

Exodus Chapter 20 v 1 - 21

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Date: 09 October 2016

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[0 : 00] first came to us and the verse that's on the screen, our introduction to worship, is from John chapter 1 verse 1. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Words are the couriers of truth, aren't they? The couriers of information.

When we meet with people we speak them. With our words we reveal ourselves to them, tell people about ourselves. And here John uses this wonderful description of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Word. He's the carrier, the courier. He's the revelation of God to us. We could know nothing about God except that what he has told us about himself and particularly what he's shown us about himself in the Lord Jesus Christ. And he is the Word who is God himself. Not just a messenger, not prophet, but somebody who is God who's come to us. And our first hymn reminds us of that truth. We're going to stand and sing together number 193, You're the Word of God the Father. So let's stand as we sing. Can I atau semua anytime Valentine's Day I moan YouTube When Tune What A Pode A A The power of your voice Let the skies declare your glory Let the land and seas rejoice You're the author of creation You're the Lord of every man

Let your cry of love Rates out across the land Jesus Christ, God, came to us It's through Jesus Christ we can come to God We can know Him personally And we can speak to Him And that's what we do when we pray And that's what we're going to do now We're going to pray together Let us pray O Lord our God, You are indeed the creator of all things The author of all things The beginner of all things But You are the one who has no beginning And has no end Yet we are people of time We have a beginning and an end We have a life to live And we thank You, O Lord, for the gift of life that You've given us We thank You that however far along the journey of life we are That You are the God who cares for us Who has kept us and protected us thus far along that journey The God who has all the way through our lives

Wanted and desired for us to know You And to be Your children And to know Your love, forgiveness and care And we thank You that we know that this is true Because of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ That He, the Word of God The very messenger of God The very revelation of God Came to us We can never get to You, God You are so great, so good, so perfect, so holy And yet, Lord, when we look in our own hearts We know that we are sinful and selfish and proud That we are people who muck it up and make a mess of things And who are the recipients of other people's mess as well Lord, we can never be good enough Or never climb up, as it were, to get to You And You know that, Lord And for that reason You came down to us You stooped down to us You condescended You came to where we are That You might not leave us where we are in that sense Lord, You might save us and rescue us from ourselves

[4 : 06] From the sin that has corrupted and broken and destroyed And harmed the lives of the people of this world We thank You that to do that, Lord Jesus You, Yourself, were willing to be broken and destroyed Upon the cross Because that was the only way that we could be rescued The only way that we could be forgiven The only way that we could know You, our God Was for You, Lord Jesus Christ To take our blame, our guilt Our wrongdoing And to be punished in our place We thank You that You did that willingly You did that gladly even Because such is Your love for us Such is Your desire to rescue us And to save us And to make us right with God That You went all the way to the cross and died But we thank You that wasn't the end We thank You that's not the end We thank You that on that first day of the week At Easter Sunday You rose again from the dead We thank You that You have conquered sin and death and hell We thank You that You are alive forevermore And for that reason we come to You in prayer

For that reason we come and know You perfectly Sorry, personally And one day it will be perfectly When we're in heaven at Your side Be with us this morning Help us to know You speaking to us Help us to know You meeting with us Help us, O Lord, we pray To bring our praise and worship to

You For all that You've done for us Help us, Lord, in this time To know Your Holy Spirit at work That we might hear that word of God the Father That we might receive Your word and Your truth And in receiving that word of truth Receive the life that You long to give We ask these things again As we give to You all of our thanks In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen Sing 372 Amen

And you have and thanks I give unto you That you love one another As I have loved you As I have loved you As you love one another As I have loved you My lips shall open door That you are my disciples With you love love one for another My lips shall open door That you are my disciples If you love one another We're going to read from our Bibles now And hopefully you've got one to hand Or lay your hand upon one Or share one

And we're going to continue In Exodus and chapter 20 Exodus and chapter 20 And if you've got the One of the church Bibles It's page 77 Some time ago Some months ago We finished part of the journey The journey of God's people From Egypt in slavery Through to Mount Sinai And we're going to We've just been building up to that The last week And building up again this week Until we look at the Ten Commandments In the coming weeks together So we're going to read From chapter 20 It's page 77 And where we have the subtitle And if you've got the NIV The Ten Commandments And we're going to read through To verse 21 From 1 to 21 Let's hear God's word His faithful good And holy word And God spoke all these words

