

LESSON 10 Jesus Christ, the Lord

There are always some people in society who have authority over others. Government officials, policemen, foremen, managers, bosses, and parents all expect—and sometimes demand—obedience. Society was no different at the time Jesus was born. The Romans ruled the world then. Herod sat on the throne in Palestine, and Roman armies kept his position secure.

When news of Jesus' birth and rumors that He had been born King of the Jews reached Herod's ears, Herod was furious. He tried to kill this new king but did not succeed. Jesus lived to fulfill His mission on earth. He offered no visible challenge to the political order. Yet He claimed that His destiny was not only to die but also to reign. He said that all authority in heaven and earth had been given to Him. But what has happened? Rome was not overthrown by the Christians. Jesus went back to heaven, and today the world is full of dictators, tyrants, and oppressors. How is He Lord? What kind of authority does He have? When will He rule over everything? These are the questions this lesson answers.

The Plan

- A. Jesus's Authority as Lord
- B. Proof of Authority
- C. Jesus Recognized as Lord

The Goals

1. Explain what the title *Lord* says about who Jesus is.
2. List the ways in which Jesus proved His authority while on earth.
3. Describe Jesus's Lordship now and in the future.

A. JESUS'S AUTHORITY AS LORD

Do you believe in Jesus as your Lord who rose from the dead? This is extremely important. Your spiritual life depends on it.

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

Title of Authority

Goal 1. Explain what the title *Lord* says about who Jesus is.

What did people mean when they called Jesus "Lord"? Paul specifically called Jesus "Lord" over 90 times. What does it mean to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved? Why does God say that every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord?

Kurios, the Greek word translated "Lord" in the New Testament, was the title of authority. People used it to show respect. It could be simply a form of polite address, like the English word *sir*. The head of the family was the lord of his house. Slaves called their master lord. Subjects recognized their ruler as their lord.

Kurios was also a title of worship given to the gods of many religions, as well as to Jehovah, the true God. In this sense, the

Bible uses the title Lord for both God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. To call Jesus *Lord* is to recognize His deity, His union with His Father, His supreme authority over the universe, and His right to rule our lives.

When Jesus is our Lord, we report to Him for orders and receive His instructions. We take everything to Him in prayer. His Word is our manual for daily living. We do not have to worry about anything. Our Lord has all power, He knows all things, and He loves us. All we have to do is trust Him and obey.

Application

- 1 Memorize Romans 10:9.
- 2 When we call Jesus “Lord,” we recognize His
 - a) deity and authority.
 - b) friendship and love.
 - c) wisdom and knowledge.



B. PROOF OF AUTHORITY

Goal 2. List ways in which Jesus proved His authority while on earth.

Jesus proved His authority in His teachings. He amazed people by the absolute confidence with which He revealed truths about God and human life. He called himself the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus proved His authority over nature. He walked on the stormy waves. His words, “Peace, be still,” calmed a tempest. He changed water into wine. He fed 5,000 men, “besides women and children” (Matthew 14:21), with five loaves of bread and two fish.

Jesus proved His authority over disease and death. At His touch, the deaf heard, the blind saw, the crippled walked. He called the dead back to life. He died and rose again.

Jesus proved His moral authority. He lived a sinless life. He established the best code of ethics ever known. He made ruined lives beautiful, pure, and useful. He was a perfect leader.

Jesus proved His spiritual authority. He forgave sins. He drove evil spirits out of their victims. He did the works of His Father and revealed God to humanity. He went back to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to His church.

Jesus proved His authority over His church. As Lord, He sent His followers out to evangelize the world and gave them supernatural power with which to do it. He backs us up with all the authority of heaven as we obey His orders.

“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.” (John 13:13)

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18–20)

Application

3 Jesus overcame all temptations and lived a perfect life on earth. This showed His authority in the area of

- a)** morality.
- b)** nature.
- c)** spirituality.

4 Jesus proved His authority in His teachings by

- a)** healing a woman who was crippled and bent over.
- b)** saying that He is the only way to the Father.
- c)** telling His disciples to go everywhere and make disciples.



C. JESUS RECOGNIZED AS LORD

Goal 3. Describe Jesus's Lordship now and in the future.

On earth today, the church recognizes Jesus as Lord. In heaven, He is above all spiritual powers. And someday the whole world will acknowledge Him as its rightful Ruler and Lord.

Which he [God] exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church. (Ephesians 1:20–22)

Head of the Church

All those who accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord are members of His church. The Bible says that Jesus is our Head and the church is His body. We have studied the privileges of union with Christ. We can enjoy them fully only to the extent that we give Jesus first place in our lives. The head must guide the body; the body must not guide the head. Each member has its own place and function in the body. We should all work together for the good of the body and to carry out the purpose of Christ our Head.

