

Introduction to Usages of “Lord” (Greek - *Kurios*) in New Testament

The following chart gives every use of the word “Lord” in the New Testament. The columns give the verse references, the King James Version translation, the New American Standard Version translation, the Hebrew New Testament translation, the Aramaic/Syriac translation, and the Spanish Peshitta translation. An additional column is included for reference notes.

The basic word used for this study is the Greek word *Kurios*, most often translated as “Lord.” In a few instances, the Greek word *despotes* is the word translated “Lord,” and this is noted when that is the case.

Κυριος, (Greek *kurios*)

According to **Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**, the word *kurios* means:

- 1) He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord
- 1a) The possessor and disposer of a thing
- 1a1) The owner; one who has control of the person, the master
- 1a2) In the state: the sovereign, prince, chief, the Roman emperor
- 1b) A title of honor expressive of respect and reverence, with which servants greet their master
- 1c) This title is given to: God, the Messiah

Here is an explanation for each of the different translations used:

English KJV Version

This column covers the uses of the Greek word *kurios* and sometimes the Greek word *despotes* as they were translated in the King James Version of the Bible. The King James Version was translated from the Greek Textus Receptus. Sometimes the word translated is different from the NASB version. When the word *kurios* was translated “Lord,” “lord,” or “LORD,” this is shown in the column. If a different Greek word other than *kurios* was used in the Textus Receptus, the Greek rendering of this word is used in this chart. The following words may appear in this column.

- **Lord, lord, lords, Lord’s, lord’s, LORD, LORDS**
- **Master, master, Masters, masters**
- **Sir, sir**
- **Owners**
- **θεος** (Greek word *Theos* or God)
- **δεσποτης** (*despotes* -another Greek word translated “lord” or “master” in New Testament.)
- **κυριευω** (Another form of the Greek *kurios*)
- **Χριστος** (Greek word *Christos* or Christ/Messiah)
- **Ιησους** (Greek word *Iesous* or Jesus)
- **Not in text** – If the King James Version has no usage of “Lord,” “God,” “Christ,” or “Jesus,” this column uses this phrase – “not in text.”

English NASB Version

This column gives a listing of the uses of the Greek word *kurios* and sometimes the Greek word *despotes* as they were translated in the New American Standard Version of the Bible. The New American Standard Bible follows closely to The Greek New Testament stemming from the Nestle-Aland 1977 translation. Sometimes, the word translated is different from the King James Version. When the word *kurios* was translated “Lord,” “lord,” or “LORD,” this is shown in the column. If a different Greek word other than *kurios* was used from the Greek text, the Greek rendering of this word is given in this chart. Sometimes, when the King James Version uses the word “Lord,” the NASB simply shows the pronoun “He,” “His,” or “You,” reflecting the translation from the Greek. The following words may appear in this column.

- **Lord, lord, lords, Lord’s, lord’s, LORD, LORDS**
- **Master, master, Masters, masters**
- **Sir, sir**

- **Owner, owners**
- **Landowner**
- **Rabboni**
- **θεος** (Greek word *Theos* or “God”)
- **δεσποτης** (*despotes* -another Greek word translated “lord” or “master” in New Testament.)
- **Χριστος** (Greek word *Christos* or “Christ”/“Messiah”)
- **Ιησους** (Greek word *Iesous* or “Jesus”)
- **He, His, You** – If the Greek text used a pronoun rather than *kurios*, the NASB uses one of these pronouns.
- **Not in text** – If the NASB version has no usage of “Lord,” “God,” “Christ,” or “Jesus,” this column uses this phrase – “not in text.”

Hebrew New Testament

This section gives the Hebrew translation of the Greek word *kurios* as translated in the 1877 *Hebrew New Testament* by Franz Delitzsch. The final editing of this version was completed by Dr. Gustaf Dalman. The Greek Textus Receptus was used as the basis for this translation, and the translation from Sinaitic Codex was chosen in certain variant renderings. Delitzsch translated with a purpose of reaching out to the Jewish community and as such believed the text should be reproduced as if thought and written in Hebrew. The following words may appear in this column.