I am the Lord your God Who brought you out of Egypt Out of the land of slavery You shall have no other gods before me You shall not make for yourself An image in the form of anything In heaven or on earth Or beneath Or in the waters below You shall not bow down to them Or worship them For I the Lord your God Am a jealous God Punishing the children For the sin of the parents To the third and fourth generation Of those who hate me But showing love To a thousand generations Of those who love me And keep my commandments You shall not misuse The name of the Lord your God For the Lord will not withhold Will not hold anyone guiltless Who misuses his name Remember the Sabbath day By keeping it holy Six days you shall labor And do all your work But the seventh day Is a Sabbath to the Lord your God

[9:14] On it you shall not do any work Neither you Nor your son or daughter Nor your male or female servant Nor your animals Nor any foreigner Residing in your towns For in six days The Lord made the heavens And the earth The sea And all that is in them But he rested on the seventh day Therefore the Lord Blessed the Sabbath day And made it holy Honor your father And your mother So that you may live long In the land The Lord your God Is giving you You shall not murder You shall not commit adultery You shall not steal You shall not give false testimony Against your neighbor You shall not covet Your neighbor's house You shall not covet Your neighbor's wife Or his male or female servant His ox or donkey Or anything that belongs To your neighbor When the people saw The thunder and lightning And heard the trumpet And saw the mountain in smoke They trembled with fear They stayed at a distance

And said to Moses Speak to us yourself And we will listen But do not let God speak to us Or we will die Moses said to the people Do not be afraid God has come to test you So that the fear of God Will be with you To keep you from sinning The people remained At a distance While Moses approached The thick darkness Where God was If you have a Bible And you're able to turn to it Then it would be helpful If you turn to Where we read Just a little while ago From Exodus and chapter 20 That's page 77 We're continuing to have an introduction In one sense To these Ten Commandments Last week we looked at how God Revealed to the people His great love for them His care for them Revealed to them His holiness That He is a God Who is different Who is perfect

Who is righteous He revealed to them His power as well Power not only To create But power To help To equip And to do A few years ago There was a new computer game Released by The name of Sims 3 And the manufacturers Called EA Conducted a survey Of a thousand Eleven to sixteen year olds Throughout the UK They wanted to ask them About their knowledge of And their attitude Towards the Ten Commandments Because in Sims 3 You make your own people Your own communities And you make your own rules And your laws You in their words Become the God Of the people That you create In this game And so of those A thousand young people Only six of them Oh sorry Six percent of them Could remember All of the Ten Commandments And all but four of them They thought were worth Preserving and keeping

The four that they cut away Were replaced Were replaced With laws that prohibited Harming the environment Committing acts of terrorism Being motivated by greed And failing to respect All people Regardless of race Religion Or sexuality The four commandments That they thought No

longer were necessary Were the first four All of them Relate to how We know God The Guardian Newspaper ran An article on this And the journalist In that Who did that article About these new commandments And this And this new game Made some very interesting comments This is what he wrote If morality exists at all It exists beyond our capacity To manipulate it We can discover Discuss Or discard moral standards As we do today But we need to do so According to whether Or not they are true

Whether or not they are relevant Is entirely irrelevant Now what he has to say And I don't think he is a Christian But what he has to say Is something that we as Christians Have recognised And do recognise But the majority of society Around about us Does not recognise Truth is truth Whatever the majority Of people think Whatever the popular feeling About a certain issue At one time or another Truth cannot Stop being Truth And that brings us really To the beginning Of chapter 20 Of Exodus Where we are told God spoke All these Words This is what As Christians Is the foundation Of our faith Of our belief About the Bible Is that God Spoke His truth To his people He did that Over the course Of many generations Over thousands of years But what we have Contained Is God's truth God's spoken word

[14:19] And if that Was true Then We believe It is true Now And it is true And shall remain True for all Of time Why? Because the God Who speaks These words Is the perfect God The truthful God The Bible The Bible Is not merely A book That contains Truth Because Whatever book You read There will be Some truth In it Even works Of fiction Will have Some truth In them But The Bible Is a book Which is Truth All truth It's the word Of God Which is Unmixed With man's Sin Man's Ignorance And it's not Just here That we find That that truth That God Spoke the word And that the Scripture Is truth But we find It elsewhere As well In the New Testament too Paul writes About the Scripture And he says This All scripture Is God

