

Names of God from the Bible

24 – Lord of lords

All God's Names are eternal names – so He is still Lord of lords for us today.

Reading: 1 Timothy 6: 11 – 16

Coming from England I am used to seeing many lords. They fill the House of Lords, and are prominent in political circles and on royal events. Some are esteemed judges.

When I was working in the banking industry, I would meet some from time to time. People who, through birth, achievement or national recognition, were bestowed with the title. Commoners, like me, were expected to defer to them and honour them in every way, and I have no problems with that.

However, their title does not determine their character. Some of the lords, I am aware of, have been of the highest integrity while others have fallen short. All are human and, therefore, subject to the same temptations and failings as us all.

The title is not given to everyone. As I have already mentioned, many are granted the title in recognition of their achievements, government service, political service, charitable service or business success, and some are recognised for sporting achievements, such as Lord Sebastian Coe – these are known as lords temporal while the Anglican Bishops are known as lords spiritual.

Originally, the title was linked to landownership (and thus their relationship with the monarchy and the king), and then passed on to succeeding generations.

In the Bible it is interesting to read that Sarah called Abraham, “*Lord*” (1 Peter 3: 6). It highlighted her respect of Abraham. So, whenever we consider or notice the term, “*Lord*”, it reveals respect, honour and obedience.

Many human lords enjoy the benefits. They like the honour, pomp and pageantry that go with the title, and will often ‘lord’ it over the rest of the people.

However, there is a Lord to whom all other lords will eventually bow the knee. His name is Jesus. He is Lord of all lords. Unlike many of the human lords, Jesus doesn’t force His Lordship on anyone. Even to His disciples, He said, “*You call Me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done*” (John 13: 13 – 15).

It’s the same picture that Paul uses in Philippians 2, where he reminds his readers, that although Jesus is God, He laid aside His majesty and humbled Himself. Not only by being made human but also through His death on the cursed cross.

However, God exalted Him and gave Him the Name above every name. That at the Name of Jesus, every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father. Yes, there is a Lord of all lords and His Name is Jesus.

In our lives there can be many ‘lords’. Whatever we hold dear, whatever we ‘serve’, whoever we yield to, is, in one sense, our ‘lord’. Be it alcohol, drugs, food, sport, money, achievement, recognition, fame, toys or physique – they can all become our lord. The Good News is that the

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Lord of lords can set us free from them as we kneel before and surrender to Him.

Some of us like to 'lord' it over others. We like to control, manipulate or use others for our own benefit (or ministry). The challenge for us is two-fold. Firstly, that is not the example the Lord of lords gave us or expects us to follow, and secondly, we need to remember that Jesus is Lord of all lords – we must eventually kneel before Him, and surrender our lives and future to Him.

Yes, Jesus was, is and always will be Lord of all lords – it is His eternal Name.

What does that name mean for us today

No matter how insignificant we feel, no matter how oppressed we may be, if we surrender to Jesus Christ, then every obstacle, every enemy, every challenge will have to bow to our Lord of all lords.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You so much for that wonderful Name. Thank You that it reminds me that no matter what I am going through, You are the Lord, and nothing can thwart Your plans and the destiny You have planned for me. It also reminds me that, one day, I shall see all things put into the correct perspective. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Deuteronomy 6:1-24
- Isaiah 6:1-9
- Revelation 4:1-11

Questions

1. What difference does the truth that 'Jesus is Lord of lords' make to your life?
2. Has Jesus revealed Himself in this way to you? How and when?
3. What areas of your life do you still need to surrender to Jesus Christ as Lord?