

## HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL

## STUDY ONE

## We Call Him Lord

*Selected Scriptures*

*His name is wonderful. When we call Him Lord, we give Him full authority. Have you done that? Have you embraced Him as Savior—as the one who will deliver you from your sinfulness and safely bring you to God?*

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

**T**HERE is one possession every person owns. It has existed from the very beginning. Although it comes in many varieties, it is one of the few things that everyone shares.

Everyone has a name.

Some families pass down names through generations. Some parents choose names filled with meaning regarding the circumstances of their child's birth. Some names come from people of global influence or personal impact.

Regardless its origin, a name gives a person *dignity*. Addressing a person by his or her own name shows respect, and it creates a personal connection. Names are *essential* to relationships, aren't they? Knowing a person begins by knowing his or her name.

This *Searching the Scriptures* series will focus on the biblical names of Jesus to help you connect with Him more personally and know Him more intimately. You'll learn how these titles fit together like the pieces of a beautiful stained-glass window, and you'll see His character, heart, and power shining through.

Do you long to deepen your relationship with Christ, to love Him more genuinely and serve Him more passionately? As you gaze on the names of Jesus, the wonder of who He is will draw you closer to Him in worship.



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### PREPARE YOUR HEART

When followers of Jesus pray, they pray *to* God the Father, *in* the name of Jesus Christ the Son, and *by* the power of the Holy Spirit. By engaging with God in the fullness of His personhood, a believer fosters a real relationship with Him.

As you begin this series, offer your own prayer to God. Ask Him to prepare your heart and mind for what He wants to teach you and how He wants to change your life as you encounter Him through His Word. Use the following template below to guide your prayer:

*Father,*

*I ask these things by the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*



### TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

While the focus of this series centers on the names of Jesus the incarnate Son, it's important to remember that God has always taken His name seriously.

Shortly after God expelled Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden, the righteous “began to worship the LORD by name,” which was Yahweh (*Genesis 4:26*). Later on, when He established the nation of Israel, He set apart a temple, a place of worship where His name would be honored (*Deuteronomy 12:5, 11*).

Clearly, God desires for His people to know His name and for them to use His name as a means of worship, so this series on names kicks off by looking at one of Jesus' most important titles: *Lord*.



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#### **Observation: Jesus' Name Then, Now, and Forever**

Pastor Chuck Swindoll's ability to understand and apply Scripture may seem impossible to achieve on your own. Yet, every time he opens his Bible, he follows the same four simple steps to make real-life sense of a passage. The *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study method answers four essential questions:

1. *What does the passage say?* That's observation.
2. *What does the passage mean?* That's interpretation.
3. *What else does Scripture say about this passage's subject matter?* That's correlation.
4. *How do the truths of this passage apply to my life today?* That's application.<sup>1</sup>

This study will engage in observation and correlation at the same time by observing multiple key passages that discuss Jesus' lordship.

#### **Jesus—Matthew 1:18–25**

As God prepared to present His Son to the world, He handpicked a name that would reflect the essential ministry of God incarnate. According to *Matthew 1:21*, what did the angel tell Joseph to name his betrothed's divinely conceived son? Why did God pick this name?



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While Joseph would name his son Jesus, the baby boy would have many additional titles. According to *Matthew 1:23*, what name did Isaiah prophesy Israel's deliverer would have? What does this name mean?

### Man, Prophet, Lord—John 9

About thirty years after Joseph's encounter with the angel, Jesus began His ministry of offering people salvation from their sins. Read the account of Jesus healing the blind man in *John 9:1–38*. What stands out to you about Jesus' actions, the blind man's words, and the attitudes of those who witnessed the miracle? Record your observations below.

Although the blind man didn't offer a satisfyingly theological explanation for his miraculous healing to the Jewish leaders, his view of Jesus certainly was theologically sound. A careful look at how the blind man addressed Jesus in the narrative reveals how his impression of Jesus developed. What title did the blind man use for Jesus in each of the following verses?