Breathed To Timothy 3.16 Something special Supernatural Wonderful About the word Of God In the Bible It is unlike Any other book At any other Time Because it is The only book That God Has given us So as we come To these words These particular Words of God That were spoken Here in Exodus 20 We need to Ask ourselves Those important Questions Is what is Spoken by God Here relevant For us today Or was it Only relevant For God's People Israel Those thousands Of years ago Does God Have something To say To us Which impacts Our lives Or are these Words that we Do not need To be concerned About Now I hope You'll understand That my thinking Is we do need To hear these Words They are for us Today They are relevant

They have an Impact upon our Lives And we need To listen And take Notice See God Introduces The Ten Commandments Himself Doesn't he He says In verse 2 I am the Lord your God Who brought You out of Egypt Out of the Land Of slavery And so These Ten Commandments The word Of God As we've Been thinking Through our Services This morning The word Of God Is the Revelation Of God To us We cannot Know God By our own Scheming Or thinking Or planning That's happened Throughout the Ages Go back To the Greek Philosophers To Plato And Aristotle And they All discussed And debated And described What they Thought God May be like What they Thought about The person Of God But of course They all Failed To come Even close To understanding God And even In our own Day and age There are Those who Continue Men and Women Philosophers And thinkers And debaters

Trying to Unravel this Incredible question Is there A God And what Is he Like But they Will always Fail You And yourself Probably as you Come to church This morning Or perhaps as you Through your life Have thought About what God might be Like You've got Your own Preconceptions Your own Ideas Of God They may be Positive They may be Negative But we have Our own Thoughts About God But none Of those Thoughts Are correct None Of those Thoughts Are the Truth About God None Of those Thoughts About God Can really Be the Picture of What God Is like Why Because only God can Tell us What he's Like Only God Can speak To us About himself Because only God knows Himself That's true Of us as Personalities As well Isn't it Think about Yourself Can anyone Fully describe Who you Are And you Have friends You have Family

You have People maybe They've known You for years And years And they can Talk about You and Tell stories About you And even Describe you In many Ways They don't Know you Do they They don't Know the Spirit of You They don't Know your Soul They don't Know the Things in Your own Mind The things That's Secret to Yourself And so It is With God It's what Paul writes About this Truth He says Who knows A person's Thoughts Except their Own spirit Within them In the Same way No one Knows the Thoughts Of God Except the Spirit of God And he Goes on to Speak about

How God Has made Himself Known To us To those Who put Their faith In the Lord Jesus Christ God has Revealed Himself And that's What these Ten commandments Are In one Sense This is The beginning Of God Speaking to His people Israel The people He's brought Out of Slavery The people He's brought To himself This is The beginning Of his Description Beginning of His Explanation Of what he Has in Store for Them And he Begins First of

[19 : 21] All by Telling them About himself And so What do we Learn in General about God from These verses When he Says I Says I Am The Lord Your God When we Use that Phrase The Lord That means The supreme Authority God is The supreme Authority In the World Not the UN Not the European Parliament The supreme Authority Is God He alone Makes The laws Which are To be Obeyed He alone Sets down The standards That are Right and True And the Reason that He alone Is the Lord Of this World And everything In it Is because He is the Creator Of it This comes Out later On in One of the Commandments For in Six days The Lord Made The heavens And the Earth The sea And order Is in Them And he

Rested On the Seventh Day Why is it That again And again In our Present Society Scientists So called And others As well Want to do Away with The thought That God Is the Creator Of the Universe Because once You get Rid of God As the Creator Of the Universe He has No Authority Over the Universe Once this World is Only a Mass of Molecules That have Banged Together And created Rather Evolved This world With no Authority Or power Then of Course there's No need For a God Of this Accidental World God who Created All things Is the God who Alone Has authority Over all Things Including Our own Lives So we Learn that God has Authority We learn That God Is righteous From these Commandments In other Words That his Standards Are the Right Standards Just as Everybody Has their Own view About what God is Like Everybody Has their Own view About what's Right and Wrong Don't they It's very Subjective

