

# "AMEN"

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The Lord's Prayer, Summer 2023: Matthew 6:9-13

August 27, 2023

*Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.*

*Let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD.*

Psalm 106:48 (see also 1 Chronicles 16:36 and the endings of Psalms 42, 72 and 89)

## Ending with "Amen"

*"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven . . . .*

*"This, then is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,*

<sup>10</sup> *your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

<sup>11</sup> *Give us today our daily bread.*

<sup>12</sup> *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

<sup>13</sup> *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one,*

*for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.' "*

Matthew 6 (including alternate ending noted in the NIV)

*These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.*

Revelation 3:14 (see Spurgeon's sermon on this text)

## Heidelberg Catechism, Part III: Gratitude, Lord's Day 52

Q 129. What does that little word "Amen" express?

A. "Amen" means: This shall truly and surely be! It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer than that I really desire what I pray for.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Isa. 65:24; 2 Cor. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:13

Thinking about the "Amen"

1. Doug has the same reasons for including the "Amen" as for including the doxology, only more so
2. "Amen" is an essential part of our doxological worship
3. The Heidelberg Catechism is correct – "Amen" is the "let it be" of our prayers, but the second part of this response may be more important!
4. Even the "Amen" looks forward to Jesus, God's most important revelation and final word

## **A short history of Amen**

<sup>14</sup> *The Levites shall recite to all the people of Israel in a loud voice:*

<sup>15</sup> *“Cursed is the man who carves an image or casts an idol—a thing detestable to the LORD, the work of the craftsman’s hands—and sets it up in secret.”*

*Then all the people shall say, “Amen!”*

Deuteronomy 27

<sup>34</sup> *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.*

<sup>35</sup> *Cry out, “Save us, O God our Savior;  
gather us and deliver us from the nations,  
that we may give thanks to your holy name,  
that we may glory in your praise.”*

<sup>36</sup> *Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.*

*Then all the people said “Amen” and “Praise the LORD.”*

1 Corinthians 16 (and that wonderful connection to Psalm 106)

<sup>5</sup> *Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah before the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> He said, “Amen! May the LORD do so! May the LORD fulfill the words you have prophesied by bringing the articles of the LORD’s house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people . . . .*

Jeremiah 28

<sup>5</sup> *Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. <sup>6</sup> Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.*

Nehemiah 8

<sup>17</sup> *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.*

Matthew 5

<sup>33</sup> *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!*

*How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!*

<sup>34</sup> *“Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”*

<sup>35</sup> *“Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?”*

<sup>36</sup> *For from him and through him and to him are all things.*

*To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

Romans 11

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they sang:

*“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise!”*

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

*“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”*

<sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 4

<sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. <sup>19</sup> And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

<sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

Revelation 22

What we learn from this history

1. “Amen” seems to be an essential part of the worship of God’s people

Doug’s question: What is the best contemporary expression of “Amen”

2. There is great value in the embodied response of God’s people (see the Exodus 24 pattern)

Doug’s question: How can we better incorporate this liturgical theme in our worship

3. “Amen” is part of the song of the throne room

Doug’s question: How are doxology and “Amen” preparing us for the worship of heaven?

## To what can the church say “Amen” today

And now let us all examine ourselves, and see whether we really desire to have the things which we are taught to ask for in the Lord's Prayer. Thousands, it may be feared, repeat these words daily as a form, but never consider what they are saying. They care nothing for the "glory," the "kingdom," or the "will" of God. They have no sense of dependence, sinfulness, weakness, or danger. They have no love or charity towards their enemies. And yet they repeat the Lord's Prayer! These things ought not to be so. May we resolve that, by God's help, our hearts shall go together with our lips! Happy is he who can really call God his Father through Jesus Christ his Savior, and can therefore say a heart felt "Amen" to all that the Lord's Prayer contains.

J.C. Ryles

### 1. Say “Amen” to grace in the church

<sup>7</sup> *The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.*  
<sup>8</sup> *Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.* <sup>9</sup> *Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.* <sup>10</sup> *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.* <sup>11</sup> *If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

1 Peter 4

### 2. Say “Amen” to the authority of “this book”

<sup>18</sup> *I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.* <sup>19</sup> *And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.*

<sup>20</sup> *He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

<sup>21</sup> *The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.*

Revelation 22

### 3. Say “Amen” for the gift of confidence in what God has already said

<sup>5</sup> *Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah before the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD.* <sup>6</sup> *He said, “Amen! May the LORD do so! May the LORD fulfill the words you have prophesied by bringing the articles of the LORD's house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon.* <sup>7</sup> *Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people . . . .”*

Jeremiah 28

## Resources for further study

The poster for Matthew does a good job of showing the 5 Parts of the gospel, reflecting a “new Torah”, can be found at <https://bibleproject.com/downloads/posters/>

Ryle has a commentary of Matthew 6 at <https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/m06.htm>

J. C. Ryle also has a wonderful study of how believers should respond to the disciplining work of God at <https://www.monergism.com/finger-god>

Here are some of our growing number of prayer resources:

The CRCNA’s Prayer Guide illustrates how to use the Lord’s Prayer as a guide to corporate prayer at [https://www.crcna.org › files › the\\_lords\\_prayer](https://www.crcna.org › files › the_lords_prayer)

Kevin DeYoung’s article at <https://www.crossway.org/articles/what-does-it-mean-to-pray-your-kingdom-come/>

Lora Copely’s “Extraordinary Prayer” article at <https://www.abideproject.org/articles/extraordinary-prayer>

Becket Cook’s story of his mother’s prayer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFWl9eWkmWg>

Kevin DeYoung has a great introduction to Christian worship at <https://clearlyreformed.org/worship-as-covenant-renewal/> and his summary of Reformed worship is very helpful at <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/a-theology-of-worship/>

D.G. Hart’s essay on “Reforming Worship” at <https://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=08-04-017-f&readcode=&readtherest=true#therest>

Spurgeon has a wonderful sermon on “The Amen” at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-amen/#flipbook/>

R.C. Sproul has a wonderful essay on worship at <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/how-should-we-then-worship>

I like [this interview with Tim Keller](#) on what it takes to worship well

In this Getty team video, [John Lennox shows how our minds are hardwired](#) for singing and doxology

Larry Stockstill has a good summary of the pattern of the Lord’s Prayer at <https://larrystockstill.com/blog/prayer-template>

Keller has a good listen at <https://gospelinlife.com/downloads/the-upside-down-kingdom-5106/> or the .pdf version at <https://www.scribd.com/document/258555474/Upside-Down-Kingdom-Tim-Keller>

Keller also has an 8-part series on the Lord’s Prayer on .mp3 at <https://www.monergism.com/lords-prayer-8-part-mp3-sermon-series>

[Monergism.com](#) has many resources on the Sermon on the Mount at <https://www.monergism.com/topics/sermon-manuscripts-mp3s-scripture/matthew/sermon-mount-ch-5-7>

Bob Deffinbaugh has a sermon on this passage at <https://bible.org/seriespage/fatal-failures-religion-3-externalism-matthew-61-18>

Spurgeon has an interesting prayer take is at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-secret-of-power-in-prayer/#flipbook/>

