

I. Know the Plan - 2 Peter 3:16-18: Gospel Hearing

What kind of intelligent agent was it? On its own, science cannot answer this question; it must leave it to religion and philosophy. But that should not prevent science from acknowledging evidences for an intelligent cause origin wherever they may exist.

Self-motivation must continue after God consciousness. When God provides more information, the person must express positive volition at Gospel hearing or remain in unbeliever status. If he responds positively then he experiences spiritual birth.

If the believer remains positive following salvation, then God provides him with a teacher and the availability of doctrinal truth.

If self-motivation causes the believer to attend a Bible class, then God provides a message through a pastor and the Holy Spirit functions as Teacher.

Self-motivation results in positive volition to gnosis doctrine learned academically which is metabolized into the stream of consciousness as *epignosis*.

Self-motivation to use doctrine under pressure allows the Holy Spirit to guide and direct the believer into making good decisions from a position of strength.

Self-motivation at recall means that the believer will execute the Christian way of life through accurate decision making and honorable problem solving.

2 Peter 3:18 (Corrected Translation) - But keep on growing in the sphere of grace and in the sphere of gnosis ...

The central Figure upon whom we are to focus our attention as we move through this growth process is identified next by the possessive genitive plural from the pronoun: *ego* – “about our”

Then comes four objective genitives which describe the primary subject of our studies:

kurios - Greek form of the Hebrew *Adonai*, translated, “Lord.” It is a title referring to the deity of Jesus Christ and identifies Him as our supreme authority to whom we must submit. Jesus Christ is Lord whether believers recognize the fact or not. We develop a commitment to Him by learning His desires from the Scriptures. If we fail to keep His commandments we will learn of His Lordship through the administration of divine discipline.

Next comes the noun: *soter* “Savior.” This is the title of our Lord’s true humanity through His substitutionary spiritual death on the cross.

Romans 5:8 - God commends His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The prepositional phrase “for us” is the ablative of separation from the preposition: *hyper* plus the pronoun: *ego* - “as a substitute for us.” Our Lord's substitutionary work for us on the cross makes Him our Savior.

The third objective genitive is the proper noun: *Iesous* – “Jesus.” This is our Lord’s given name. It is a transliteration from the Hebrew *Joshua* which means “*Jehovah is the Savior.*” This name was selected by God and communicated to Joseph by an angel in:

Matthew 1:21 - And she [Mary] will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.

The fourth objective genitive is the proper noun: *Christos* - Christ. This is not a given name nor is it a surname. It is instead a title. *Christos* is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew Messiah and means “*the Anointed*.”

Attention needs to be paid to how our Lord’s name and titles are presented in Scripture.

Analysis of the Names and Titles of Jesus:

First, the word “*Lord*” is *kurios*, the Greek form of the Hebrew, *Adonai*.

Since the Jews were fearful of speaking the divine name, Jehovah, they called Him instead, *Adonai*. *Kurios* is the Greek equivalent when applied to Jesus.

Jesus refers to Himself as Lord in:

John 13:13 - You call Me Teacher [*didaskalos*] and Lord [*kurios*]; and you are right, for so I am.

The writers of the New Testament, with the exception of Luke, were Jews. All refer to Jesus as “Lord.” Some examples:

Paul:

1 Corinthians 1:9 - God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Peter: Our central passage, 2 Peter 3:18.

James:

James 2:1 - My brethren, do not hold your faith in our Lord Jesus Christ of glory [*doxa*] with an attitude of personal favoritism.

James here also identifies the Lord with the Shekinah Glory.

John:

John 21:12 - Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples ventured to question Him, “Who are you?” knowing that it was the Lord.

The full significance of these men identifying Jesus as an equal to Jehovah through the use of the title, “*Lord*,” is seen when it is remembered that these men belonged to the only monotheistic race in the world. To associate with the Creator, one known to be a creature was impossible to a Jew. But not to those who had come to recognize Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Second, the word “*Savior*” is *soter*, the Greek form of the Hebrew, *Yasha*.