

g). In addition to this, we will remember that 2/3rds of the angel's ruling with Satan refused to rebel and we might see this after the same fashion as there had always been a remnant of the faithful within the house of Israel in OT times and a faithful remnant today within the House of Christ.

h). There have always been those who choose faithful obedience to the Lord and those who choose otherwise.

2). Eph 2:1 ¶ *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,*

a). We had seen last week that 'life' and 'death' as viewed from God's perspective is never seen in the same sense that the majority of humans would understand it. 'life' and 'death' never have to do with existing or ceasing to exist – which would really make perfect sense as man always has been an 'eternal' being – but rather 'life' and 'death' always relate to the spirit. So then, we either have spiritual life or we are spiritually dead – we either have what is necessary to be in communion with God or we are separated from that communion. And this is most poignantly described for us in the creation of Adam - Ge 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

b). And we had seen that this description in Genesis exactly describes our own experience at the moment of our eternal salvation, our birth from above – God breathes into us 'the breath of life', literally His Spirit, and we become spiritually alive and no longer separated from His purpose.

c). He then continues this 'life' through the indwelling presence of His Spirit - 1Co 6:19 *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

d). And He then nourishes and sustains this life through the continued breathing in of His Spirit, which is the Word of God. The indwelling Holy Spirit takes this Word that is received into our saved human spirit and with this Word brings about our spiritual growth and progress towards spiritual maturity – we are transformed by the renewing of our mind – this is the metamorphosis.

e). This is the work of God in us, this is the power of God in us – the power that is His and His alone - Ro 1:16 ¶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

1Co 1:18 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

f). This is why, according to - 1Co 2:5 *that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

3). Now, in the light of all this let's look once again at some familiar verses – Jas 1:21 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

a). We may have always known this, but I want to make sure that we know that we know – it is 'the implanted word, which is able to save your souls' – let's be clear it is the continual inbreathing of the Spirit which is the Word, the sustainer of life, it is being continually filled with the Spirit, alone that has the power to bring about the salvation of our souls – nothing else.

b). However, although the Word of God alone has the power to bring about the salvation of our souls we also see that faithful obedience to the Word, being doers of the word is a pre-requisite also. The power of God is there, but we have to avail ourselves of that power by faith.

c). So then our spiritual life must be brought to the place of completion through the continual inbreathing of the Spirit/Word of God after the fashion that God has given it to us and as we receive this Word we are to respond to it by faith - Heb 11:6 *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.*

d). To go back to 1 Corinthians 1:18 for a moment - 1Co 1:18 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

To those who are in the present in the process of perishing the message of the cross is foolishness – So what is the message of the cross that is foolishness to them? Well this message has nothing to do with eternal salvation and Jesus dying for our sins – rather the message of the cross referred to here is this – Mt 16:24 ¶ *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

e). To those who are in the present in the process of perishing, for those of the eternally saved who want their best life now, the message of self-denial is foolishness – but for those in the present in the process of being saved, those who have faith to the saving of the soul, those who are looking for life in the age to come, this message of self-denial contained in the scriptures is the power of God to salvation - Ro 8:13 *For if you live according to the flesh you*

*will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

4). And we will remember of course that the experience of the first generation of Israel to come out of Egypt is given to us as a type to teach us the truth concerning this – 1Co 10:11 *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

Heb 4:1 ¶ *Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.*

a). Let's note carefully here what we read in Hebrews, 'the gospel was preached to us as well as to them' – the same 'good news' given to us is the same 'good news' given to them – So the question would be, how could they hear the same good news that we hear? And the reason this seems difficult is because we get our thinking locked in to NT issues surrounding Christ's death, burial and resurrection – events that would be outside of their time.

b). But once we let go of this and see things in a type/antitype framework all becomes clear.

c). Ex 12:12 *'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. 13 'Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

d). Egypt in scripture is always a type of the present world system under the god of this world and here in our verses from Exodus Chapter 12 we see that God makes a separation between Israel and Egypt based on the death and shed blood of the Passover lambs. And this separation involved the birth and adoption of a nation – Ex 4:22 *"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn. 23 "So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.""*

Ex 11:6 *'Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again. 7 'But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you*

may know that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.'

e). And Israel's birth, adoption, separation and deliverance was for a specific purpose - Ex 6:8 *'And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.'*

f). Then in conjunction with this overall context we see this given to Israel at the time of the Passover - Ex 12:15 *'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person [lit. 'soul'] shall be cut off from Israel.*

[This would be the same as putting to death the deeds of the body and taking up our cross].

