

SPIRITUAL UNITY: GOD'S PLAN—PLANK FOUR, ONE LORD

The fourth plank in God's platform for spiritual unity is the fact of only ONE LORD. "Lord" is rendered from the Greek word, *kurios*. According to William E. Vine, it describes one who is to be recognized as master, or ruler. The capitalization of the term in the New Testament by translators indicates a divine master, or ruler.

Who, then, is this one Master, this unique Ruler, in God's plan? Who other than God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ! Living in the flesh without sin, offering his life in atonement for our sins, conquering death through resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven to rule at the right hand of God providing gracious forgiveness to all who submit to the authority of his reign (Acts 2:22-35). Peter, based on the facts expressed in these verses, then declared, "Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). The term Christ indicates one anointed and, again, the term Lord indicates a ruler. Thus, Peter, guided by the Holy Spirit, declared Jesus of Nazareth to be God's anointed ruler, Lord and Christ, reigning to overcome his enemies and to offer gracious redemption to all who submit to his heavenly reign.

All of this comports perfectly with preparatory events and declarations that occurred during Jesus' earthly ministry. For example, Jesus' apostles, Peter, James and John, beheld his transfiguration and saw him speaking with Moses and Elijah. Peter, seldom reluctant to speak, said three tabernacles should be built, one to Moses the lawgiver, one to Elijah the prophet, and one to Jesus. But a voice from heaven, that of none other than the Father, interrupted and said of Jesus, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matthew 17:5).

Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, God's ONE LORD over all! It should be obvious to us that if Jesus superseded Old Testament worthies ordained by God for Old Testament times that he also takes exclusive preeminence over everyone else in New Testament times.

What, exactly does this mean? As Jesus put it so simply, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). What divinely given authority is vested in Roman Catholicism's popes? How about the Martin Luthers, the King Henrys, the Joseph Smiths, the Ellen G. Whites, ad infinitum? What authority do they have in spiritual matters? Exactly none! All authority is vested in God's Son, ONE LORD, the Lord, Jesus Christ. Hear Him!

—Jerry F. Bassett