

## Acts 17:22-34

<sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for

“In him we live and move and have our being;  
as even some of your own poets have said,  
‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”

<sup>29</sup> Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

<sup>32</sup> Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” <sup>33</sup> So Paul went out from their midst. <sup>34</sup> But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

*All Scripture taken from the English Standard Version.*

## Getting to Know God

### Adonai Jehovah — My Lord God



### Genesis 15:1-4

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.”

*My Lord God*

“Commit you work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.”  
(Proverbs 16:3)

### Interesting Fact

- The divine name Yahweh is usually translated Lord in English versions of the Bible, because it became a practice in late Old Testament Judaism not to pronounce the sacred name YHWH, but to say instead “my Lord” (Adonai)—a practice still used today in the synagogue. When the vowels of Adonai were attached to the consonants YHWH in the medieval period, the word Jehovah resulted.  
(Hayford Bible Handbook)
- Around A.D. 200 Christian scholars began writing the vowels for *Adonai* beneath the Tetragrammaton (YHWH), reminding the reader to say “Adonai.”

### Adonai

- This word translates to the English, “my Lord.”
- The word occurs over 300 times in the Old Testament and is almost exclusively plural and possessive.

### Kurios — The New Testament Equivalent

- This word is used hundreds of times in reference to the Lord Jesus.

### The Meaning

- Both of the words mean master.
- Master is one who rules over you and as a result, you will obey them.
  - Some obey the master for the reward they will receive.

“It doesn’t take such a great man to be a Christian; it takes all of him!”  
(Seth Wilson)

### You Personal Relationship with Your Lord

- **My Lord vs. Lord**
  - There is a difference in knowing the Lord and having a personal relationship with the Lord.
  - See Matthew 7:21-23
- **We must be willing to seek God**
  - Acts 17:27—“seek God”
  - Hebrews 11:6
- **We must be willing to know God**
  - Hosea 4:6
  - Psalm 18
- **We must be willing to serve God**
  - Romans 12:1,2
  - Exodus 23:25
  - In our service to God we must be willing to follow the commands of God (Deuteronomy 6:14, 15).
- **We must be committed**
  - Matthew 6:24
  - If we want to know God we must follow His commands (2 Timothy 3:16).