

Study Questions for

King: A Christian's Call to Imitate Christ's Kingship

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Chapter 1: A High Calling

Historical Questions

1. What were other events taking place in the world in 1089?
2. Have you read anything about Georgia before?
3. Name other famous or infamous historical people from Georgia.

Theological Question

1. Why do people have a fascination for kings and queens?
2. What are some character qualities befitting good kingship (perhaps some not discussed in this book) which we ought to imitate?
3. Why ought we to work toward developing kingly qualities?
4. In what ways is our calling to be prophets, priest, and kings similar to that of God's people in Old Testament times? In what ways is our calling as prophets, priests, and kings different from that of Old Testament believers?
5. How does GI Williamson extrapolate the character qualities of knowledge, holiness, and righteousness from the offices of prophet, priest, and king respectively? How is righteousness a description of kingship?
6. In regards to the discussion on 1 Cor 15:21-22, what are some similarities and difference between Christ's work and Adam's work?
7. Is it coincidence Psalm 149 places "exhortations to praise God" alongside a description of the kingly privilege of God's people? Why should these two go hand in hand?
8. There is a warning against taking Psalm 149 too literally. Discuss the difference between Christ physically exercising judgment on the wicked, and his followers exercising spiritual judgment in the world. Is this an absolute distinction? Can you think of historical examples where "ordinary"

people (not government officials) have been called to legitimately exercise civil/physical judgment?

9. What might it mean to exercise kingly judgment in a spiritual sense? Does this mean our imitation of Christ's kingly nature does not affect the physical realm?
10. What is the difference between our status and our roles, specifically in regards to gender?
11. The book points out “we are not merely to act like kings in a spiritual sense: we already are kings in a spiritual sense.” How might this distinction affect our motivation and effectiveness in imitating Christ's kingly nature in our lives?
12. Does the idea God calls us to imitate his kingship make you uncomfortable? Would you prefer to imitate Christ in other works and offices but not this one? Why or why not?
13. List as many character qualities desirable in a good king as you can think of. List as many duties of a good king as you can think of.

Chapter 2: A Legitimate Throne

Historical Questions

1. What were other events taking place in the world around 1455?
2. Who were some famous Plantagenet kings before the Wars of the Roses?
3. Why did Henry VI go mad?
4. Read Shakespeare's histories Henry VI (parts 1 and 2) and Richard III. What are some major differences between Shakespeare's interpretation of the Wars of the Roses and a history textbook?

Theological Question

1. What are some further arguments against the theory a king's legitimacy comes from his power (“might makes right”)?
2. It is stated that in Romans 13:1-2 Paul is arguing for “divine right.” Do you agree with this? What might a Biblical definition of “divine right” be? In what way might the words be misused?
3. What does *Lex Rex* mean? What was the book *Lex Rex* about?
4. Why does Scripture bother to give proofs of Christ's divine right?

5. Can you find evidence (proofs from other Scriptures, references from church fathers, commentaries, etc.) to back the claim “it is a longstanding Christian understanding that this [Psalm 2] is a Prophetic psalm about Christ”?
6. What does the legitimacy of Christ’s rule mean to our rebellion against Him? What does each implication stemming from Christ’s legitimacy reveal about the true nature of our sinful rebellion?
7. How do you think Christ’s enemies will feel when they realize even they are part of His inheritance?
8. What would be some of the ideological consequences of a theology which acknowledges Christ as the legitimate ruler of Heaven and earth, but does not acknowledge his complete omnipotence? Can you name some theological systems (now or from history) which claim this?
9. What exactly do we inherit as joint-heirs with Christ? List them. Then spend more time dreaming about them.

Chapter 3: A Varied Rule

Historical Questions

1. What was a Huguenot?
2. Can you think of a literary equivalent to Jacques Egide Duhan de Jandun, Prince Frederick’s exiled tutor?
3. List some famous generals influenced by Frederick the Great’s military tactics.
4. What are some contemporary events from around the world that Frederick the Great might have read about in his newspaper?

