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Introduction

EXPERIENCING JESUS AS LORD

Jesus is Lord of all. That is because He is the Creator of all. “All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him” (John 1:3, Nlrv). Jesus is Lord of every nation, tribe, language, and people. Not everyone recognizes Him as Lord. But the day is coming when every one will bow and every one will confess (say) that Jesus is Lord.

Jesus came to this earth. “He made himself nothing. He took on the very nature of a servant. He was made in human form. He appeared as a man. He came down to the lowest level. He obeyed God completely, even though it led to his death. In fact, he died on a cross” (Philippians 2:7, 8, Nlrv). Jesus will return to this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. His second coming will be with power and great glory. “Look! He is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him. Even those [people] who pierced [nailed] him will see him. All the nations of the earth will be sad because of him. This will really happen! Amen” (Revelation 1:7, Nlrv).

People who have turned away from Jesus’ grace will run in terror (fear) when He returns. Jesus’ glory will be the same as a destroying fire. But to people who have received Jesus as Savior and Lord, His second coming will be a time of joy! They will proudly announce, “ ‘He is our God. We trusted in him, and he saved us. He is the Lord. We trusted in him. Let us be filled with joy because he saved us’ ” (Isaiah 25:9, Nlrv).

Everyone will then confess (say) that Jesus is Lord. But for many people, it will be too late to accept Jesus as Lord. For wicked people, saying that Jesus is Lord is just admitting a truth they cannot deny. They are not surrendering to His love and authority.¹

The Bible appeals to (begs) us to accept God’s grace freely given through Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We are to accept Jesus as our Savior while there is still time. We can accept Him today. Jesus has paid the penalty (price) for our sins. We can, today, stand perfect in His righteousness (holiness). Jesus’ righteousness is the righteousness of God Himself. God freely gives this righteousness (holiness) to every willing sinner. “We are made right by putting our faith in Jesus Christ. That happens to all [people] who believe. It is no different for the Jews than for anyone else. Everyone sinned. No one measures up to God’s glory. The free gift of God’s grace makes all of us right with him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free” (Romans 3:22-24, Nlrv). “We are sinful and unholy. We cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own to

¹authority—the skill to make someone obey; influence that creates respect and trust.

meet the requirements of God's law. But Jesus has made a way of escape for us. When He lived on earth, He went through the same trials and temptations we have to face. He lived a sinless life. He died for us. Now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him and accept Him as your Savior, then God accepts you as righteous (holy). It does not matter how sinful your life may have been. Jesus' character stands in place of your character. You are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned."—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ [Jesus]*, p. 62.

When we receive Jesus as our Savior and Lord and accept His salvation, we say He is Lord of every nation, tribe, language, and people. We also say He is Lord of every part of our lives. He is Lord of all! As Christians, we are to show that we truly believe in Jesus as Lord. We show Jesus is Lord by saying He is Lord of our lives and by letting Him rule our lives.

In these lessons, we will study what it means to experience Jesus as Lord, Lord of our priorities,² thoughts, desires, and more. We will look at what it means to live day by day with Jesus as our Lord. We will obey Him in every part of our life. It is not enough to claim Jesus as our Savior. We must also claim Him as Lord. And because He is our Lord, He is able to be our Savior. The way we live shows we belong to Him. The way we live depends on how much we let Him be Lord of our lives.

This quarter, we will learn what it means to experience Jesus as Lord of our lives.

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²priorities—things listed in order of their importance; a list of things numbered in order of their importance.