Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name ... As we have been studying the Lord’s Prayer, we have been considering the altogether and absolute majesty of our triune God. Yet, not if we were to spend every waking moment would we even come close to understanding all there is to know about God. The apostle John wrote, I Jn. 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

During His earthly ministry, God made Himself known to us in His Son. John wrote, I Jn. 5:20 we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life ... Jn. 1:14 the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

All of the Old Testament, -from Gen. 3:15 onwards, - anticipated and prophesied the first coming of the Lord Jesus. There was great expectation as to the days when He would arrive. Many of the people’s expectations gave way to speculation and they began to form various opinions in their minds as to the way He would come, what He would come to do, and how He would set up His glorious Kingdom, Acts 1:6 Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ... Thy Kingdom come had a very special meaning for them, - they longed for it to happen.

That longing has never left the people of God, and the Lord Jesus teaches His people to continue to pray, Thy Kingdom come. What exactly does it mean, though? Is it an earthly Kingdom? Is it a spiritual Kingdom? ... What does it mean?

There are many verses in the Old Testament that point towards His first coming, ... and now that has taken place, there are also many verses in the Old Testament pointing forward to His second coming. Concerning Enoch, Jude v.14 Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.

To choose just a few examples, ... Is. 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. 18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. 19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. 20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. 21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. 22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They shall not labour in
vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. 24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. 25 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.

Joel 3: 16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. 17 So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. 18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim. 19 Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land. 20 But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. 21 For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.

Amos 9:11 In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this. 13 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. 14 And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. 15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.

Micah 4:1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. 2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Zeph. 3:16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not; and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack. 17 The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. 18 I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden. 19 Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame
in every land where they have been put to shame. 20 At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

Zech. 14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. 2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. 5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. 6 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: 7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. 8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. 9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

Mal. 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

These are merely a handful of passages from the Old Testament that gives the believer the blessed hope of God’s promise concerning the future of His people, - Jews and Gentiles, who are all one in Christ. In the New Testament, someone has calculated that one in every seven verses makes reference to the second coming of Christ. When you read through the epistles, it is an event keenly anticipated by God’s people … and, in fact, some of them were worried that Christ had already come and gone and they had been left behind! Paul wrote to assure them, II Thess. 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.
Looking forward to such an event, then, there has always been many different views and speculation. Some are cautious, some are ridiculous … but, beyond any shadow of a doubt, it is the next greatest event in God’s calendar concerning this world.

Next Thursday evening (D.V.) we shall keep our study of the text, - Thy Kingdom come, - in Mt. 6:10, but this evening we are going to spend a short time looking at some of the major views that are in many churches today. Within these major views, there are many variations. It is an exciting subject, - Jesus Christ is coming back again, - and we must be looking forward to it with great anticipation, but we must also ‘keep the reins tight’ so that our imaginations don’t ‘race off at a gallop’! In studying this subject we need to very carefully look forward to that day with our Bibles open in front of us and our enthusiasm carefully restrained in accordance with God’s Word. Sometimes we can become so excited about this subject that we can start seeing things that are not there … and then, on the other hand, sometimes we can ‘blinker’ ourselves so that we deny God working in prophecy, while it is plainly evident around us.

There are four primary millennial views relating to Thy Kingdom come. We shall take them in alphabetical order … and obviously, we are scraping the service. If you want to study them further, ask me afterwards and I can point you in the direction of some books that support a particular viewpoint.

Amillennialism (or ‘realized millennialism) teaches the millennial reign spoken of in Revelation 20 is not a literal earthly reign but is in the process of being realized in the present Christian age with Christ reigning from heaven. In other words, we are in the millennium at the moment. … Basically ...