Christ existed before all things, and in union with him all things have their proper place. He is the head of his body, the church; he is the source of the body's life. He is the first-born Son, who was raised from death, in order that he alone might have the first place in all things. (Colossians 1:17–18)

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We

have different gifts, according to the grace given us. (Romans 12:5–6)

We obey Him in all things. That is part of what being in the body of Christ means. It is not society's ideas, but Christ's plan for the church that we follow. Wherever we go we follow His plan: at home, at work, and at play. This shows those around us that He is Lord. One day we will stand before Him. We will not be judged for our sins, because those have been forgiven. But He will examine our lives and how we lived them.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

The word *bema* was used for the judgment seat of a Roman ruler. In a Roman city, it did not matter what people said if a person's action was approved at the bema seat. The word the Bible uses for the judgment seat of Christ is *bema*. In this way, Christians live in this world to serve their Lord, Jesus Christ. What others think is not important. Jesus's assessment of our lives is what matters.

The Bible gives examples of people faced with rules and customs that go against what is right. Making decisions can be hard, even deadly. Make sure you understand where Christ's commands may be in conflict with the demands of your society, if that is truly the case. Jesus said how His followers should be:

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)

Remember that you are a citizen of His kingdom and part of His body. If you obey Him as your Lord now, your life will please Him. What a wonderful reward His approval will be! What a shame, though, if we suffer needlessly.

Application

- 5** The Bible says that one day Christ will judge us in order to
- a)** decide which of our sins we must pay for.
 - b)** see whether or not we deserve to be saved.
 - c)** give us the rewards we have earned.
- 6** People can see that Jesus is Lord today especially when Christians
- a)** build beautiful church buildings.
 - b)** obey Jesus in everything.
 - c)** overthrow evil rulers by force.
- 7** Is Jesus truly your Lord? Are you living in harmony with your brothers and sisters as part of the body, the church? Ask Him to help you obey Him as your Lord in everything.



King of Kings and Lord of Lords

We have seen that Jesus is Lord today over the church and in the lives of Christians. But to complete the picture of who He is, we must look into the future. There we may see Him in His full glory, coming to reign over everything.

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:7–8)

Jesus is the first—the beginning and the source of reality. Jesus is also the last—the One who will bring about the fulfillment of God’s eternal purpose. He will cause all things to fit together as they should. He will conquer all evil and reign forever as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The Bible says that before Jesus returns, the earth will be filled with wars, epidemics, earthquakes, famines, polluted waters, fish dying, crops destroyed, and political oppression. The words of the Bible are true. Today we see these things happening all around us. But one day, a great change will occur.

Jesus Christ will come to take possession of the world. He has a double right to reign: He created the world, and He redeemed the world with His blood. In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, we see a throne in heaven. In the center of that throne is a Lamb. The Lamb is Jesus Christ, the one who gave His life to save us. He will reign!

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” (Revelation 21:3–5)

In this short course you cannot study all of Jesus’ titles or read all about His wonderful kingdom. However, we hope you know Jesus better now than you did and that you love Him more. We pray that you may know Him better every day as you wait for His return. Then someday when He comes, you will see Him face to face, know Him as He really is, and be able to join in the universal song of praise to the Lamb of God.

John described the vision God gave him of those who were singing to the Lamb.

And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a

kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” 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.

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!”

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!” (Revelation 5:9–13)

Application

8 Write the number for the title of Jesus (right) beside the phrase which best explains its meaning (left).

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| ... a Deity | 1) Kurios |
| ... b Director of the church | 2) The First and the Last |
| ... c Lord and Master | 3) The Head of the Body |
| ... d One who fulfills all of God’s purposes | 4) The Lamb of God |
| ... e Sacrifice for sins | |

9 The book of Revelation shows us a Lamb on the throne of heaven. This helps us to understand that the One who will rule everything is also the One who

- a)** died as a sacrifice.
- b)** lived a good life.
- c)** taught spiritual truths.

- 10** We will see the fullness of Jesus as Lord, when we look to the
- a)** past before He came to earth.
 - b)** present as He rules the church.
 - c)** future as He reigns in glory.

11 You have studied reasons why Jesus deserves your obedience and worship as Lord. Read Revelation 5:9–13 as your testimony and song of praise to Him.



Check Your Answers

- 6 b)** obey Jesus in everything.
- 2 a)** deity and authority.
- 8 a** 1) *Kurios*
 - b** 3) The Head of the Body
 - c** 1) *Kurios*
 - d** 2) The First and the Last
 - e** 4) The Lamb of God
- 3 a)** morality.
- 9 a)** died as a sacrifice.
- 4 b)** saying that He is the only way to the Father.
- 10 c)** future as He reigns in glory.
- 5 c)** give us the rewards we have earned.

CONGRATULATIONS

You have finished this course. We hope that it has been a great help to you! Remember to complete the second Unit Evaluation and return the answer sheet to your instructor