

<b>Date</b>	: 5 February 2023
<b>Theme</b>	: The God we can trust
<b>Topic</b>	: Submitting to God, the Lord of all
<b>Passage</b>	: Genesis 2:4-7, 15-17
<b>Key verse</b>	: <i>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die. Genesis 2:16, 17</i>

## Introduction

In our study of God from the book of Genesis, we notice two different names for God. In Genesis 1, God is referred to exclusively by the name *Elohim*. From Genesis 2:4, He is called *Yahweh-Elohim*. Why are there two different names for God? The reason for the differences in names has to do with the emphasis on the different characteristics of the one God. *Elohim* is used in the context of God as Creator. He is powerful, awesome and majestic Creator. *Elohim* is God in English.

*Yahweh* is God's personal name, used in the context of God having a relationship with His people. *Yahweh* is LORD in English.

### 1. GOD is LORD of all

By 1<sup>st</sup> mention in terms of Ownership.

The Father is Lord, Jesus is Lord, The Holy Spirit is Lord.

#### a) What does Lord mean?

- A Relationship word to describe a Master-servant relationship, obedience is expected.
- A Ranking relationship to show precedence and position of authority, submission is required.
- A Recognition, as one worthy of the highest honour, respect, to be feared

#### b) God is LORD as Owner

- *The LORD God made the earth and the heavens Genesis 2:7* (The earth is the Lord's).
- *The LORD God formed the man ...breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being Genesis 2:7* (Therefore He reserves the right to tell him what to do).
- *The LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden...Genesis 2:8.*
- *The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it Genesis 2:15* (As Lord, He has authority to assign work to man).
- *The LORD God commanded the man...you must not eat... Genesis 2:16* (As Master He can instruct His servant (man) by a statement of command).
- *The LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man... Genesis 2:22.*

#### c) Jesus is LORD,

Jesus refers to Himself the same way God is described in the Old Testament. Jesus said many things that equated Himself with Yahweh...*anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father... John 14:9*

*In Hebrews 1:10, Jesus was addressed by the Father ...You, LORD in the beginning, laid the foundations of the earth!...*

- Creator of all, therefore Owner of everything.
- Sustainer, ultimate control of all systems
- Life giver, He decides our birth and death
- Highest wisdom, surpassing our limited wisdom.
- Highest Authority, His call supersedes all
- Ultimate Judge, He decides our destiny

d) God's condition for establishing His relationship with man is acceptance of His Lordship

- As Lord, God has chosen to love us of His own accord. Everything God has done is a purposeful expression of His love for us. It stems from the heart of a father. Every father's action springs from his relationship with his children. Whether it is the house, car or job, it is the father's desire to make provisions out of love for his children.  
Likewise, God has clearly declared it is out of love that He chooses us to be His treasured people *Deuteronomy 7:6-8.*
- From *Genesis 1*, God's design criterion is us. Even the stars, billions of them, have been set in place for no other purpose than to let mankind look up to see that which declares God's glory.
- God's ultimate goal is to establish His covenant relationship with us. For this relationship to work, Christ must be Lord of our lives.
  - God's commitment to covenant faithfulness is so high that He expects the same commitment from us to remain faithful to Him.

**2. How does God exercise His Lordship?**

- By His control, He exercises divine Sovereignty over all, according to His plans and intentions.
- By His commands, He exercises highest Authority with words of life to graciously govern the ongoingings of His created beings.

*You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:7*

- By covenant-making.

As Lord, He is in covenant solidarity with His creation. He has made a Sovereign commitment to care for His own. ...*I will never leave you nor forsake you.* He will enforce the consequences of keeping or breaking of covenant, whether to bless or curse, according to the terms of the covenant.

**3. How do we make Jesus Lord?**

a) Acknowledge Jesus is Lord when we receive His salvation

*...That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Roman 10:9, 10*

*...For to this end, Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living... Romans 14:9*

b) Adopt the biblical world view.

- Why did Eve listen to Satan instead of God?

- She had forgotten exactly what God said
    - when questioned ...*Did God really say ... You cannot eat of every tree?*  
she was unable to say what God actually said.  
She said ...*God said we cannot eat of the tree in the midst of the garden.*
    - But this was not what God said.  
God had said not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (not any tree).  
God said ...*You will surely die...* (not ...*you will die...*)  
Eve then added her own idea ...*you may not touch it...* (which God did not say).