Theological Questions

1. What are some specific examples from the Gospels of the variety of spheres Jesus influenced while incarnate? Can you think of instances Jesus ruled in the spheres of influence in this chapter (self-rule, rule of family, rule at church, rule of finances, ruling at work, ruling in society, ruling over creation)? For example, Jesus ruled over creation in calming the storm in Mark 4.
2. Discuss the progression of character building in 2 Peter 1:6: “*And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness.*” How and why do these qualities build on each other?

3. List some ways Christian “laypeople” affect an influence in the local church. What are some ways you can help “rule” the church, even if not in a leadership role?
4. Are we defined by what we do in relation to each other? Are we defined by what we do in relation to God?
5. How do our differing roles and men and women affect our calling to “rule well in our family?”
6. What might a tyrannical rule over family look like? How might our “acting the tyrant in the home” affect our spouse or our children?
7. What are some ways we might be obligated to influence our “kin” outside immediate family? How far should this be taken?
8. Make a sample budget. What do you need to do to implement a budget in your financial life today?
9. Does the injunction in 1 Timothy 6:6-10 to be content with what we have (and the accompanying idea of “self-sufficiency”) mean it is wrong to seek help from others?
10. What does the Greek philosophical idea of “self-sufficiency” (linked to 1 Timothy 6:6-10 by a rare Greek word translated “contentment”) mean? Does it mean you need to grow your own food and get solar panels?
11. How should we give responsibly to those in need? Are there ways we can encourage people in need to become more self-sufficient?
12. How does your career help you exert a positive rule over creation? In what ways does it push back the effects of the curse of sin? In what ways does it help “tend the garden” of the earth around you?
13. What form of government do you live under? How do you personally exert rule over society under this form of government?
14. What should be a Christian’s attitude toward environmental protection efforts?

Chapter 4: A Protector

Historical Questions

1. Why did Vikings raid England? What other countries did they raid?
2. What event brought an end to Wessex (long after Alfred)?

3. What do you think about the 9th century division of the world into “Christendom” and “Heathenesse?” Is this division useful to us as we study history? Was it useful at the time? Is there a corollary to this division of the world into two parts in Islamic theology?
4. What do you think about Guthrum’s forced baptism (part of the treaty after the Battle of Ethandune)? Was this a wrong thing to put into the treaty? Was it more political than religious?
5. Can you find some of Alfred’s writings or commissioned writings in print today?
6. How significant is it that Alfred translated Scripture? Was this a defiance of Catholic doctrine at the time (as it was in Wycliffe and Tyndale’s day)?

Theological Questions

1. One of the metaphors discussed for God’s protection is that of “a rock.” Can you think of places in Scripture people are described as rocks metaphorically? Do you think this implies those people functioning in a protective way?
2. Are there any other metaphors you can think of, not discussed in this chapter, for God’s protective nature toward His children?
3. How do selfless acts of chivalry toward others disprove materialistic philosophy?
4. Does our fallen nature tend to make us selfish? Does it lean our minds more naturally toward “survival of the fittest” ideologies rather than thinking in terms of selfless chivalry? In other words, is there something inside our heads as fallen mankind that we need to overcome in order to think in terms of selfless chivalry?
5. What is the formal, theological term for the benefit Christians derive from Christ’s life of everyday sacrifice and righteousness?
6. Can you think of any specific ways you might improve the safety or comfort of others—especially those you might be tasked with caring for? Make a plan to put them into action.
7. Should we ever pray for God to actively fight our enemies?

Chapter 5: A Servant Leader

Historical Questions

1. Who are some other famous Bohemians?
2. What other significant events took place in the world at Wenceslas’ time?

3. Who were the Magyars?
4. Who were Saints Cosmas and Damian?

Theological Questions

1. Can you think of other Scriptures that exhort action in service, in contrast to merely talking about helping?
2. How can the act of making decisions as a leader be a service itself?
3. What are some ways you can find needs in people around you?
4. How do acts of service affect us? Is this part of our sanctification?
5. Discuss the interplay between the attitude of service and acts of service. Do grumpy or grudging acts of service still count?
6. Acts of sacrificial service are beautiful. But do acts of service only matter if we have to sacrifice to do them?
7. What are some practical reasons we should be servants with a smile? How does our attitude affect our service in the eyes of the people we serve? How does it affect our service in the eyes of God?
8. How might service look in Heaven? Will we still be “washing each other’s feet” there?