- יהוה (*YHWH- Yahweh*) The Hebrew name of God
- אֲדוֹנָי, (*adown*) Hebrew words translated as “lord”/“Lord.” According to **Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew Lexicon of the Old Testament**, the word *adown* means: Lord, master, king; used of men as lord, master, king, governor, prince, prophet, husband.
- אֲדוֹנָי, אֲדוֹנָי, אֲדוֹנָי, אֲדוֹנָי (*adonay*) Hebrew word translated as lord/Lord. Many times this word appears with a variety of endings or suffixes in the Hebrew New Testament. According to **Brown, Driver, and Briggs Hebrew Lexicon of the Old Testament**, *adonay* is an emphatic form of *adown*. It can be used of men or of God. It is also the Lord-title, spoken in place of “Yahweh” in Jewish display of reverence.
- אֱלֹהִים (*Elohiym*) The Hebrew word for God
- יֵשׁוּעַ (*Yashua*) The Hebrew name for Jesus
- מְשִׁיחַ (*Mashiyach*) The Messiah, the Hebrew equivalent of the Greek word *Christos* (Christ)
- ? – Due to our limited understanding of Hebrew, at times the word translated as Lord in KJV or NASB is uncertain in this listing from the Hebrew New Testament. In these instances a “?” is used.

Estrangelo Aramaic New Testament

The list given is from a translation of the Estrangelo Aramaic New Testament. This comes from a modern translation of the Peshitta Syriac translation, written in Estrangelo Aramaic Script.

- ܡܪܝܢ (mry- Aramaic mar’ē) The Aramaic word for “lord.” With this specific ending, it is often translated as “my lord.”
- ܡܪܢܐ (mrn- Aramaic mar’n) Another usage of the Aramaic word ܡܪܝܢ, translated “lord.” With this specific ending, it is often translated as “our lord.”
- ܡܪܝܢܐ (mrya- Aramaic mar’ya) Emphatic usage of the Aramaic word ܡܪܝܢ, translated “lord.” With this specific ending, it is often translated as “the lord.” The 1926 *Lexicon to the Syriac New Testament* by William Jennings states that this emphatic form is often used for the Hebrew Tetragrammaton יהוה; also it is used for Christ as *Lord of All*.
- ܡܪܐ, ܡܪܗ, ܡܪܗܘܢ (mra, mrh, mrhwn) Other usages of the Aramaic word ܡܪܝܢ, translated “lord.”
- ܐܠܘܗܐ (Aloah- Aramaic) Aramaic word for God.
- ܝܫܘܥܐ (Yshhwh- Aramaic) Aramaic word for Jesus. Y’shua.
- ܡܫܝܚܐ (Msyakh- Aramaic) Aramaic equivalent of the Hebrew word for Messiah and the Greek word for Christ.

Spanish Peshitta Translation

The column provides words from a translation of the Spanish Peshitta version called *Biblia Peshitta*. This is a translation in Spanish of the Aramaic/Syriac Peshitta Bible (Old and New Testament). One of the unique usages in this Spanish version is the Hebrew word *Yahweh*. When translating the emphatic form of the Aramaic word for “lord” (ܐܘܢܝܐ), the translators, at times, chose to use the Hebrew word *Yahweh* as the best rendering of this Aramaic word. At other times, this word was translated with the Spanish word *Señor*. Other Spanish words used in this Spanish translation are shown in this column in one of the following ways.

- **YAHWEH, Yahweh** - The name of God, the existing one, the one true God
- **SEÑOR, Señor, señor** – Sir, Lord, master
- **Dueño, dueños** – Master(s), ruler(s)
- **Maestro** – Master, teacher
- **Amo, amos** – Owner(s), landowner
- **DIOS, Dios** - God
- **Jesús** - Jesus
- **Cristo** – Christ, Messiah