Something that Was once Considered to be Anathema And awful Now becomes Popular and Acceptable Well how did It stop being Wrong and start Being right Well because People decided People have Their own Way of Working things Out To decide That something Is right And of course We all Justify Ourselves As well Don't We We justify Our actions Well it was Really okay For me to Break the Speed limit In that Situation Because I Was in A bit Of a Hurry So we Justify Our actions In all Sorts Of ways We set We set We set the Standards For our Own Lives For our Own Relationships For our Own way Of doing Things But no we Cannot do That According to God's word He is the One who Sets the Standards He's the One who Says Right is Right and Wrong is Wrong Why because He is Right Himself Righteous and Perfect in All that He is In fact God reveals To us as We see in These commandments The things That he Delights in And the Things that He hates

As well Later on In the Bible In Isaiah We're told It pleased The Lord For the Sake of His Righteousness To make His law Great And glorious He's given The law As an Expression Of what He delights In Of what He pleases Him What is His Delight We see As well That God Is good Why is God Given these Commandments To his People Well they're A gift Good Government Is a Gift Isn't It How often We complain About bad Government Well when God gives Good Government That's His Blessing His Gift In fact Good Government Is a Blessing To any Society Any Nation And these Commandments Are for Every society And every Nation Yes given To his People There A thousand And more Three and More thousand Years ago But they Are relevant For us Today If we Kept All These Commandments If we Did all The things That God Has given

In these Ten words As they're Called Wouldn't There be A better Place Wouldn't Be a Wonderful Place If people Did not Kill each Other People Did not Lie to One Another People Were Faithful To one Another And so On God God God Is Good And so What we Find Then as We're Going To be Looking At These Commandments Is God Revealing Himself To us Revealing Himself To us As having Authority As being Righteous And as Being Good And if These Things Reveal God Then they Must Reveal The Son Of God They Must Reveal The Lord Jesus Christ To us If God Is Found Out Here Christ Must Be Found Out Here In fact We Know That Has To Be The Case Because Jesus Himself Did Just That When He Taught His Disciples In Luke 24 After His Resurrection From The Dead He Met With His Disciples And This Is

[24 : 50] Jesus And We Find Him Here As Well So The First Thing That God Wants Us To Be Receiving These Words The Reason He Wants Us To Receive These Words Because They Tell Us About Himself And Don't We Want To Know God More As As We Want To Know What God Is Like Perhaps Even Those Who Are Not Christians Are A Little Bit Confused Or Not Sure What This God

Commandments As We Will See What God Does By Way Of Introduction He Says Who Brought You Out Of Egypt That's What God Had Done For Them They Hadn't Forgotten That Because It Was Only A Matter Of Months If Three Months Earlier That This Had Happened They Had Been Slaves For Hundred Years And God Amazingly Marvelously Incredibly Had Brought Them Out And He Done It With All Sorts Of Wonders Those Ten Plagues That Were Sent Against The People Of Egypt The

Passover When The Angel Of Death Came And The Firstborn Were Killed But God's People Were Rescued When They Were Taken To The Red Sea Trapped With The Hordes Of Egyptian Soldiers Coming Against Them And The Red Sea In Their Way And How God Parted The Sea And They Walked On Dry God Had Brought Them Out Of Egypt God Had Done For Them Amazing Things Wonderful Things He Saved Them But That Wasn't The End Of His Salvation That Wasn't The End Of What He Done He Wasn't Going To Bring Them Into The Desert And Say Right Well I'm Off You're Saved Now You're Out Of Egypt That's My That's Me Finished With My Saving Work For You No Of Course Not God Had Brought Them To That Point But He Was The One Who Was Going To Take Them From There He Was The One Who Was Going To Take Them Into The Promised Land And From Then On Was Going To Continue To Be Their Saviour God's Saving Work Hadn't Finished In Fact When They Got To The Promised Land And The Lord Delivered Them From Their Enemies There And Gave Them That Land He Had To Continue To Save Them Again And Again Because Again And Again As We Know They Fell And They Sinned And They Got It Wrong And God Came To Their Rescue And So It Went On Throughout Their History In All The Generations To Come These Ten Commandments Are Part Of God's Saving Work For His People Part Of His Ongoing Care For Them Part Of His Goodness Towards Them They Are Part Of His Covenant With Them That Agreement By Which He Binds Himself To Them And Says You Are My People And I Will Be Your God It's Part Of His Promise To Protect Them Remember What I Said To The Children Why Do We Have Those Rules And Laws In Life They Protect Us From Ourselves And Protect Us From More About The Salvation

