

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

ACTS 2:36 • TV113A

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Acts 2:36

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

I want to speak to you today on the subject, the truth of all truths: **“JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.”**

And I have four texts that I would like to share with you. The first one is found in **Luke 2, verse 11**. When the angels of God came down to announce to the shepherds the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ; this is what they said, *“Behold; I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”* This Saviour is none other than the Lord Himself.

Then, when the apostle Peter preached that first message at Pentecost in **Acts 2:36**; this was the very heart of his message; this was the very foundation of what he was proclaiming to those religious people who had gathered in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven.

He said in **Acts 2:36**: *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.”*

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Then the apostle Paul writing in the book of **Romans chapter 10** where he expresses his desire for the salvation of Israel and he says: *“They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they are going about to establish their own righteousness and would not submit to the righteousness of God.”*

He came down to this description of true salvation. He says in **Romans 10:9**: *“That if thou shall confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved.”* Paul preached Jesus as Lord!

Then, in **Philippians 3:11** the apostle Paul talking about our Redeemer declared this, *“Every knee should bow and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”*

Now, all four of these texts have one thing in common; they identify Jesus Christ as being Lord. Jesus Christ is Lord, not only the Saviour, not only the Redeemer, not only the Messiah; He is the Lord, *“the Lord of Lords and King of Kings.”*

Jesus Christ is Lord. That’s the truth of all truths. That’s the foundation upon which all hope rests. That’s the rock upon which everything else is built, Jesus Christ is Lord.

Occasionally I see a sign on the back of a car “Jesus is Lord.” What does that mean? Occasionally you go into a place of business and you will see the sign “Jesus is Lord.” What does that mean?

Do you know what that means? Let me give you four things that the Scripture tells us that the fact that Jesus is Lord and what it means to be Lord.

First of all: If He is Lord, if Jesus Christ is Lord, and the Scripture says He is, then as Lord He has all authority in heaven and earth.

If Jesus Christ is Lord then He has all authority in heaven and in earth. He said that in **Matthew 28:18** when He was sending His disciples forth to preach after He had risen from the tomb and before He ascended back to the Father.

He said to His disciples: *“All power (all authority, all dominion) is given unto me in heaven and earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”* All authority is given unto Christ.

Then in **John 17 chapter 2**, when He was praying that great priestly prayer, He said: *“Father; glorify thy Son that thy Son may glorify thee. Thou hast given him power, (all power, not a limited amount of power, not a degree of power, but all authority) all power.”*

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Our Lord is omnipotent. He has all power over all flesh, not just a degree of power over some of the people on this earth, but He says *“I have all power (authority) over all flesh that I should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given me.”*

Now, this fact is established in the Scriptures, Jesus Christ is Lord. The angel said: *“This Saviour who will be born is Lord.”* And Peter said, *“This Jesus whom you crucified is Lord.”* And Paul said, *“If you want to be saved you will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”*

Then, in **Philippians 3** he said: *“God has decreed that every knee is going to bow and every tongue is going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”* Now, as Lord He has all authority, all authority in heaven, earth, and under the earth.

What does it mean that Jesus Christ is Lord?

Second: He has all authority and as Lord all men are His subjects, all people, all creatures; all providence is subject to Him, in all things.

Listen to **Romans chapter 14: 8 and 9:** *“Whether we live; we live unto the Lord or whether we die, we die unto the Lord. Whether we live, therefore or die; we are the Lord’s. For to this end Jesus Christ died and rose again that he might be Lord both of the dead and the living, (both of the believers and unbelievers, both of those in heaven and those on earth). Jesus Christ died for this purpose, that He might be Lord of the dead and the living. He’s supreme Lord and as Lord all men are His subjects.”*

He said this: *“You call me Lord and you say well for so I am.”* All things are subject unto Him, all people are subject unto Him, and all preachers are subject unto Him. As Lord He has supreme authority in heaven and earth and as Lord all preachers are His subjects.

Third: As Lord He has no rival. He has no rival in heaven, He has no rival on earth, and He has no rival under the earth

Philippians 3:9 says: *“God hath highly exalted him; (now listen, Jesus Christ he’s talking about), and given him a name which is above every name, (above Gabriel, above Michael, above Moses, above Aaron and the sons of Levi). Jesus Christ has a name above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.”*

In **Colossians 1:18;** listen to the Word of God: *“All things were created by him, for him, and he is before all things. By him all things consist that in all things he might have the preeminence.”*

It matters not whether we are talking about principalities or powers or rulers or thrones visible or invisible, whether in heaven, earth, or seas, or under the earth, or in hell, or wherever. Jesus Christ has no rivals. He is the supreme King of kings and Lord of lords. He has a name which is above every name that in all things He may have the preeminence.

