



Small group study materials, November 2020

Chapter & verse – Rosalind Selby (page 16)

Read Ephesians 1:20-23, followed by Rosalind Selby's article.

1. Reflecting on the questions raised in Rosalind's second paragraph: what does the phrase 'Christ the King' mean to you?
2. The Bible passage says that Christ is 'far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come'. Are there ways in which today's leaders try to emulate Christ's authority? What makes Christ's kingship different to ours?
3. In the third paragraph of her article, Rosalind highlights that 'the reign of Christ is for all creation'. She explains further in the next two paragraphs. What do you make of Rosalind's interpretation? Do you agree that creation 'waits for her redemption just as much as we do'?
4. Rosalind's seventh paragraph addresses other-than-human creation, like Covid-19 and cancer cells. 'We cannot tell how Christ is the king of such things,' she argues. Do you agree? Where does God's kingship come in, when it comes to these other-than-human things?
5. Guided by passages from Isaiah and 1 Corinthians, Rosalind considers what God's final kingdom will be like (see paragraph eight). Does Rosalind's conclusion ring true for you? How do you envisage the final kingdom?
6. The end of Rosalind's article calls the Church to confess its complicity in behaviour that has failed to be for the best of the whole, rather than just the western, Church. In what ways can Christians address the issues Rosalind raises in her penultimate paragraph?

For further reflection: 'For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders ... His authority shall grow continually' Isaiah 9:6-7



Prayer: Christ our King, you have showed us a different kind of kingship, a new way to exercise authority. Forgive us when we have preferred the old ways of force and self-interest. May your kingdom come in us, we pray. Amen.

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