* The thousand years is not to be taken as a literal thousand years.
* Christ presently is reigning in heaven with the souls of the deceased believers. This is the Kingdom reign, the ‘millennium’.
* The binding of Satan has already occurred at Christ’s first coming, and it will continue until His second coming. At the moment, Satan is bound.
* During this ‘reign’, Christ rules through His Word and the Holy Spirit until His Second Coming.
* The kingdom of evil, - Eph. 2:2 according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, - will exist alongside the kingdom of God until the Second Coming.
* There will be significant events preceding the Second Coming. The gospel will be preached to all nations and the conversion of the fullness of Israel will be completed before Christ will return (although the term ‘the fullness of Israel’ needs to be qualified)
* Jews and Gentiles are the ‘new Israel’. ‘Old’ Israel has been replaced.
* The second coming of Christ is a single event after the ‘millennium’, and is followed by the general resurrection, and the general judgment.
* Afterwards, the believers inherit everlasting joy in the new heaven and new earth. Unbelievers are sent into everlasting punishment.

**Postmillennialism**, - similar to amillennialism, - teaches the millennial reign of Revelation 20 is not a literal earthly reign but consists of the present age becoming more Christianized. Through preaching and faithful missionary endeavours, a large portion of the world’s population will be converted. This will then develop into a long period of righteousness and peace. ... *Basically* ...
* The thousand years is not to be taken as a literal thousand years.
* Christ presently is reigning in heaven with the souls of the deceased believers.
* The binding of Satan occurs between the first and second comings of Christ.
* Christ currently rules through his word and the Holy Spirit looking forward to the Second Coming.
* Christian teaching and belief will gradually come to dominate the earth, although sin will not be completely eliminated.
* Nations will work together for good and the world will prosper and the wealth will be shared more evenly as it moves towards a golden age.
* The second coming of Christ is a single event after this ‘millennium’, after which is the general resurrection, followed by the general judgment.
* Believers to everlasting joy in the new heaven and new earth. Unbelievers to everlasting punishment.

**Premillennialism** is divided into Dispensational (classical dispensationalism [e.g. Darby, Scofield]; revised dispensationalism [Ryrie, Walvoord], and more recently, progressive dispensationalism) and Historic. They teach that Christ's second coming will usher in His earthly literal thousand year reign, and then the final state (new heaven and new earth) will occur.

**Dispensational Premillennialism**
Dispensationalists believe in a distinction in God's salvation of Israel and the church. Recent in origin (John Nelson Darby, 1800-1882) … *Basically* ...
* The thousand years is a literal earthly thousand years.
* The Old Testament prophesies specifically about this earthly reign of Christ for the benefit of Israel.
* Christ came the first time to fulfil the O.T. promises but was rejected by the Jews. This caused God to postpone the kingdom until the millennium.
Purpose of the church is to gather believers, primarily Gentiles but may include Jews until Christ comes again for the rapture. (God’s plan for the Jews is paramount, over the Gentiles).

Before the time of tribulation, the rapture will take place, - true believers of both the dead and the living meet Christ in the clouds and return to heaven with him. They are saved out of the seven-year tribulation. (First three-and-a-half is tribulation, and the second half is the “great tribulation”.)

Antichrist begins his reign demanding to be worshiped as God.

Wrathful judgement falls on the inhabitants of the earth. A remnant of Israel will turn to Christ as the Messiah (144,000 from Rev. 7:3-8).

The remnant will preach the “Gospel of the Kingdom” and will establish the earthly Kingdom of David. Many Gentiles will be converted.

The kings of the earth and armies of the beast and the false prophets gather to attack the people of God at the Battle of Armageddon. Christ will return with the church and win the victory.

Many Jews will turn to Christ at this time.

At Christ's return Satan is bound and cast into the abyss for a thousand years and there will be the separation of believers and non-believers.

Saints who died in the seven years of tribulation are raised from the dead (Rev. 20:4) along with the Old Testament saints.

Those resurrected do not join the millennium but join the risen and translated saints making up the raptured church in heaven.

Judgement of the Gentiles begins. Those who pass the test of treating the brethren well will enter the millennium reign. Those who do not pass the test will be cast into everlasting fire.

