

“I am the Lord Your God”

God is the Standard

Lev 20:22-24

By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the power behind the authority of the Lord.

- Intro:
1. The phrase “I am the Lord your God” is found 45 times in the Old Testament (45 NKJV, 35 OT KJV)
 2. We find numerous examples of God’s authority in the Bible.
 3. Today we will look at God’s authority as we consider the phrase “I am the Lord Your God”.

I. I am the Lord Your God.

A. Who God is matters.

1. The fact that it is the Lord who is speaking makes the statement & matter at hand of the utmost importance.
2. We must remember who is “the Lord Your God” (**Ex 3:14**).

B. The authoritative commands came from the SOURCE of Authority.

1. The phrase “thus says the Lord” is found 425 times in the O.T. (KJV).
2. It matters not what men say or have said it only matters what God has said. Only the commands of God & His Son are valid.

i. Col 2:20-23

ii. Mt 15:9

iii. Titus 1:14

iv. 2 Pt 1:16

II. False standards

A. I am the preacher

1. This statement is NOT authoritative.
2. **Acts 17:21** – there are many preachers today who only want to teach or proclaim “something new”.
3. We must remember a GOSPEL preacher proclaims the old paths and not some “new way” derived from the mind of man (**Jer 6:16**)

B. I am a prominent member

1. This statement is NOT authoritative
2. There are some today who hold themselves in high regard for various reasons (large contributions, the place in the community, their occupation, etc).
3. The Bible warns us that these individuals are not the standard nor are they authoritative (**3 Jn 1:9-10**)

C. I am an elder

1. An elder does NOT have authority to contradict God.
2. An elder only has authority to enforce and encourage others to follow the commands of God, not to supersede His word.
4. **Titus 1:9-11**

D. I am well known among the brethren

1. A “well known” person is NOT authoritative.
2. There are unfortunately those today who use their fame to influence others not for the good but for the progression of false teaching.
3. Everyone knows the scribes and Pharisees however they did not know Christ.
 - i. We are warned to be more righteous than these well-known men (**Mt 5:20**).

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. All things must be approved of by God, not man. (**Acts 10:42, 1 Thess 2:4**)
 1. Man has never been the authority.
 2. God is the standard, has been and will always be the standard of authority (**2 Tim 3:16**)
- B. Without God’s approval there is God’s condemnation.
 1. When man chooses not to follow God man chooses to be condemned by Him.
 2. We must choose who we serve and we must do so wisely (**Josh 24:15-16, Jn 6:68**)

Application & Conclusion:

1. Man will only be pleasing to God when we follow Him as our standard.
2. We must remember He is “the Lord Your God” and He is who we follow and no one else.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9