

Jesus is Lord

John 8:48-59

Who is Jesus of Nazareth?

It is one of the most debated questions of Philosophy. An even better question is who does He claim to be? What we think about Him only matters if He really is who He claims to be. If He is who He says He is, then our response is the only response in life that really matters.

John 8:58, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am"*

This is Christ's claim to fame! His declaration of Deity, His lauding His lordship! His followers believed Him. Their greeting was, "Jesus is Lord." It is affirmed by the Apostle's who made Christ's lordship the pre-requisite for salvation and the forgiveness of sins. Paul declared:

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

Acts 16:31 *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved."*

I. The significance of Jesus as Lord

Etymology:

1. Old Testament= Hebrew, "adon" Gen. 45:8=Ruler or commander; a master of slaves.

It is a term of respect like English "Sir" Gen 44:18

2. Adonai= 130 times in O. T.

It is used only for the proper name for God of Israel.

1) JHVH= name given to Moses on Sinai, a name so sacred, not to be spoken

Lev. 22:31-33

2) When Torah is read in public= Adonai replaces JHVH

3) Eng. =Jehovah comes from a combination of consonants & vowels.(JHVH)

II. Septuagint: = uses Gr. "Kurios" to replace JHVH & Adonai

1. To the Greek speaking Jews of Christ's day, only God is Kurios. "Call no man Lord!"

2. Kurios= very similar to Heb. = Adon

Master, ruler, sir = One in authority over you. In Swahili=Bwana Jesu!

Owner=Mark 12:9

Master=Matt. 9:38, Luke 12:46

Sir= Matt. 21:29, John 12:21

Kings=Caesar is Kurios (God), Augustus is Lord (kurios) Emperor

Pagan gods= called kurios see **1 Cor 8:6** "only one God, and only one lord"

Note: Paul, an ex-rabbi is calling Jesus "Lord"=deity equal to God (JHVH)

3. Paul boldly applies Old Test. Passages to Christ that are referring to JHVH where Lord meant =God! See **Rom. 10:13** is a quote from **Joel 2:32**

4. Paul's total use of kurios always means nothing less than Deity in the Jewish sense. To Paul Jesus is the Kurios Jesus Christ= title!

III. Where did the idea of Jesus as Lord develop?

Mark's gospel never uses the term.. Why? Because it is early gospel & its purpose is to present Jesus as the Miracle worker to reach the lost Greek/Roman culture. It would offend a Greek to say blatantly, "Jesus is lord."

1. It came from Jesus himself:

During Jesus lifetime= John 13:13 "call me teacher & lord"= respect only

Luke 6:46 "*Why do you call me lord, and don't do the things I ask you to do.*"

John 8:58= direct claim to equality with JHVH

2. First evidence that His Jewish Disciples began to see Him as Lord/Deity

John 20:20 "*Rejoiced when they saw the Lord.*"= post resurrection praise, 70 yrs later.

3. Thomas in upper room

"*My Lord and my God*" **John 20:28**= Highest tribute to Deity a Jew can give!

4. Paul's Christology= Jesus is Deity and Lord of All.= Phil. 2:11, Col. 1:14-1

Summary: Jesus is as much Lord as Jehovah God= take off your shoes, in His presence you are on holy ground!