Judgement on Israel begins. (Ezekiel 20:33-38.) Non-believers are put to death.

Christ begins His millennial reign. Believers join the millennial reign. The Jews are exalted above the Gentiles. It will be a period of great prosperity and peace. The worship of God will centre around the rebuilt temple at Jerusalem.

Animal sacrifices will be offered again as thank offerings.

Resurrected believers will be living in the heavenly, New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1-22:5).

Heavenly Jerusalem will be above the earth shedding light on the earth.

Resurrected believers will play a part in the judging during the millennial reign (Mt. 19:28; 1 Cor. 6:2; Rev. 20:6).

Before the end of the millennium Satan will be loosed and create a great rebellion from the unbelievers.

At the Battle of Gog and Magog, Satan will attack the camp of the saints. He will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire.
* Before the end of the millennium the believers who died during the millennium will be resurrected.
* After the defeat of Satan, the unbelievers are resurrected and the judgement takes place.
* Those condemned and not written in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire.
* Final state is then ushered in. New heaven and new earth created where there will be no sin.
* The heavenly Jerusalem will descend to the new earth where God and His saints will live forever.
* There will remain a distinction between Jews and redeemed Gentiles for all eternity.

**Historic Premillennialism** ... *basically* ...
* The thousand years is generally held to be a literal earthly thousand years.
* Various events must take place before Christ establishes his thousand years reign, including …
  * Evangelization of the nations
  * Great tribulation, great rebellion against God, and the appearance of the antichrist.
* Believers, - those who have died and also those who are still living, - will be transformed and glorified, and will rise to meet Christ in the air (I Thess. 4). They will immediately return with Him to the earth to establish the millennial Kingdom. … The Antichrist will then be destroyed.
* A great majority of the Jews will repent of their sins and be saved.
* Christ will personally reign over the entire earth with the believers … ruling over the “unbelieving nations” with an “iron rod”.
* It will be a time of great peace and prosperity. The desert will blossom. A time of political, social, and economic justice. … The binding of Satan occurs but sin still exists.
* Before the end of the millennium Satan will be loosed and create a great rebellion from out of the unbelieving nations. At the Battle of Gog and Magog, He will attack the camp of the saints. However, he will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire.
* After the defeat of Satan, the unbelievers are resurrected and the judgement takes place. Those condemned and not written in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire. Those who were faithful will be given eternal life.
* There then follows the new heaven and the near earth of Rev. 21-22.

**CONCLUSION**
There is a lot of information to digest … and I hope it does not cause you to ‘step back’ … say it is all too much for you, and show no further interest! The issue of the second coming of Christ has been widely and hotly debated down through the centuries … but it is the greatest even that awaits God’s redeemed people … so therefore we should be interested in it, and it should excite us … so therefore we ought to study it!

Which view is the most credible, and faithful to Scripture? … Well, God alone knows how every part of His plan will come about, - it is going to be more magnificent than anyone could ever describe.

I do believe we are in these days of which the Bible prophesies … and I think the best ‘pointer’ God would give us is to watch the Jews. Watch what is happening in and to Israel. I believe they are the ‘clock’ and the ‘compass’ that tells us where we are in God’s plan.

It is good to hold a view, - it is good to have some formula to consider this subject by … as long as we remember the subject is far greater than any of us can imagine … and to be excessively and ungraciously dogmatic is contrary to how the people of God should await this great event that is soon to happen!

We might think, “What a subject! I don’t know enough to be sure what view I should hold!” … Don’t worry about it, … the view you must hold, - as you read the indications God gives us in His Word, - is summed up in three words in the Lord’s Prayer, … and this is how you must pray … Thy Kingdom come.

May He come soon … and may we, - and each of our loved ones, and to as many as the Lord sets before us to tell about Him, - be prepared for that day … a day of glory for some, and sadly a day of wrath for others.