That God Has For You And I As Believers What He Has Done For Us And What He Is Doing For Us That's The Great Thing About The God That We Worship He's Not Simply A God Of The Past He's Not Simply A God Who's Done Great Things And He's Not Just A God Who's Promised Great Things To Come When We Get To Heaven He's A God Who Does Great Things He Is Interactive In The Lives Of His People And This World He Has Not Left This World Because The Lord Jesus Christ Has Ascended To The Father He Is Intimately Powerfully Engaged In This World And The Great Reason Why God Has Given Us His Word And His Laws And His Commandments Is That They Might Bring Us To Christ His Paul As He Writes In Galatians Chapter 3 The Law Was Put In Charge To Lead Us To Christ So We Need God's Law We Need His Word It Directs Us And Brings Us To That Place Of Real Salvation Of A Relationship With The Living God Through Jesus Christ His Son So

God Says In These Things This Is What I Like God Says This Is What I Do And Then God Tells Them As Well This Is What His Plan Is What Is His Purpose Ultimately In Giving Them These Commandments Look At The End Of Verse 2 Who Brought You Out Of Egypt Out Of The Land Of Slavery God Delivered His People From The Place Of Slavery Under The Egyptian Tyranny Not So That He Should Enslave Them Himself Under More Legislation And Rules He Brought Them Out For Freedom These Words These Ten Commandments Flow From God's Grace They Are Part Of His Free Unmerited Loving Kindness To His People Now Many People Get It All Wrong They Look At The Ten Commandments Even Christians At Times This Is Like Being In Slavery Again Do This And Don't Do That It's Like Being Bound Up But Actually

[29 : 52] That's Completely Wrong God Saved His People By Grace And Then He Gave Them The Law You Don't Carry Out The Law To Earn God's Favor You Don't Keep The Commandments Because You Want God To Forgive You And To Outbalance The Bad Things In Your Life That Can't Be Done God Gives His Grace To Forgive Us And Set Us Free That We Might Have The Freedom To Live For Him Now Sadly Instead Of Understanding And Using God's Word For Freedom And Liberty And Blessing Though Many Of Them Did Many Of Them Began To Misapply And Abuse And Add To God's Word So When We Get To Jesus Day We Have These Religious Leaders These Teachers Of The Law These Pharisees Particularly That Have Taken God's Commandment And Made them Incredible Unbearable Burdens Upon Them And Others Here's What Jesus Had To Say To Them In

Luke 11 Jesus Replied And You Experts Of The Law Woe To You Because You Load People Down With Burdens They Can Hardly Carry And You Yourselves Will Not Lift A Finger To Help Them So The People Of Jesus Day Were Overloaded With These Terrible Burdens Of Do This And Do That And They Just Couldn't Do These Things They Were Told If You Didn't Keep The Law As They Understood It To The Very Nth Degree Then God Would Never Be Pleased With You Or Accept You And So On They Lost Their Whole Understanding Of God's Word And The Reason He Given It And Jesus Goes On And Says This To Them About How They Keep All The Law But You Neglected The More Important Matters Of The Law What's The The Law Is About And As We Examine As We Look At These Commandments We Will Not Find God Willing Ourselves Overburdened

With Them We Shall Find That By Understanding And Applying Them We Are Liberated By Them They Bring Freedom To Us Freedom From Sin Freedom From Its Curse Freedom From Its Power Freedom To Live The Very Life That God Created Us To Live And That's The Reality Women Reject God's Word The More They Disobey These Commandments The More Enslaved And Trapped They Become They Become Enslaved And Trapped To Popularity They Become Enslaved And Trapped To Greed They Become Enslaved And Trapped To Materialism They Become Enslaved And Trapped To All Sorts Of Things Which Ultimately Destroy And Harm And Twist And Cause Sorrow And Grief In Hearts And Lives Is The World In Which We Live In The 21st Century In UK Really A Free Society Or