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Now I know this is contrary to most preaching today that tries to get you to feel sorry for Jesus and talks about “sweet little Jesus boy,” and “poor little Jesus; He wants to do this and folks won’t let Him and He wants to that and folks won’t let Him.”

You won’t find that in God’s Word. Our Lord is Sovereign. Even the seas were subject to Him. He stood on the ship and said: “*Peace be still*” and the seas, the rough, storm-driven seas, lay down at His feet like a shepherd dog.

When they came to collect His taxes He sent one of the disciples down to fish and pulled a fish out of the sea and it had a coin in its mouth and He said: “*Go pay the taxes.*”

Blindness fled from His sight, the dumb spake, the lame walked and the dead came forth. The Lord has all authority, He is Lord. That’s what we mean. When you say Jesus Christ is Lord, this is what you are saying; Christ Jesus has all authority and omnipotence. All are subject to Him and He has no rival.

Fourth: As Lord His will shall be done.

Now you think about this a moment; He’s the Lord. All are subject to Him, even the demons are subject unto Him.

Do you remember when the devil appeared with the sons of God, in the presence of God, in the book of **Job** and God said: “*Have you considered my servant Job? There is none like him and upright and righteous man that fears God and hates evil.*” And Satan said: “*Well, he doesn’t fear you for nothing; you put a hedge about him and blessed everything he touched. You prospered him and had done all of these things.*” Satan said, “*Reach forth your hand and touch him and he will curse you to your face.*” The Lord said, “*All right Satan; he’s in your hand, only don’t harm his body.*”

In other words, Satan is in subjection to King Jesus. He’s Lord of all and everyone is subject to Him. And in His own due time He will ultimately and eternally put Satan away, in His own time, but He’s Lord; He has no rival. There is no power greater than His and His will shall be done.

Now listen to **Ephesians 1:11**, “*He worketh all things*” (and that’s all things great and small, all things past, present, and future, all things involving his people and unbelievers and governments and nations and the weather). “*He worketh all things after the council of his own will. He doeth according to his will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of this earth and none can stay his hand or say unto him what doeth thou?*”

Nebuchadnezzar built the great Babylon, you know, and he began to brag about it and God judged him. And the Lord told him he would lose his understanding and lose his mind.

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And the great Nebuchadnezzar that built the great Babylon would be out in the field with his hair growing long like bird feathers. His claws, his fingernails growing long like bird claws. Nebuchadnezzar was cast out into the field and seven times passed over him before his reason came back to him.

And that happened to him. He lost his reasoning and he lost his understanding. And he said, *“After those days when the judgment of God was fulfilled, my understanding returned unto me and I praised the most high that ruleth in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth and giveth it to whomsoever he will.”*

God’s will shall be done. Jesus Christ is Lord and His will is going to be done. That’s what we mean when we say that Jesus Christ is Lord. That is what the angel was saying when they announced the birth of Christ that the one who is to be our Saviour is also our Lord.

And Peter said: “This one whom you’ve crucified is Lord.” And Paul said: “The gateway into the Kingdom of God, the way into the mercy of God, is to confess and to believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

And as Lord He has all authority. As Lord all are His subjects. As Lord He has no rival and as Lord his will shall be done. They said: *“David; where is your God?”*

“Now, we know where our gods are; our gods are where we have them. Our gods are where we place them. Our gods are where we permit them to be. Our gods do what we permit them to do and what is expected of them.”

“David; where is your God?” And David wrote in **Psalm 115 and Psalm 135**: *“Our God is in the heavens; He hath done whatsoever He pleased. Whatsoever the Lord pleased; that did He in heaven, in earth, in the seas, and in all deep places.”* Our God is Lord!

Now Jesus Christ, my friend, is Lord now; He’s Lord now, not He ought to be Lord; He is Lord, not He should be Lord; He is Lord, not He will be someday during the millennial reign; He’s Lord right now. Jesus Christ is Lord!

And this truth is misunderstood not only by enemies but by friends alike. I hear preachers often exhorting their congregations in a very pitiful plea: “Won’t you make Jesus your Lord; won’t you please make Jesus your Lord?”

Now listen to me, my friend, and I’m not being harsh; I’m being truthful. Men do not make Jesus Christ Lord. The Father beat you to it. He’s already made Him Lord. He’s Lord by decree.

