

“Jesus Is Lord” Study Guide

Understanding 1.3

Do any of us really comprehend what we’re saying when we say, “Lord Jesus” or “Jesus Is Lord”?

This Study Guide is intended to answer three basic questions:

- 1) Where did the title “LORD” come from?
- 2) What does “Lord” mean?
- 3) Why do we call Jesus “Lord”?

Where did LORD come from?

As the Bible begins, the name “God” is used in the first verse of the first chapter of the first book:

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

The name of God represents God’s authority, his power, and his character. The name “God” is a concentrated way of describing what is truly indescribable - the person of God.

The word used to translate “God” in Genesis 1:1 is “Elohim.” The name “Elohim” represents the infinite, all-powerful God who shows by His works that He is the creator, sustainer, and supreme judge of the world.

Does God consider His name to be important? God considers His name to be sacred. God’s name is to be treated with the utmost reverence. Perhaps you remember this from the ten commandments:

Exodus 20:7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

God’s name is accompanied by a second name or title in Genesis 2. The title “LORD” is added to the name Elohim. Beginning in Genesis 2 and going forward to the end of Revelation, God is referred to as not just “God”, but “LORD God.” Here’s the first occurrence:

Genesis 2:4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

The word used to translate “LORD” is “Yahweh.” So, God is identified by two names – Yahweh and Elohim – translated as “LORD GOD.”

Question: If Elohim identifies God as infinite and all-powerful, what does Yahweh mean?

Yahweh is a name that God gives Himself in Exoduse 3:14. The bush is burning. Moses asks God what His name is and God answers, “I AM” – “Yahweh.” Yahweh literally means “I exist – past present and future – I exist.” The name Yahweh represents the fact that God Himself is the only One in all creations that exists without any other force to sustain His existence.

We can’t say that of ourselves right? You’re going to die. You and I are mortal just like the flowers and trees and birds and bees, etc.. None of us exist in and of ourselves. Our lives must be sustained by God for us to continue to exist. Only God can call Himself “I AM” or “Yahweh” because His is the only self-sustained life in existence.

TOO DEEP? Ok ... don’t worry ... here’s the point as it pertains to the title LORD

In ancient Jewish thinking (and even in modern times), the name “Yahweh” was revered with an intense reverence. In fact, God’s Person and Character and Authority and Power were so concentrated in the name “Yahweh” that the Jews refused to say the word out loud. Despite the fact that “Yahweh” is used in the Old Testament over six thousand times, the name “Yahweh” became viewed as too holy to speak.

So, when scripture was read aloud, when they came to the name “Yahweh”, they used the word “Adonai” or “Lord” as a substitute for “Yahweh.” This practice is still followed by many today. “Adonai” or “Lord” took the place of “Yahweh” when scripture was read aloud. Most modern Bible translations adhere to this practice as well. When you see the word “LORD” in all capitals in your Bible, the name “Yahweh” is being translated as “LORD.” Got it? So that’s where the title “Lord” comes from

CLARIFICATION!!! – When you see the word LORD in all capitals in your Bible, the divine name “Yahweh” is being translated ... BUT ... if you see the word “Lord” without all capital letters, it is translating “Adon.” “Adon” can be used for several common names.

“Lord” (“Adon”) is used commonly of Kings. Someone might say, “My Lord,” when speaking to a King. Or a servant might call his master, “Lord.” “Lord” can be translated as “Sir,” “Master,” “Boss,” “Ruler,” “Owner,” etc. There are occasions when the Bible uses the lower case “Lord” to refer to God as well. For instance, “Lord of lords” is a direct reference to God with the lower case spelling. Context is key in these instances.

Now you know where the word “Lord” came from and how it is used. Next let’s look at how “Lord” is defined by the Bible:

WHO IS THE CREATOR?

Genesis 2:7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

WHO IS A JEALOUS CONSUMING FIRE?

Deuteronomy 4:24 For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

WHO OWNS ALL THERE IS?

Deuteronomy 10:14 Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

WHO IS GOD ALONE?

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

WHO IS KING?

Psalms 10:16 The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.

WHO IS RIGHTEOUS?

Psalms 11:7 For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

WHO IS STRONG AND MIGHTY?

Psalms 24:8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

WHO IS MOST HIGH AND SHOULD BE FEARED?

Psalms 47:2 For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

WHO IS THE SAVIOR?

Psalm 88:1 O LORD, God of my salvation; I cry out day and night before you.

WHO IS THE JUDGE?

Psalm 98:9 before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

WHO IS HOLY?

Psalm 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy!

WHO IS MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS?

Psalm 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

WHO IS GREATLY TO BE PRAISED?

Psalm 145:3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

WHO HAS POWER AND UNDERSTANDING?

Psalm 147:5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

WHO IS GOOD AND FORGIVING AND ABOUNDING IN LOVE?

Psalm 86:5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

In summary, the Lord is the Creator, Jealous, Sovereign, the only God, King, the Righteous One, Strong, Mighty, Most High, to be Feared, Savior, Judge, Holy, Merciful, Gracious, greatly to be Praised, Powerful, Wise, Good, Forgiving, and Abounding in Love!

Now that we've explored several characteristics of the Lord, let's look at how all these characteristics are attributed to the person of Jesus as Lord in the New Testament. **JESUS IS LORD** according to the New Testament. In fact, the attributes of God Himself are all applied to the Person of Jesus. While many may understand that Jesus is a carpenter's son from Nazareth, the Bible wants to make sure we understand that Jesus is Lord.

Jesus is declared to be Lord here:

Acts 10:36 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),

Most of the New Testament letters address Jesus as Lord:L

1 Corinthians 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

Romans 1:7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,
1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
2 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
1 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
2 Timothy 1:2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
Philemon 1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

Jesus Himself confirms that He is the Lord:

John 13:13 You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am.

Jesus receives worship from Thomas when Thomas worships Him as Lord:

John 20:28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

The Conclusion?

Jesus, the Lord, is the creator.

Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Jesus, the Lord, is the sustainer of life.

Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Jesus, the Lord, is God alone.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jesus, the Lord, is the Righteous One.

Acts 7:52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,

Jesus, the Lord, is the Savior.

2 Peter 1:11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus, the Lord, is the Judge.

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:

Jesus, the Lord, is the Holy One.

Acts 4:27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

Jesus, the Lord, forgives sin.

Mark 2:5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

But just because we know Jesus is Lord doesn't mean we'll be with Him in heaven

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

The Lord Jesus commands us to do God's will ... and what does God want?

Acts 16:31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

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

EVERY HUMAN BEING WILL ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS AS LORD

Philippians 2:9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Study Guide Question:

- 1) What name is translated LORD in most of our Bibles?
- 2) What name is translated Lord?
- 3) Name four characteristics of the Lord.
- 4) There are many who will use the name of the Lord Jesus to do great works but they won't spend eternity with Jesus in His kingdom (see Mt. 7:21 ff.) Who will spend eternity with Lord Jesus?
- 5) How has your life changed since you came under the rule of Lord Jesus?