g). Now we know that within scripture 'leaven' is used exclusively as a type of evil and corruption picturing for us in Exodus 12 the sin in the lives of eternally redeemed Israel – each individual Jew was then, for 7 days, for a complete period of time, for the whole of their redeemed life, to put away sin out of the house, and anyone who did not do this would be 'cut off from Israel' – not 'cut off' from God, but cut off from the purpose for Israel's birth, adoption, separation and deliverance, cut off from their individual participation in God's purpose for them - Ex 19:4 *'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 5 'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

h). So then, for Israel there was adoption, redemption, separation from Egypt for the purpose of rulership within a Theocracy conditioned upon the removal of leaven for a complete period of time – this in part would constitute the 'gospel' preached to them.

i). To take this to the antitype – we have been delivered/ separated from the 'world' through the death and shed blood of the Passover Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ - Eph 2:1 ¶ *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 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,*

j). This involves the birth of a nation for a specific purpose –

Mt 21:43 *"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.*

With a view to a future adoption - Ro 8:15 *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*

k). And for a complete period of time we are to take up our cross –
1Co 5:7 ¶ *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

l). We are to keep the feast of unleavened bread, not in its literal form but in what is taught spiritually through it – And failure on our part to do so must see the same catastrophic result as that for each individual in Israel – not cut off from God, but cut off from the House of Christ, cut off from our inheritance in the Millennial Kingdom - Heb 3:6 *but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.*

5). To go back to Israel once again – What did they do with regards to the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Well they kept it for the literal 7 days, putting the literal leaven out of their houses – they kept the letter, but not the spirit.

a). With regards to the spiritual truth taught in this feast they did not do that which God required of them with the result that the leavening process, which was allowed to continue, was brought to a climax at Kadesh Barnea.

b). Had Israel put the leaven out of their house and followed the leadership of the Lord the entire nation would have realized the purpose for their calling. They would, through their faithfulness, have entered the land at Kadesh Barnea, overthrown the inhabitants and ruled over the Gentile nations as God's firstborn son within a Theocracy with blessing coming to the nations through Israel.

c). However, they did not exercise faithfulness, but unfaithfulness –
Nu 14:1 ¶ *So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! 3 "Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" 4 So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."*

The entire accountable generation, except Caleb and Joshua, was overthrown in the wilderness, cut off from their inheritance. Of the 600,000 fighting men to come out of Egypt all were overthrown in the wilderness except 2.

d). So what would account for such a catastrophe? Well our verse from Hebrews 4:2 tells us that what they heard, the 'gospel' that was preached to them, which would include the Feast of Unleavened Bread did not profit them not being mixed with faith and this explains it exactly, but why did they not have faith? What would precipitate that which from our perspective looks like arrant foolishness on their part? Well the answer can be found simply in 2 interrelated things.

6). And to discover these 2 things we will begin in - Nu 11:5 *"We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 "but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" 7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium. 8 The people went about and gathered it, ground it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, cooked it in pans, and made cakes of it; and its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil.*

a). The manna, as we know, was God's supernatural provision for His people, all that they needed to sustain them on their journey to the land of promise – but we see that they despised God's provision, looking backwards to that which they ate in Egypt.

b). We also see them doing everything they can to change that which God had given them to make it more like the food they longed for from Egypt – anything to make it more palatable to their fleshly desires.

c). To despise God's supernatural provision to sustain them and nourish them on their journey to the land can only bring them to a point of despising the land itself which is exactly what we saw in Numbers Chapter 14, *Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?*

d). With respect to both food and location they turned back to Egypt, they turned back to the things of this world within the world system under the god of this world – they chose to align themselves with the kingdom of Satan rather than the Kingdom of God, looking for instant gratification in their present rather than self-denial in their present with the hope of joy inexpressible and full of glory in the future.

e). Within the antitype we have been given the 'bread from heaven', the Word of God, and this Word provides everything we need to nourish us and

sustain us spiritually on our pilgrim journey to the land of our inheritance – it is the only thing that can sustain ‘life’ for us.

f). But from the beginning we have known - Mt 13:33 *Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."*

2Ti 4:3 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*

g). Rather than allowing the Word of God to bring about the metamorphosis in the eternally saved, the eternally saved over the course of this dispensation have changed the Word of God in order to give credence to their own fleshly desires so as to continue in the present world system. They look for the sustenance the world provides, to which they are addicted, and then grind up the Word of God to make it approximate the flavor for which they long. And at the root of it all is the forked tongue of the slithering serpent Ge 3:1 ¶ *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said,*

h). The Christian bookstores are a smorgasbord of highly processed ‘bread from heaven’ that is packaged and marketed to sell – the internet is full of it and some might even find its way to our desk top placating us with quaint homilies and platitudes to tickle our taste buds - anything but the Truth as God gives it.

i). 2Pe 2:2 *And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 ¶ By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words;*

7). This though we will have to pick up next time – if the Lord is willing.