He’s Lord by divine purpose. He’s Lord by divine power and He’s Lord by purchase. He purchased the right to be Lord. He ascended the throne by the way of the bloody tree. Our Lord

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Jesus Christ bought His throne with His own precious blood. He bought the right to have authority.

He conquered sin, Satan, death and hell, and that Lordship belongs to him. You don't give it to Him. You don't make Him Lord. It's not by your permission that He reigns; He reigns by decree and by the decree of the Heavenly Father. He is Lord.

Listen to Peter preach at Pentecost; *"let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus whom you crucified to be Lord and Christ."*

God made Him Lord. *"God hath highly exalted him. God hath given him a name above every name."* God hath decreed that all authority and all power to be vested in the Son. *"God hath committed all judgment to the Son."* That's what the Scripture says. You don't make Jesus Christ Lord. He is your Lord.

You say, "Well Brother Mahan, what do we do?" We do what the Scripture commands us to do; we bow to His Lordship, we own to His Lordship. God made him Lord. *"God hath made this same Jesus both Lord and Christ."* Thomas recognized it; he fell on his face and cried: *"My Lord and my God."*

We claim to be so smart. We claim to be theologians and preachers and Orthodox and Fundamentalists. The thief on the cross knew more than we know in this generation. He knew Christ was Lord. Listen to that thief on the cross. Dying there in shame and anguish, he turned to the Son of God and he said: "I'm getting what I deserve. But you are not going to stay dead. You are coming into a Kingdom because you are a King."

He saw through that crown of thorns. He saw through that mockery of the soldiers. He saw through those things of the Holy Spirit that gave him eyes to see and he said in a loud voice, *"Lord, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."*

You don't make Him Lord; God made Him Lord. You bow to His Lordship. You worship Christ as Lord. You submit to Christ as Lord. You receive Christ as Lord but God made Him Lord.

Listen to Paul on the road to Damascus. Hear this heathen fundamentalist, this heathen theologian, this fellow that claimed to know God and didn't know God and was a stranger to grace and an enemy of salvation by grace.

He fell on his face before that great light and when he heard that voice speak to him: *"Saul, Saul, why persecuteth thou me?"* He answered, *"Who art thou Lord?"* When our Lord identified himself as Jesus of Nazareth the apostle Paul said, *"What will you have me to do Lord?"*

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Now, my friend; that's it and I'm saying this to you and this is a very important point here and I want you to be a little quieter and I want you to be a little more attentive and I want you to listen to what I am about to say!

Our whole concept of Christianity today, popular, modern Christianity today, is influenced by the preaching of high pressure, famous evangelists of the past, who called upon men to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour while they ignored his Lordship, his Kingship, and his Sovereignty.

This false teaching is the foundation of most evangelism today and most preaching today. You hear it all the time: "Won't you accept Jesus as your Saviour?" Never mind about His Lordship, never mind about submitting to His reign in your life. Never mind about submitting to His rule in your life.

"Just accept Jesus as your Saviour from hell. If you don't want to bow to His Lordship that's all right; just accept Jesus as your Saviour and you'll be saved from hell. If you don't want to submit to His reign and rule in your life that's all right; accept Jesus as your Saviour, If you don't want to glorify Him in your life and you don't want to worship Him and you don't want to bow before Him; that's all right." This is kind of teaching totally false!

My friend; I say unto you and I'm being as candid and plain as I can be from the Word of God. If Christ is not your Lord He's not your Saviour. If Jesus Christ is not your King, He is not your Saviour.

If you do not submit to His scepter, you will not receive His salvation. You cannot; it's an impossibility to know Jesus Christ the Saviour and reject Jesus Christ the Lord. He cannot be divided. His offices cannot be divided. He is Prophet, Priest, and King. He's not just Prophet and Priest; He's Prophet, Priest, and King.

He is all that God requires of us. He is all that God expects of us. He is all that God demands of us "*and we are complete in him.*" Now you listen to some Scriptures:

I read this one to you. Paul said in **Romans 10:9**: "*If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and shall believe in thine heart God has raised him from the dead; thy shalt be saved.*" There's nothing there about accepting Jesus as a Saviour from hell while you reject his Lordship.

Listen to this Scripture: "*He that taketh not up his cross and followeth after me cannot be my disciple.*" What is the cross? It's a symbol of death, death to my will and bowing to His will, death to myself, and bowing to His reign, death to my own desires and my own ambitions and making Christ the Lord of my life.

Listen to this Scripture, "*If any man love his mother, father, husband, wife, brother, sister, even his own life more than me; he cannot be my disciple.*" That's pretty plain; that's Lordship, that's Kingship. That's not accepting a fire escape or a fire insurance policy to keep you out of hell; that's bowing, that's submitting to the reign of Christ.