9:11: \_\_\_\_\_

9:17: \_\_\_\_\_

9:38: \_\_\_\_\_



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#### The Name above All Other Names—Philippians 2:5–11

Only after Jesus' death and resurrection could His followers make sense of the significance of His ministry as a human. What phrase did Paul use in *Philippians 2:6* to describe Jesus' essential identity?

According to *2:7*, what did Jesus do despite this identity? What was the result of this choice according to *2:8*?

Though death may have seemed like the end for Jesus, God had greater plans. According to *2:9*, what high honor did Jesus receive for His act of sacrifice? What will be the ultimate results of this act according to *2:10–11*?

“Lord” is far more than a mere title for Jesus. Rather, it is a name saturated with historical, theological, political, and practical significance.



#### **Interpretation: The Lord of the Jews and the Romans**

The Lord of the Christian faith was not the first person to have the name Jesus. In fact, little boys named Jesus likely swarmed Judea in the first-century AD.



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“Jesus” is the English transliteration of the Greek name *Iesous*, which in turn is the Greek rendering of the Hebrew name *Yehoshua* (sometimes abbreviated *Yeshua*). *Yehoshua* is the name of the main character of the book of Joshua, and he was the one who led the Israelites into the land God had promised to Abraham.

Look up the names *Jesus* and *Joshua* using a Bible dictionary, and summarize the shared meaning of these names. Why was it significant that God wanted His Son to have the same name as this Old Testament hero of the faith?

Jesus may have been Jewish, but during his life, the Roman Empire occupied Judea. Therefore, His identity as Lord had both religious and political implications. For the Jewish leaders, only Yahweh deserved such a title, and the Romans recognized only Caesar as lord.

What would first-century Jewish people living under Roman rule have communicated by calling Jesus “Lord”? What risk would be incurred by making such a bold declaration? How is their example instructive for those who serve Jesus as Lord today?

*The word Lord wasn't invented by Christians. It was adopted by them. Among the Greeks, it was a noble term often used to refer to one with domestic authority. Aristotle used it to describe men who had moral authority, strength of character. This also is where the rub came, because in those days, Caesar was lord. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



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Reread *Philippians 2:10–11*. What did Paul mean when he said *every knee will bow at the name of Jesus and every tongue will confess that He is Lord*? Why is this truth important?

*Some grand day, everyone who has ever lived will declare, “Jesus is Lord!” Some to spend eternity with Him, some to spend eternity in hell. But there will remain the ringing reminder that He is indeed Lord. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



### Application: When We Call Him Lord

To personally apply the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord, Pastor Chuck Swindoll lays out the “ABCs” of confessing Jesus Christ as Lord. When we call Him Lord . . .

- We *affirm* our allegiance to Christ alone.
- We *bow* to Christ’s authority.
- We *commit* all we are, all we have, and all we hope to be.
- We *dethrone* our own way and will.

If a non-Christian were to look at your life, in what ways would it be evident to him or her that you serve Jesus Christ as Lord?



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Is something else competing with Jesus to be the lord of your life? A job? A goal? A relationship? Maybe even yourself? How does this false lord tend to steal your allegiance and commitment away from Christ and His authority?

The earliest Christians praised Jesus as Lord as the highest form of worship, and they did not take Jesus' lordship lightly. They knew that such a confession could mean death. Yet they knew that, if Jesus truly is Lord, then sacrificing everything for Him would be worth it.

Join the early Christians in worship of Jesus by calling Him Lord. And if Jesus truly is your Lord, then He can change your life. He can free you from the bonds of sin and offer bright hope that will never fade.



### A FINAL PRAYER

*Father, I praise You because Jesus is Lord—Lord over creation and Lord over my life. Help me as I reflect on the significance of this confession. Help me understand what it truly means, so I can continue to worship Him more and more each day. I ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.*

#### ENDNOTE

1. To learn about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* method of Bible study, go to the web page, "[How to Study the Bible for Yourself](#)."

