

Amen

Ամէն

Revelation 3:14-22

We come to the end of the sermon series on the Lord's Prayer. After the sixth petition, comes the phrase, "**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**"(Matthew 6: 13b KJV) "**For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**" (ESV added this ending as a footnote)

This is the doxology of the Lord's Prayer. There has been a lot of discussion about it. Some early manuscripts like the **Alexandrian text** do not have this ending. Luke does not either. Some other manuscripts like the **Byzantine text** do have this ending. Most scholars agree that this was not part of the original Matthew text. Having said this, I don't want to argue whether this ending should be part of the Lord's Prayer or not. We Armenians, as one of the early churches in the world, kept it in our liturgy. Personally, I like to end the prayer with this doxology. In fact, it restates the first three petitions of the prayer. We said in the beginning: "May your name be Holy in us, May your kingdom come in us, May your will be done in us." And in the end: "May your kingdom, your power, your glory remain in us forever." The prayer ends with the last word "AMEN."

The word Amen is used in several religions. All churches all over the world use this word. Amen has been called the best-known word in human speech (Greek Lexicon). You could be in Africa and not understand any word in their worship, yet you would hear the word *Amen*. You could be in China, Korea, Indonesia, Egypt, Mexico, Armenia, Greece, or any part of the world and you would recognize the word **Amen**.

Amen is a Hebrew word: אָמֵן *ä-mā'n* (*Ameyn*) in Hebrew, **Ameen** in Arabic. In the LXX (Septuagint) translation of the Bible, the word Amen was not translated to Greek. The Greek New Testament adopted it from the Hebrew Old Testament without translation.

What is the meaning of Amen?

1. It means **Firm**: metaphorically **faithful**

2. **Verily**, really, in truth, so be it, let it be so.

A. At the beginning of a discourse - surely, truly, of a truth

B. At the end - so it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled.¹

Let us examine the usage of this word in the Bible.

1. Congregational Response

In the Old Testament, we see that the believers used the word Amen as a response to show affirmation of their faith.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. (Nehemiah 8:5-6 ESV)

The congregation is saying, “Amen; we agree with you; let it be; so be it; may these words be fulfilled; we affirm these words.”

2. Congregational Disapproval

In the Bible, we also find verses that curse whoever dishonors God, His commandments, his parents, or the neighbors. Here are a few examples:

“‘Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ (Deuteronomy 27:16 ESV)

“‘Cursed be anyone who misleads a blind man on the road.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’ (Deuteronomy 27:18 ESV)

3. Congregational Praise and Exaltation

**Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!
And let all the people say, “Amen!” Praise the LORD! (Psalm 106:48 ESV)**

Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen. (Psalm 89:52 ESV)

Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen! (Psalm 72:19 ESV)

In this case he, the Psalmist, is saying “Amen” for his own declaration. And I am sure the congregation would reply, “Amen and Amen.

How about in heaven?

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped. (Revelation 5:13-14 ESV)

Do you see how all creatures on earth and in heaven worship and praise God and say “Amen and Amen?”

It is good to have the congregation say “Amen” in the worship service. I have been in churches where the congregation says “Amen” for everything. One time I heard the pastor making an announcement about a car was blocking someone’s car. Then someone said, “Amen!” We have to be careful how to use this phrase. On the other hand, we in our church we do not respond usually. I ask you sometimes to reinforce the message by saying “Amen.” We should be careful not to overdo.

Paul, too, instructed the early church about their style of worship. In Corinth there was a group of believers who were using the gift of speaking in tongues during worship. Paul encouraged the interpretation of the tongues. How could anyone say “Amen” if they did not understand what was being said?

Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the

position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? (1 Corinthians 14:13-16 ESV)

4. Congregational Affirmations

Paul and the Old Testament writers believed in collective congregational worship and prayer. There is power when we are gathered in the name of the Lord. The we experience the Spirit of God in a different way when we worship together in truth and spirit. This is the Lord’s Prayer. You probably noticed that there is no single “me” or “I” in this prayer. It is all about “us” and “our” and coming together to the Lord.