Is It Actually Really Made Up Of People Who Are Enslaved To One Degree Or Another Chasing An Empty Dream Looking For Something That Will Satisfy But Always Finding That Their Hopes Turn To Ashes A Christian Is Someone Who's Been Set Free Set Free So That They Can Keep God's Law Not In The Dead Letter Of The Law But As we Understand As God Desires Us To live By The Spirit Of The Law He Is He Is He He Says Through Jesus Christ The Law Of The Spirit Of Life Set Me Free From The Law Of Sin And Death Notice He Says The Law Of The Spirit Set Me Free And It's The Spirit Of The Law That We Need To Understand Jesus Describes And We'll Look At This As We Go On How He Takes Those Commandments And He Says No You've Misunderstood It Adultery Doesn't Simply Mean The Action It Means The Desire He Talks About The Heart And The Spirit Rather

Than Purely The Outward The World In Which We Live Is All Concerned With The Outward Appearance The Bling How We Appear To One Another The Being It's About The Heart It's About The Inward From The Inward Flows The Outward The Outward Is Just A Husk Not The Reality We See Here Then These Commandments Are Given To Set Us Free Because They Are Not Simply Commandments In One Sense That We Keep Outwardly As I've Said Already But Rather We See That In Them There Is Also Promises Where God Says You Shall There's A Promise Isn't It You Shall Do This And You Shan't Do That It's A Promise Of Living A Life Which Is As God Intended It To Be God Is Promising The Way Of Life For

[34 : 55] Us To Live And For The Christian In One Sense That's The Truth We Shall Do Things God Promises Us The Power And The Ability To Live For Him Again In The New Testament We're Told This It Is For Freedom That Christ Has Set You Free Galatians Chapter 5 For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free And So We Need To Ask Ourselves How Can Live In The Freedom And The Liberty That Christ Has Set Me Free From We Find Ourselves Even As Christians Being Pressed And Arrassed And Corralled Into A Way Of Thinking Which Is Not What God Would Have Us To Do We Find Ourselves In The Workplace Or In The Home Or Wherever It May Be I'm Doing Something I'm Saying Things I'm Joining In With The Rest And I Don't Want To Be Like That I Don't Want To Laugh At That Crude And Smutty Joke I Don't Want To Join In With That Activity Of Going To The Pub And Getting Drunk I Don't Want To Be That Way When We Know The Commandments Of God They Set Us Free From That We Can Stand Up To That You

Shall Live As Do Not Use Your Freedom To Serve Or To Indulge The Flesh The Sinful Nature Rather Serve One Another In Love The Freedom You And I Have Been Given Is To Be Used Not So We Just Do What We Want Because Actually That's Harmful For Us That's Harmful For Others That's Dishonoring But When We Know The Commandments Of God When We Walk Within The Wonderful Boundary Of We Use It To Serve Others We Use It To Make An Impact A Difference In The World In Which We Live We Don't Just Sort Of Go Through The Motions Of Life But Something There are Repercussions There's Ripples From Your Life And Mine That Affect Others It All Comes Through God's Word So

It's That Practical Christian Living That God Desires For Us That We're Going To Be Looking At As We Apply God's Word To Our Daily Lives What's Your Attitude To God's Word What's Your Attitude To The Ten Commandments To The Law That God Has Given Is It Negative Is It Positive Is It Indifferent This Is What One Of The Writers Of The Psalms Had To Say Your Laws Are My Inheritance Forever They Are The Joy Of My Heart My Heart Is Set On Keeping Your Commandments To The Very End There Is A Blessing To Be Had In The Law Of God Because It Is For Our Good From A Good And Gracious God Well Let's Sing Together Our Final Hymn This Morning It May Sound Quite A Strange Hymn If You've Not Sung It Before Because It Starts With The Phrase Make Me A Captive Lord And Then I Shall Be Free It's 587 And It's Talking About This Amazing Paradox That We've Been Thinking About As Well That The More That To Jesus To The More That We Are Given Over In Our Lives And Hearts To Him The More We Enjoy The Freedom Of Life He Brings Let's Sing And Stand And Sing 587 To Him That's God Who Is Able To Keep You From Falling And To Resent You Before His Glorious Presence Without Fault And With Great Joy To The Only God Our Saviour Be Glory Majesty Power And Authority Through Jesus Christ Our Lord Before All Of Time Today And Forever More Amen