

## CHRIST THE LORD

**Luke 2:11; Isaiah 9:6-7**

**Introduction:** Titles used of people in the Bible times have little meaning in our time and most people today don't have the slightest idea of the significance of the words "king" or "lord." There would be an entirely different attitude toward Jesus if Christians understood the real meaning of those two words.

When the three wise men came from the East they came saying *"...where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him..."* The word "king" upset Herod so greatly that he had all male children under two years of age killed hoping to eliminate this suspected future king.

The title "king" in Bible days has little, if any meaning in our time for a "king" in those days exercised authority over a nation, over countless people and according to the "king's" wishes people lived, died or prospered. During Christmas season, it would do us all good if we could make some kind of positive response to the title of "king" or "lord" which was bestowed upon Jesus at His birth.

There are few words in our religious vocabulary where the meaning has suffered a greater loss than the word "LORD." It is a Title! Not a "name." We need to understand the meaning of "LORD" so that we might respond to the LORD Jesus in a proper manner.

The Greek word **kurios** is a word with many meanings and will help the believer understand the person and ministry of Jesus Christ better.

### I. "KURIOS" - LORD WAS THE NORMAL ADDRESS OF RESPECT

1. In today's languages similar words would be: "Sir" in English; "Herr" in German; "Monsieur in French; "Senor" in Spanish.
  - Is there any word today that stands out as a word of "respect?"

### II. "KURIOS" - LORD WAS ALSO A TITLE OF AUTHORITY

1. It was a title of distinction indicated between the master and a slave.
  - In Bible days, slavery was a universal practice and the population was either free people or slaves.
  - The slave's owner was a **kurios** - master. A master could command his slaves, he could buy slaves or he could sell his slaves. The slave was at the command of his **kurios** - master.
2. Jesus used this word "**kurios**" to distinguish the slave from his master: *"...No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon..."*
3. The same title, word "**kurios**" - **Lord**" was used by the angels that announced the babe was born in Bethlehem indicated that He was the One who would have the right to command.
  - Christians of today fail to recognize and respond to this basic fact about Jesus.
  - The captain of a ship has the right to command. He is the executive officer over everything that happens on the ship. At his command the ship leaves port and follows his chosen course. The captain is **kurios** - **lord**.
  - The same principle applies to a military officer. He is in authority over people. He is in command. Those under his command respond and obey.

- The angels announced: "*...Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the LORD...*" How often are we, Christians, guilty of failing to obey the very one ordained to be our **KURIOS - Lord and Master?**

### **III. KURIOS - LORD IS USED TO DESCRIBE ABSOLUTE POSSESSION OR OWNERSHIP**

1. The man who owned a house, field, animals, or a slave was a **Lord**. The very word Jesus used in describing the owner of a vineyard - **kurios**, this word is also used to describe the owner of the colt upon which Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
2. When the angels announced the birth of Jesus as being **Lord**, they were actually introducing Jesus as the **owner of all things**.
3. "*...He came unto His own, and His own received Him not...*" Jesus came to His own people and they refused to accept Him or respond to Him.
  - Israel's tragic response to Jesus has been repeated over and over through the centuries by nation after nation.
  - When the **Lord** is rejected and people are left to their own resources, Jesus loses His proper perspective in their lives.

### **IV. KURIOS - LORD WAS USED TO DENOTE ONE WHO SERVED AS A GUARDIAN**

1. In the Biblical world legal rights were denied to women. To engage in any business affairs or hold property, a woman had to have a "**guardian**" who could be husband, brother, distant relative, but it had to be a man and he would protect the rights of the woman.
2. Jesus is also the believer's **Guardian as well as Savior and Redeemer**. Jesus protects us from others and from Satan. Jesus is the **guardian** who has promised to be with us throughout all the days of our lives on earth.

### **V. KURIOS-LORD WAS THE STANDARD TITLE OF THE ROMAN EMPERORS**

1. The title implies sovereignty, power and authority for the **emperor** issued orders and decrees.
2. The title "**emperor**" summed up one's authority similar to the way "**president**" sums up the office as a police officer serves by virtue of his oath and uniform. However the **emperor** of Bible days exercised his authority far more often and extensively than any present ruler.
3. The angel's announcement of Jesus' birth carried the idea that Jesus Christ was to exercise this kind of authority over the souls of people. For us to recognize this, perhaps it will help us understand why Herod was so intent on eliminating all male children under two years of age near Bethlehem.

## VI. THE OLD TESTAMENT NAME FOR GOD IS THE SAME AS "KURIOS"

1. The highest meaning of the word "**kurios**"- **Lord** is the Old Testament meaning. It is the word used by the Hebrews (Israel) to describe the one considered to be their God.
  - The angels were announcing that the eternal God of the Hebrews (Israel) had chosen to come to earth as a natural born baby, birth by a woman. God had chosen to become a human being and dwell among His people.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Can you say from your heart to Jesus, "**...You are MY kurios - Lord, my Master, my Owner, my Guardian, my emperor?**"
2. Can you say with doubting Thomas, "*...My Lord and my God...?*" When a believer allows Jesus to be **kurios - Lord** of his/her life, Jesus becomes **Savior**.
3. If we really want to understand the meaning of the "**Lordship of Jesus Christ**" then we must yield to the sovereignty of Jesus Christ as **kurios, LORD**.