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The Only Potentate the King of kings and Lord of lords.

(1 Timothy 6:11-16)

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Only Potentate

The King of kings and Lord of lords.

INTRODUCTION: amongst Christianity some religious teachers have used Paul's words, "The blessed and only Sovereign, Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, to the Lord Jesus Christ.

They assume the title belongs to Christ because of the words, King of kings and Lord of lords in the book of Revelation clearly refer to the Lord Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:11-16), but does this mean that the title, "The King of kings and Lord of lords," in this chapter actually applies to Christ or is this a case of forcing a Scripture to fit a preconceived mindset? We will begin at verse fourteen in our search for the answer.

- **1 Timothy 6:14-16:** to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

The King James Bible says:

- Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; ¹⁶Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.

To apply the title, King of kings and Lord of lords as used in the context of these verses to Jesus is flawed because these verses state:

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1. He alone is immortal meaning he cannot die, whereas Jesus did.
2. He dwells in unapproachable light whereas Jesus was approachable by all.
3. No-one has ever seen him, whereas Jesus was seen by all.

Added to these the title King does not always refer to Jesus, many times in the Old Testament God the Father is called the King as the following verses show:

- For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods (Psalm 95:3).
- Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the earth (Psalm 74:12).
- Mine (Isaiah's) eyes have seen the King the LORD of hosts (Isaiah 6:5).
- I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King (Isaiah 43:15).
- The LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting King (Jer. 10:10).

These verses (there are of course many more) clearly show that the title Everlasting King was a common title for God the Father. the title, the Sovereign, immortal, King who dwells in unapproachable light whom no one has ever seen or can see of all ages applies to God the Almighty the everlasting Father while the Lord Jesus Christ is God's anointed and foreordained King of the age we live in and the eternal age to come since he is the fulfilment of God's eternal plan of salvation. Paul in these verses is not implying that Jesus the Son is actually God the Father as some religious teachers proclaim. Paul starts his message in (v11) thanking God the Father for His plan of salvation and ends in (v17) with thanking the Father again and giving God the full title:

- The only sovereign (Potentate in the KJV) the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality who dwells in unapproachable light whom no one has ever seen or can see.

A title that only belongs to the one true Almighty God, "Who gives life to all things" (v13) (meaning God the Father is the source of all life). The title, the blessed and only sovereign (Potentate in the KJV) the King of kings and Lord of lords" cannot be referring to Jesus because the verse goes onto to say, who only hath immortality dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto whom no man has seen, nor can see. Clearly people have approached and seen Christ even after his resurrection he appeared to many and they testify that they saw and handled him, yet (v16) says no man has ever seen Him or can even approach Him, evidencing that this title belongs to Almighty God and Father of all who belong to Christ.

Certainly: Jesus is returning as the 'King of kings and Lord of lords' (Rev 19:16) and certainly he is the 'King of kings and Lord of lords' over the Kingdom of God, the church and all principalities, powers rulers in heaven and on earth, but that does not mean that God his heavenly Father who is the source of all life (1 Tim 6:13) stops being the King of kings and Lord of lords' over all creation.

The Principle: could be likened to a father who has a mega billion dollar global company and who has such trust in his sons honesty and integrity he gives him all his authority and all his power knowing and fully trusting that his son will only do those things that he would do and fully confident that his Son will not allow the things that he would not allow. The father has exalted his son far above all other chiefs, executives and managers, the son has absolute authority and rule and is loved and respected by the staff as his father was.

Now consider this question: "Does this mean the son has become the father?" Of course not, obviously this is a foolish question since the answer is so obvious. Yet this is exactly what God the Father has done for his Son and because of it many amongst the global Christian community believe that Jesus must be the one true God. Since it is very clear in the story of the father owning the mega billion dollar global company giving his son his title, authority and power obviously does not mean that the son becomes the Father or that the Father has become the son, it should be just as obvious that because God the Almighty immortal, invisible eternal God of all creation and the source of all life has given His most beloved Son His name, his title and his authority and power does not make the Son the one true Almighty God. Yet this is what many believe concerning God the Father and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ simply because they are both given the title King of kings and Lord of lords, but all this really means is that the Father has given His Son his name, His title, His authority and His power.

CONCLUSION

Paul is saying when Jesus returns he will bring about (or reveal and show us) that his heavenly Father is the blessed and only sovereign (Potentate in the KJV), the King of kings and Lord of Lords, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto, whom no man hath seen, not can see. The fact Paul very clearly says no man can approach Him or see Him shines a spotlight on the truth that this title cannot apply to the Lord Jesus Christ as people saw him and touched him both before and after his death and resurrection.

FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF SCENARIO OF THE GLORIOUS RETURN OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE BEGINNING OF ETERNITY AND OF GOD THE FATHER THE IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE ETERNAL GOD BEING ALL IN ALL

The Lord will return as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. The dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth, or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns everyone will see him and those who pierced him, and tells us, Jesus the faithful witness and the ruler of kings on earth loves us, freed us from our sins by his blood and RANSOMED a people for God from every tribe, language, people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and made us a KINGDOM and PRIESTS to his God and Father (Revelation 1:5-10).
- And in chapter six we are told that Christ was slain to RANSOM a people for God from every tribe, language, people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and has made them a KINGDOM and PRIESTS to our God, and they shall REIGN on the EARTH (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is All in All and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see the following two titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).