

## The Lord's Prayer(2)

April 9, 2021

As I mentioned, the specific requests in the Lord's Prayer do not apply today. For the big picture answer, during our study on **The Mystery (God's Secret Plan)** last year I addressed some of the important distinctions in Scripture about how God's plan differs between the nation of Israel and the body of Christ (believers today). Depending on the context, these differences are divided according to prophecy vs. mystery, Law (of Moses) vs. grace, and the gospel of the kingdom vs. the gospel of the grace of God.

To sum these up:

- Prophecy is that which was spoken since the world began, whereas the mystery is the eternal plan of God that had been hidden in Himself since before the world began until revealed through Paul.
- The Law of Moses applied to the people of Israel and salvation was through a combination of faith plus works, whereas under grace the Law was set aside (it was figuratively *nailed* to the cross—Colossians 2:13-14; Galatians 3:10-14) and we are saved through faith without any works of righteousness.
- The gospel of the kingdom was the good news that Israel's long-promised kingdom was imminent and was directed to the Jews first, whereas the gospel of the grace of God (which includes the gospel of salvation) reveals the good news that Christ died for our sins and is directed to all people without distinction.

The Law of Moses and the gospel of the kingdom are part of God's prophetic plan (centered on Israel), whereas the gospel of the grace of God is part of the mystery. Besides the "Mystery" study, I address these differences in greater detail in my studies **Which Gospel?** and **The Two Messages of Our Lord Jesus Christ**, neither of which we have covered in our studies together.

A careful reading of the Lord's Prayer (and the entire *Sermon on the Mount* of which it is included) reveals that it is part of God's prophetic plan, and that the requests within it only apply to the people of Israel who believed the gospel of the kingdom (Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17, 23). I'll address the specific requests in the next (and last—I think) text.