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Listen to this Scripture: *“He that puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”*

When that Philippian jailer came trembling and fell on his face before Paul and Silas and cried, *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”* Paul didn’t say, “Accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour while you reject His Lordship and His Kingship and His Sovereignty and His Reign!

He said to that man: *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”* Men today have it backwards. They have it completely backwards; they say: “Make Jesus your Saviour and if you choose later on, that is if you feel so obliged to do so; you can make Him Lord.”

But that’s not what the Scripture says; the Scriptures teach, bow to the claims of King Jesus. The Scriptures declare, submit to the Son of God as your King of kings and Lord of lords.

The old hymn writer captured it this way; he said:

**“I to the gracious King approach
Whose scepter mercy heals,
Perhaps he will receive my touch
And then the sinner lives.**

**I can but perish if I go
I am resolved to try
Or if I stay away I know
I shall forever die.”**

“What are you saying preacher?” I am saying this; there is no way of salvation open for any sinner apart from unconditional surrender to Jesus Christ as His Lord and Saviour, as His Lord and Saviour.

Our Lord does not demand admiration; He is admired by all the angels. Our Lord does not demand only an interest, our sympathy or a frugal thought; He demands surrender. That’s what the Scripture teaches, unconditional surrender.

If Jesus Christ sits upon the throne of your heart, every other god is going to advocate. If Jesus Christ reigns in your life, every other god is going to leave your life and He is going to be supreme Lord and Master.

Christ is our friend, He is our counsellor, He is our example, He is our guide, but He is first of all, our Lord. And He reigns in virtue of His Lordship. None other name; what is His name; He’s the Lord?”

Do you know that the Scripture says: *“There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.”* The Scripture tells us this, *“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord (the Son of God) shall be saved.”*

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What is His name? Well, this name is given us in **Philippians 3**: “*God hath highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow and every tongue confess that he (is what?) he is Lord?*”

That’s His name: “*There’s none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.*” What is that name, “*Lord, the Lord Jesus?*”

The disciples called Him the Lord Jesus. You won’t find anywhere in the epistles the disciples referring their Master only as Jesus. They called Him “*the Lord Jesus*”; they called Him “*Master.*”

They never addressed Him and said “Jesus;” they said, “*Lord.*” They always called Him Lord. They always called Him Master. That’s His name. His name is Lord.

And to be called a Christian is not just to believe some facts about Christ, it’s not just to believe some theology. It’s not just to turn over a new leaf. It’s not just to start another way of life. The first thing about a Christian is this; he bows the knee to Jesus Christ, to His Word, to His will, and to His Lordship.

And the Gospel that we preach does not confront men primarily with an offer to heal their ills or solve their problems. Do you know what the Gospel of the Word of God confronts men with? It confronts rebels who have taken up arms against the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords to lay down their arms and surrender.

The battle started in the Garden of Eden and men have since that day “*will not have this man reign over us.*” We will let Him save us from hell, we will let Him heal our bodies, we will let Him feed our bellies, we will let Him clothe our bodies, but we will not bow, we will not submit to His Lordship.

You will if He ever saves you; yes you will. Now I’m not being harsh and I’m not being narrow-minded. I’m just saying to you truthfully that the Bible knows nothing about a “doormat named Jesus.” The Bible presents him as “***Christ the Lord.***”

The Bible knows nothing about a “fire escape named Jesus.” The Bible presents Him as Christ the Lord: “*Christ in you the hope of glory.*” Christ in you how, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords? *When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall you appear with him in glory?*”

My friend, read the messages of the apostles. The apostles of our Lord began their messages with the Lordship of Christ. Where is He? He reigns at the right hand of God. “*The heaven of heavens cannot contain him. The earth is his footstool.*”

“*He holds the nations as a drop in the bucket and considereth the inhabitants thereof as grasshoppers.*” He’s the King; as a King He will be worshipped. And that’s the way men worship Him!

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In what character did the soldiers mock Him? *“They put a crown of thorns on his head and a scepter in his hand and a robe on his back.”* They mocked him as King!

What character did Pilate try Him? He tried Him as King. He said: *“Behold your King.”* What was the sign over His cross, *“The King of the Jews?”* How shall He return, *“King of Kings and Lord of Lords?”* In what character would you believe on Him if you are saved, the King Jesus?

The disciple’s favorite term for themselves was *“servants of the Lord.”* Their favorite position was at His feet. Their favorite occupation was to glorify Him and their favorite pastime was to serve Him and their favorite prayer was: *“Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven!”*