Congregational affirmation is vital for the edification of the body of the Lord. Let us say someone prays during a worship service. Are you listening and joining that person in the prayer? Is his prayer yours too? Do you agree with him? Do you feel with him? Do you affirm the person? Why not say or whisper “Amen” or say it in your heart?

I understand that there is a cultural difference in our style of worship, music, words, expression, liturgy, and so on. It does not matter what background you come from, expressive or none expressive. If you are expressive, go ahead say “Amen.” If you are not expressive, say it in your heart. I will urge my congregation who is not expressive to say it in their hearts. God is calling us to be expressive in our worship (loud or silent). Our affirmation helps edify the body and focus on God. If you do not want to express publicly, express to each other after the service. AMEN, let is be, so be it. I agree, I affirm.

Paul adds to Corinthian church:

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. (2 Corinthians 1:20 ESV)

5. Christ is the AMEN

Christ has many names in the Bible. Son of David, Son of Man, Son of God, the Alpha and the Omega... and many more. In Revelation, Christ is called “the Amen.”

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. (Revelation 3:14 ESV)

Christ is called the AMEN. This means in Christ all God’s promises have been fulfilled. **Christ is God’s “Amen”. And God says “Amen” through Christ.** He is the Amen, he is the “Let it be,” he is the promise.

In His Name I pray my prayers:

Through Christ I know God the Father, abba, because of Jesus I know my father

Through Christ I know God’s identity, so that my identity is shaped in Him, by Him.

Through Christ I find God’s Kingdom all over me. I am part of that kingdom, I find my real identity, my purpose and my real citizenship.

Through Christ I know God’s will and personally God’s will for my life

Through Christ I was provided with daily bread, with my needs, not only mine but OURS

Through Christ I was freed from guilt of sin. I experienced Jesus Christ who died for my sins and rose so that I will be COMFORTED.

Through Christ I learned to forgive others, not only to forgive but learned how reconcile with others.

Through Christ God the Father shielded me from the temptations of The Devil who wants to devour me. I have protection from my God.

As a response to “the Amen,” open the door of your soul and he will come and provide the bread of life, the daily bread, the living water, the shield against the Evil One. He will take away all the guilt, the shame, the debts and sins.

Amen is the final word in the Lord’s Prayer.

Application:

I asked you to respond to these sermons. What did you learn? Do you pray the Lord's Prayer in a different way? Any testimonies about any topic that touched your life?

-Badveli you were right, the Lord's Prayer was becoming rote and I wasn't thinking about what I was saying. It is so powerful now and meaningful as I focus on what I am saying. Abba – Daddy made God so close and embracing and accessible. Give us our daily bread- Plural – Don't just as for yourself but others to receive also. It is not a selfish prayer. Forgive us AS we forgive others! That tiny word AS has the most difficult job for us to do. We easily can be so grateful God forgives us but to turn around and forgive others is such a challenge. Kevin's sermon on forgiveness and reconciliation really helped with the command to do so. I am really working on this part of the prayer .How can we say we love God and others if we don't start working on the various components of the prayer we are struggling with?

-The practical steps for forgiveness were helpful and realizing that everyone is in the same situation and that forgiveness is difficult for everyone, but is necessary and when it is done it relieves a great burden.

- The past weeks of learning about the Lords Prayer has brought me closer before God. Recognizing God daily in prayer gives me a liberated spiritual life on earth. Gods love has been on display in profound ways at worship services, memorial services, mission prayer services, basketball fellowship. God has met me personally at temptations and delivered me from evil. Better to be Shanoork than a Veraj.

- Thy Will Be Done: Knowing that God's will is best for me has moved me to realize I have a purpose beyond my job at my workplace. Each day on my drive to work, I pray that God' love will be present and will shine through me throughout the day. There is a peace that carries me through even the most hectic days with this understanding.

Let us end this sermon series. It is up to you what to do with Lord's Prayer.

Please sing Hayr Mer with your mind, with your soul, with your life. PLEASE sing with praise, adoration, confession, and worship in spirit and in truth.

Go, and may God's blessings be on you. Go and PRAY AMEN