Chapter 6: A Majestic Courage

Historical Questions

1. What were some of the obstacles and dangers crusaders had to face before even setting foot in the Holy Land?
2. Discuss the three views presented on the motivations and reasons for the crusades? What view do you agree with? Why?
3. What information can you find about the overall attrition rate among crusaders of the First Crusade? Do you think the men going on the crusade expected these odds?
4. What might have been some of the motivation of the 11th century Seljukid Turks in fighting crusaders?

5. What are some of the “byproducts” of the crusades in later European history and culture (i.e. how did the Crusades affect European cultural development)? What are some of the byproducts of the crusades on our culture now?

Theological Questions

1. Are majesty and glory synonymous?
2. Discuss the distinction between Christ’s glory as king, and the glory inherent in His nature. How is this distinction important?
3. What is the proper response to God’s glory? Ought we to be fearful or in love when we contemplate God’s kingly glory?
4. Discuss the interplay of the knowledge of God and his glory. How are knowing God and seeing his glory related?
5. How is the glory we inherit just by being created humans “in God’s image” different from glory we have as “kings and priest to God?”
6. Can you think of specific ways sin defaces our glory?
7. What does it look like to “hate evil” in our day-to-day lives? (Amos 5:15; Romans 12:9)
8. Consider the idea of dignity. What is it? How is it related to glory and majesty? Is there a good dignity to have and a bad dignity to have? What is the difference?
9. Is fear sin? Is there a right time to be afraid?
10. What things do you tend to be afraid of in life? How can you apply Scriptures about courage to help banish the power of those fears?

Chapter 7: A Cosmic Conflict

Historical Questions

1. How do you pronounce the title “Mtsignobartukhutsesi”? Was the merging of this secular office with an ecclesiastical one typical of medieval politics in general? Is this a good or a bad thing?
2. How are the Seljukid Turks different than the Ottoman Turks?
3. Was David justified in the treacherous strategy of commanding his Svanian nobles to attack the Turks under a flag of truce?
4. What is the significance of the separation of a distinct Georgian Orthodox church?

5. Can you find a translation of David's *Hymns of Repentance* to read? What are other examples of Georgian literature?
6. Who was Vakhtang Gorgasali, and what are some ways David the Builder might have been inspired by stories told about him?

Theological Questions

1. Does a war between God and Satan imply God can lose?
2. This chapter mentions Satan intended "mankind, as fallen rebels against God, would become a blot against God's glory." Did this happen? Did it blot God's glory, or did it enhance it? Explain.
3. Why could God not "forgive and forget" our sins without the sacrifice of His Son?
4. Did Jesus actually go to Hell when he died? What are some Scriptures that address this question?
5. Discuss the historicity of Christ's death and resurrection (that they were real events). Is the "past tense" of His victory another way to say it happened at a finite, real, specific point in history? What are alternative views to a historical understanding of the crucifixion and resurrection? Do you believe in the historicity of Christ's death and resurrection? Is this a requirement for being a true Christian?
6. What does it mean to be "in Christ"?
7. Why is God "presently tolerating the presence of Satan on this earth"?
8. What are some ways you can be purposeful in working toward advancing Christ's kingdom presently? Make a list and check it next week to see what you accomplished.
9. Get ahold of a copy of Thomson's Chain Reference Bible, and check out table 4306b in the appendix, "Prophecies Concerning Jesus and their Fulfillment." Is it reasonable to trust God's prophecies of future victory based on His fulfilled prophecies so far?
10. Is Christ's final coming and conquest good news for everyone?