

geographical/political in expression. What is the place in which "dominion" is discussed in these passages? What does Christ's rule/dominion offer us and how should we let him reign in our lives today?

- v. **Read:** Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22; Matthew 16:16-19; 28:16-20. Who's in charge in the Church? What sort of rule would you expect of Jesus among believers? How should authority given to Christian leaders be expressed?
- vi. **Read:** Daniel 7:14-27; Revelation 2:26; 3:21; 5:10; 22:5. Can you see links and contrasts to the original sense of "dominion" bestowed on humans in Genesis 1:26-28? What is our ultimate role in the new creation? What will be missing from our shared rule over the new creation?

#### 4. Think, Pray, Act

- A. Larry Richards wrote: "While human leaders are commonly above those they lead, Jesus said, "Not so with you" (Matt. 20:26). Instead of power-distance there is relational closeness in Jesus' model. The Christian leader is to be one with those they serve." Coercion is not on the table for those who lead others under Jesus' rule. **Discuss**
- B. Shasta is the main character in C.S. Lewis's *The Horse and His Boy*. An orphan raised by a poor fisherman soon to be sold into slavery. He escapes with Bree, the talking horse, and the two head north for Bree's homeland of Narnia and he learns of his true identity as a prince and rightful heir. Like Shasta, we could be thought of as rulers in training. What kind of training might make us fit to rule in the New Creation; in God's kingdom? **Discuss**
- C. **Read** or **Sing** the song: The Servant King, by Graham Kendrick
- D. **Pray** for God's help to model all your acts of leadership after Christ.

The members of St. Michael's Anglican Church acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their elders past, present and future.

## 7 STREAMS of GRACE



Do you remember the board game, Battleships? Opponents would each place toy ships on their own plastic grid running from A-J and 1-10 hidden behind a screen? One player calls out a coordinate like B6, and the opposing player looks at the toy ships on their hidden board to discover a "hit" or "miss".

Our sermon series *Seven Streams of Grace* (SSoG) divides the whole Bible up into a huge rectangular grid, similar to the old board game. A large poster hangs in the church space or can be found on-line. The rows represent the "streams" or themes of God's saving grace that run through the valley and rivers of the whole Bible, and the columns represent the "eras" (milestones in Biblical history) in which each book of the Bible is set. This Bible study is part of the journey and can be used as a devotional study, but is best suited to group discussion. Join us on this journey along the rivers of grace down the ages for life, for love and for our salvation.

- Steve Webster

### Bible Study Notes for session #3 RULE

#### 1. Warm Up

Discuss:

- In a recent announcement Queen Elizabeth II forecast that her son, Prince Charles, would soon become "head of the commonwealth group". She stopped short of handing over the throne to him, but it raises the question: what sort of ruler should Britain hope for?
- How many people do you report to in authority in your daily life, and what are their roles? How welcoming of their rights "over" you are you? How does their role hinder/help your daily work/study/activity?

## 2. *RULE in different eras of The Old Testament*

### a) Creation

In Genesis 1:26-28 the idea of sharing in God's "rule" is introduced. "Dominion" is *râdâh*—reign, to prevail against, and rule. It can also mean subjugation, to tread down upon, and even crumble off (Brown, Driver, and Briggs 2008, p. 921; Strong 1979). Before the fall (Gen. 3), Adam and Eve had dominion and rule over creation and had the ability to sustain the good creation in harmony with God. Equally, they had potential to make the good creation crumble and suffer if disobedient. The biblical language of 'âšâh ("... Let Us make ..." Gen. 1:26) means to appoint, bestow, have charge of, grant, advance. Therefore, to rule is a gracious gift of grace to Adam and Eve in the pre-fall situation, not a command—it is an endowment, appointment; something bestowed, a position that was granted. After the fall, the nature of dominion and rule is thoroughly changed (e.g. wife subject to husband, work as toil, etc.). The Salvation story of the whole Bible includes God's gracious restoration of RULE to humanity (albeit different after the cataclysmic affects of the fall).

- What are some ways the idea of dominion has been abused?

### b) Ancestors/Patriarchs

- **Identify** God's gift of oversight/rule to Abram in Genesis 14:1-16; 17:22:17
- What relationship between the blessing of God (promise) and the theme of RULE do you see?

### c) The Exodus & Conquest

- **Read** Joshua 2; 5:13-6:27
- Who's rule is being tested in this era? What lesson must Joshua's people learn?

### d) Kings

- **Read** 1 Kings 4:29-34 (NB. "Solomon" means peace)
- **Compare** the scope of God's rule/reign on earth in Solomon's day to b) and c) above. Do you see a trend? What responsibilities might come with the privileges bestowed on this king?
- What affinity do you see to Genesis 1:28 here?
- Other texts to **read**: 2 Samuel 5, 8, 12:29-31; 2 Chron. 9

### e) Wisdom

- **Read** Psalm 8. What affinity do you see with Genesis 1?
- Though corrupted, what does the psalm say about God's image-bearers and the theme of rule/stewardship?
- **Read** Psalms 45 & 72
- What evidence do you find here for the coming together of God's rule or reign and human leadership?

### f) Prophets

- **Read** Isaiah 11:10-16 ("banner/signal/standard" in vss. 11,12 is a sign of who rules in ancient warfare)
- When will these predicted things take place?
- Other texts to **read**: Daniel 4:13-14; 7:21-27; Zechariah 9:9-11. What is God foretelling about the nature of Messiah's rule/reign through the prophets?

### g) Remnant

- Split up to **read**: 2 Chronicles 26; Isaiah 44-45; Ezra 1, 6, 7:11; Nehemiah 2:1-9. What do you notice about God's authority/actions to restore His peoples' dominion over their God-given land.

## 3. *RULE in the era of Jesus & The New Testament*

Jesus' as the servant-king **challenges** our idea of ruling, and **re-defines** the nature of godly dominion that God offers us as a gift of grace:

- Read**: Matthew 20:17-20, 29-34; 21:1-11. What surprising contrasts to the normal pattern of human rulers do you see in messiah Jesus?
- Read**: John 13:1-17; Philippians 2:5-10. What pathway leads to true godly rule?
- Read**: Colossians 2:13-15. What about the cross & earthly rulers?
- Read**: Romans 5; 6:12; 8:37. Dominion is no longer merely

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