- Eve's problem

- She condescended to the tempter's distortion of God's authority and goodness
    - She changed God's word in her attempt to correct the tempter's question.
    - She considered the appeal of the tempter's offer of the pleasure of sin.  
She ate the fruit and also gave to Adam, and he ate *Genesis 3:6(c)*  
Adam likewise ate because he listened to his wife instead of listening to God.  
Eve went from being on God's side to be Satan's helper.  
She switched her worldview from God's to Satan's.

c) Submit to God's worldview whenever it clashes with worldly ones. God does not have to justify why? When we refrain from questioning God, we are exercising His Lordship over our lives in the attitude of submission. God does not always reveal all His secrets. What has been revealed belongs to us, so that we might obey the Word of God *Deuteronomy 29:29*. Even when God does not explain why we should obey or when we do not understand why, submission to His will is required.

## Applying the lesson

### What will God's Lordship tests look like?

By defining lordship, Jesus said ...*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.* Matthew 7:21-23.

How do we know whether Jesus is Lord in my life?

a) My attitude test. Do I rank Him as the superseding Authority in my life?

- In happy times, do I render thanksgiving because every good thing is a gift from Him?
- In bad times, do I give thanks too, acknowledging His Lordship in my submission?
  - Example, Job was tested when He acknowledged God as the Giver in good times. When he lost everything (family / wealth / health), his attitude was submission to God.
  - During bad times, the children of Israel complained against God and even threatened Moses. A Christian's immature response during hard times, may sound like ...*I have been serving God faithfully, how come He is so slow to answer my prayers?*
  - Most believers treat God like their servants, expecting God to bless them on their terms as a right. If the answer does not arrive within their expected waiting period, they threaten to stop *believing* in God.

b) Obedience test

God may not always explain what He is doing. Sometimes we come upon some commands or passage in the Bible and we cannot make sense of it.

For instance, why did God kill Uzzah on the spot when he reached out to steady the ark when the oxen stumbled? *2 Samuel 6:1-7, 1 Chronicles 13:12.*

The command not to touch the Ark of the Covenant is clear...*the Kohathites are to do the carrying, but they must not touch the holy thing or they will die...* *Numbers 4:15.* Yet, we wrestle with a cursory glance of the incident that Uzzah's punishment does appear to be extreme for what we might consider to be a good deed. *2 Samuel 6:1-7*

When we are shaken in our minds to doubt God's goodness, do we get bitter and negative in our faith in God? Or do we pause and be still and ask God for spiritual understanding about who He really is? Could it be that we have judged God because we know biblical truth intellectually instead of knowing it spiritually *1 Corinthians 2:14.*

Our Lord Jesus prayed this for us in *John 17:3...this is eternal life, that they may know You the Only true God.* This kind of knowing is different from natural, intellectual seeing. Our blindness is overcome only because God...*has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ...* *2 Corinthians 4:6*

So, are there reasons why God took such severe action against Uzzah?

- i) God had given Moses and Aaron specific instructions about the movement of Ark. *Numbers 4:15*
- ii) David took men with him to collect the ark, rather than allowing the Levites to bring it to him. It ought to be borne upon the Levites' shoulders (of the family of Kohath), using the poles prescribed.

Failing to follow God's precise instructions would be having an independent attitude – acting on God's holy things from a worldly perspective, rather than a spiritual perspective.

- iii) The ark had stayed in Abinadab's house where his sons, Uzzah and Ahio, may well have become accustomed to its presence. Having the ark in his own home, Uzzah could very likely forget the holiness that it represented. Subsequently, the Ark was then left in Obed-Edom's house. This time the entire household was blessed.

We, too, may fail to recognise the awesomeness of God's holiness when we come week after week and becoming too familiar with God in an irreverent attitude.

We do well to prepare our hearts to approach God in reverence and holy fear. Forget that lesson and the consequences could be tragic, as Uzzah did.

c) Remould or squeeze into our culture's mould.

Paul warned the believers in Rome ...*do not let the world squeeze you into its mould...* Romans 12:2.

When our world views are shaped by the world, they will always clash with God's worldview.

We will have to make biblical worldview our choice. For instance, is same sex marriage a moral issue? Is abortion a serious violation of God's laws? The relentless propaganda of the media will surely shift our values unless we accept that Jesus Lordship must supersede man's values.

d) The test of loyalty

Could Adam and Eve be trusted to keep the covenant relationship?

How can we guarantee we will not betray the One we claim to love?

- o God will not break covenant. How can you be sure that your heart will not change over time?  
In case you might, how can you ensure you won't. Do you know how vulnerable you are without the test?
- o God's ultimate test is not our performance but loyalty and trustworthiness.

**Application**

1. With your cell members, tell Jesus that today you are making your commitment to make Him Lord in every department of your life?

2. Define the lordship of Christ (in your own words)

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3. Do you consider yourself vulnerable to the pressures imposed by the world? Yes / No

Name one possibilities of shifting your worldview. Example on pre-marital sex.

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