

## HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL

## STUDY TWO

## He Is “King of Kings, Lord of Lords”

*Selected Scriptures*

*One of the greatest names attributed to Christ in Scripture is, “King of kings and Lord of lords.” This means He is King above all who call themselves king. He is Lord over all who call themselves lord. In simplest form, it simply means the highest of all kings and the greatest of all lords.*

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

IMAGINE how it would feel to be the *best* at something. Like the professional athlete who hoists the championship trophy after defeating even the fiercest competitor. Like the professional musician whose album ends the year at the top of the charts. Like the seasoned scholar who spends decades studying to become the top expert in his or her field.

Being the best is a distinguished honor, but it is rare . . . and often short-lived. It may take time, but eventually someone younger, someone more talented, someone harder-working will come along and will be *better* than even the best. And all the hard-earned glory of being the best will fade away like a lost memory.

Yet, there is one who will never be bested.

Few who knew Jesus of Nazareth would have considered Him “the best” in any sense of the term. But this seemingly unremarkable man had a remarkable identity. Cloaked in modest peasant garb was a King greater than any other king who had ever lived.

This *Searching the Scriptures* study explores Jesus’ identity as the King of kings and the Lord of lords, and it stirs our admiration for and inspires our hope in the One who will forever be *the best*.



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INSIGHT FOR LIVING  
MINISTRIES

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### PREPARE YOUR HEART

As you prepare your heart to engage His Word today, offer to the Father the prayer Jesus taught His disciples in *Matthew 6:9–13*.

“Our Father in heaven,  
    may your name be kept holy.  
May your Kingdom come soon.  
May your will be done on earth,  
    as it is in heaven.  
Give us today the food we need,  
and forgive us our sins,  
    as we have forgiven those who sin against us.  
And don’t let us yield to temptation,  
    but rescue us from the evil one.”



### TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Ancient Israel sat nestled among some of the world’s most formidable empires. These great nations viewed Israel as nothing more than a tiny inkblot on their map of conquest. They thought their kings were stronger and nobler than Israel’s kings. And they believed their gods were mightier and more fearsome than Israel’s God Yahweh.

Yet the people of Israel knew the truth about their God and His purposes. What encouragement did God offer to Israel in *Deuteronomy 10:14–17* regarding their place in His plan?

Not only does God the Father deserve this majestic title, Christ the Son deserves this title as well. Turn now to *1 Timothy 6:11–16* to see why.



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#### Observation: Await the King’s Arrival

In his book, *Searching the Scriptures: Find the Nourishment Your Soul Needs*, Pastor Chuck Swindoll explains the very first step he takes whenever he opens his Bible to study a passage of Scripture. He simply reads the text and asks, “What does this passage say?”<sup>1</sup>

Paul wrote the personal letter of 1 Timothy to his dear spiritual son who needed the apostle’s guidance. Before offering his final instructions in *1 Timothy 6:11–16*, Paul warned Timothy to flee from “foolish and harmful desires” (*6:9*) and “all kinds of evil” (*6:10*). According to *6:11*, what virtues did Paul tell Timothy to pursue instead?

According to *6:12*, to what blessing had God called Timothy? What (or who) is the source of this gift according to *6:13*?

What hopeful event did Paul encourage Timothy to patiently await in *6:15*?



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By what title did Paul refer to God in *1 Timothy 6:15*? How is this title relevant to Paul’s encouragement to Timothy to persevere in his faith and ministry?

*God’s arrangement of things is that there be a King who is king over all and a Lord who is a lord above all. And only He has that right. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



### **Interpretation: Embracing Jesus as King and Lord**

When interpreting a passage, Pastor Chuck considers what the passage *means*. Having closely read *1 Timothy 6:11–16*, you may wonder if Paul means that only God the Father is King of kings and Lord of lords. But we must remember that Paul was a trinitarian who believed in one God existing in three persons (*2 Corinthians 13:14*).

Around the same time Paul wrote to Timothy, he wrote to another protégé named Titus. What phrase did Paul use to describe Jesus in *Titus 2:13*? How does this truth logically show that Jesus, too, is King of kings and Lord of lords?

The notion of a king may feel distant to you. Yet almost every ancient nation was a monarchy. Consequently, those living in the ancient world had to grapple with a dreadful truth: there are kingdoms more powerful than my own seeking to kill my king, to conquer my land, and to capture my people.



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Because of this reality, the book of Revelation intended to comfort Jewish Christians living under the oppressive rule of Caesar, emperor of Rome. Read *Revelation 17:11–14*. Without getting lost in the imagery and symbolism, what do these verses describe?

How would seeing Jesus as the true King and Lord provide encouragement to the earliest Christians? How does seeing Jesus this way continue to provide encouragement to Christians today?

*We find four practical effects of His being King of kings and Lord of lords. First, He has no equal. Second, He has never been and never will be outranked, overthrown, or undermined. Third, He knows no limitation and experiences no frustration. Fourth, He remains absolutely invincible. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



### **Correlation: An Earthly King Challenges Heaven’s King**

Within mere days of Jesus’ birth, earthly kings began to recognize that humankind had welcomed a new King. Some received this news with great rejoicing. Others, however, considered the news of the birth of King Jesus to be anything but good.

Prior to Jesus’ birth, Rome had appointed Herod to rule over the region of Judea. Though Herod considered himself “king” of the Jews, faithful Jews awaited the arrival of their true king: the messiah.



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According to [Matthew 2:7–8](#), why did Herod say he wanted the magi to find Jesus? What was his *actual* plan? (For a hint, look ahead to [2:13–16](#).)

According to [2:11–12](#), what did the magi do when they met Jesus? What did they *not* do despite Herod’s command?

In the ancient world, magi weren’t kings themselves (despite what many beloved Christmas carols might suggest). Rather, they *served* kings as counselors. These pagan magicians used astrology and divination to attempt to see the future. They then would offer advice to their kings based on what they could see.

Considering this background, why was it significant that these magi ignored the command of King Herod to report where they had found baby Jesus?



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*He alone is “King of kings.” He alone is “Lord of lords.” He salutes no one. All salute Him. He bows to no one. All bow to Him. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



### **Application: The Practical Effects of Jesus’ Kingship and Lordship**

Why does it matter that Jesus’ authority is greater than any other’s? How does this truth practically affect those who follow Him today? Three biblically based principles answer these questions.

First, *although we are proud, Jesus is in charge.* Is there an area of life where you feel you’ve had great success? While there is nothing wrong with feeling a sense of accomplishment, success can lead to pride. And pride often causes one to forget the true King and Lord. How can what you’ve learned in this study help you keep your pride in check?

Second, *although we are weak, Jesus is absolutely reliable.* What difficult challenges do you face today? Do you feel too weak to handle them on your own? What practical steps can you take to hand those challenges to God in faith and to rely on Him to bring you through them?



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Third, *although we face an insidious enemy, Jesus can handle our adversary.* Whether or not you’ve encountered full-blown spiritual warfare, Satan works hard to pull people away from God. In the space below, write about a time when you’ve seen God overcome the schemes of the enemy.

There is none stronger, none higher, none greater than Jesus Christ. He simply is the *best*. Do you believe that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords? If not, then there is no better time than right now to begin your blessed journey of following the eternal King, who will offer you eternal joy, eternal peace, eternal hope, and eternal life.



### A FINAL PRAYER

*Father, I praise You because You are greater than any false god or human ruler. And I thank You for revealing to me that Jesus Christ truly is King of kings and Lord of lords. Continue to remind me of this truth as I seek to live an abundant life as one whose true citizenship is in heaven and not on earth. I pray in Jesus’ great 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.*”

