

CHRIST THE LORD

Luke 2:11; Isaiah 9:6-7

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: The three wise men from the East came in search of the babe, 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...*" (*Matthew 2:2*). Using the word "king" caused Herod to become jealous and fearful, causing him to slaughter all the male children under the age of two years.

The title "king" had a significance that has little importance today but then a king exercised authority over a nation and that nation either prospered or perished under his leadership. "King" means little today for there are very few who wear that title and exercise authority over a nation.

There are few words in our own religious vocabulary that have suffered a greater loss than the original meaning of the word "Lord." It means practically nothing today other than maybe just a "title." However we need to understand the real meaning of "Lord" so that we might properly respond to the person whose birth we celebrate called "Christmas." "Savior" is that which He came to accomplish for us and thus the title properly assigned to the Lord Jesus.

The Greek word *kurios* (**lord**) has several meanings and each will help us understand a little more about the "Lord" Jesus.

I. *KURIOS-LORD* was the normal address of respect.

1. Today the term used is "sir" in English, "herr" in German, "monsieur" in French and "senor" in Spanish.

II. *KURIOS-LORD* was a title of authority.

1. By this title a distinction was indicated between the master and a slave.
2. Jesus used this word to distinguish the slave from his master - (*Luke 16:13*)
3. This title "Kurios-Lord" which the angels gave the Babe who was born in Bethlehem, indicated that He was the One who would have the right to command.
 - The Captain of a ship has the right to command - Kurios-Lord.
 - The Commanding Officer of a military base has the right to command - Kurios-Lord.
 - "...*Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord...*"
4. Are you guilty of rebellion against Him whom God ordained to be our Kurios-Lord?

III. *KURIOS-LORD* is used to describe absolute possession or ownership.

1. He who owned a house, field, animal or a slave was a Lord.
 - Jesus used that same word in *Luke 20:13* in describing the owner of a vineyard - *kurios*.
 - Again the same word used to describe the owner of the colt Jesus rode on going into Jerusalem.
2. When the angels announced that Jesus Christ is Lord, they were introducing Him as "owner" of all things.
3. "...*He came unto His own, and His own received Him not...*" (*John 1:11*)
 - Jesus came to His own people and they refused to recognize or respond to Him.
 - This has been repeated over and over through the centuries.
 - Jesus came to You, what has been your reaction?

IV. *KURIOS*-LORD was used to denote one who served as a guardian.

1. In Jesus' day, legal rights were denied to women so a woman had to have a "guardian."
 - The guardian for a woman could be her husband, a brother, or a distant relative.
 - The rights of the unfortunate were protected by a "guardian."
2. Jesus is our Guardian, Savior, and Redeemer.
 - He protects us from ourselves but also from Satan and his evil forces.
 - Jesus has promised to be with us throughout all of our days in all of our ways. (*Psalm 23*)

V. *KURIOS*-LORD was the standard of the Roman emperors.

1. By means of this title, the emperor issued orders and decrees. When he would issue an edict, order or proclamation, he would sign it with his signature and the title "*kurios*."
2. This title summed up his authority in the same way that a president does by virtue of his office or a police officer by virtue of his oath, uniform and badge.
 - The angelic announcement of the Christ child's birth carried the idea that Christ was to exercise this kind of authority over the souls of men.
 - For us to recognize this, may help us to understand why Herod was so concerned to the extent that he eliminated all male children under the age of two in the area of Bethlehem.

VI. "LORD" was used regularly as the name of Israel's God in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible for "*KURIOS*."

1. The eternal God had chosen to enter the real of human activity through a virgin. God had chosen to clothe Himself in human flesh and dwell among men to reveal His divine love, mercy, grace, power and purpose for all mankind.
2. "Lord" is the highest meaning of the word "*kurios*" and it is used of Him whom the Hebrews considered to be their God.

CONCLUSION:

1. Can you honestly say to Jesus, "You are my Master, and I will be obedient to you as a devoted slave?" Can you honestly say, "You are my Owner, and I will let you occupy every portion and position of my life?" Can you say, "You are my Guardian upon whom I depend for protection and guidance?" Are you willing to say to Jesus, "You are my Emperor, and because you loved me enough to die for me I want to be faithful to you in living a life dedicated to the growth of your Kingdom?"
2. Can you say with Thomas to Jesus, "*...My Lord and my God?*" (*John 20:28*)
 - When Jesus becomes Lord of our lives, He becomes our Savior bringing us an inward assurance of peace and helps us to relate to others in a way that produces peace among them.
3. If we are to really observe Christmas in the right manner, we must yield our total lives to Jesus Christ, who alone is ***KURIOS-LORD!***