THE MESSIAH, THE LORD

Luke 2:10 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

What Does the Greek Word (*“kurios”*) Translated “Lord” Mean?

In everyday usage it meant anyone that had the right to expect obedience, such as a ruler, a father or an owner. In such cases it is often translated “sir” or “master” in most English translations.

The Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament in use in the first century, used it almost exclusively to translate the personal name of God in the Old Testament. In almost all English translations of the Old Testament, there are three primary words for God: *“Elohim”* translated “God,” *“Adonai”* translated “Lord,” and *“Yahweh”* translated “LORD.”

Exodus 3:13-15 Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ” God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you. This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.”

Did the Prophecies about Jesus Say He Would Be the LORD

Isaiah 40:3 A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

Mark 1:1-4 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you who will prepare your way” – “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’ ” And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Also Matthew 3:1-3, Luke 3:3-6 and John 1:23, John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’ ”

Did Jesus Call Himself the Eternally Self-Existent One

John 8:56-59 “Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

Does Scripture Say Jesus will be Lord (*“Adonai”*)

Malachi 3:1 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant , whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.

Luke 1:76 “And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,”

Mark 1:2 “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way” –

Psalm 110:1 The LORD says to my lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”

Matthew 22:41-43 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?” “The son of David,” they replied. He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says,

Matthew 22:44-46 “ ‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.” ’ If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son? No one could say a word in reply; and from that day on no one dare to ask him any more questions.

Peter Even Translates “Elohim” as “Lord”

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

I Peter 1:24c&25a “the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

Who Were the First to Truly Understand Who Jesus Was (and Is)

In other words, when did people, especially the disciples, begin to understand that Jesus was not only lord in the sense that since He was sent by God, He had the right to expect obedience, but He was also Lord in the way the word is used in the Old Testament, that is God? It would seem to be an easy question: When did they start to worship Him?

The problem is that the Greek word for worship *(“proskuneo”)* means essentially to kneel and then bow with your face to the ground. In Jesus’ day both kings and slave owners demanded that of those under their authority. And although *“proskuneo”* is translated “worship” over 50 times in the New Testament in most translations, it is also sometimes, probably less than ten times, translated “bow” or something similar, depending on what the translator thought was in the mind of the one who bowed. (Revelation 3:9)

Most, but not all, translations say that the Magi (Wise Men) worshiped in Matthew chapter 2, that the man born blind worshiped in John 9:38 and that the disciples in the boat worshiped after Jesus walked on the water in Matthew 14:33. Almost all translations translate *“proskuneo”* as worship in reference to Jesus after the resurrection.

John 20:26-29 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed, blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Colossians 1:15&16 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Revelation 5:13&14 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Some Things to Think About

Christmas is about Jesus and Jesus is Lord:

Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

Are we calling Jesus Lord and not doing what He says?

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.

Worship without surrender is not true worship.

The word worship essentially means to kneel and then bow with your face to the ground. Body language speaks volumes. Do we ever express

worship by doing what the New Testament word means.

The word worship comes from the Old English “worthship.” Do we worship God by telling him how worthy of our praise and adoration he is?