



OCTOBER 20 • ENCOUNTER WEEK

ALL HAIL KING JESUS



GETTING STARTED

This Wednesday and Thursday we will be gathering in the Worship Center for our next Encounter. For this Encounter, we are focusing on the reality of Jesus' rule over all creation, both in the future and in the here and now.

This three-day study will help us prepare our hearts for the Encounter service. We have designed it for you to complete one section a day, starting on Monday and finishing on Wednesday. However, if your Life Group meets earlier in the week, complete all three days before your Life Group or discuss as a group which days you plan to go over the study together when you meet.

Here are the three topics we will explore:

- **Day 1:** God is Creator and King
- **Day 2:** God Rules the Nations
- **Day 3:** Jesus is King Over Creation and History

As you begin this study, spend a few minutes meditating on this incredible description of Jesus:

His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ... On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:12-13, 16

DAY 1 • MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

GOD IS CREATOR AND KING



One of the first truths God revealed to the nation of Israel is that He is both the Creator and the King over all creation.

Scan the QR code above or visit rockypeak.org/encounter to watch a short video about *God as Creator and King* and then answer the following questions.

1. When you think about God as the *King of Creation*, what thoughts or emotions come to mind?
2. Right after God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt and destroyed the armies of Pharaoh in the Red Sea, Moses taught the nation a new song to help them understand who their God, Yahweh, is. Read some of the opening lines of this song in **Exodus 15:1-6 and then 15:18**.
 - a. What are some of God's qualities that are revealed in this passage?
 - b. Which of these attributes of God do you most need right now in your life? Why is that?
3. All throughout the Old Testament, we see that God also rules over all nations of the world. This truth is especially repeated throughout the Psalms. Read the following passages and then answer the questions below.
 - Psalm 9:7-8
 - Psalm 10:16
 - Psalm 93:1
 - Psalm 145:9-13
 - a. As you read through these four passages, what sticks out to you and why?
 - b. Reread Psalm 145:9-13. What does this passage teach about God's Kingdom and His rule?
 - c. What kind of perspective and hope does Psalm 145:9-13 give us as we live through this time of rapid cultural change in our country?
4. God is still ruling over His creation. Sin has brought death into His world, but God promises to redeem and restore it when Jesus returns. Read Romans 8:19-21.
 - a. What do you think it means that the creation itself "waits in eager expectation" and "groans"?
 - b. How does knowing God's plan for creation impact your perspective on some of the challenges we are facing as followers of Jesus in our culture right now?
5. As we close Day One of this study, take some to pray Psalm 9:7-8 over our nation, the upcoming elections, and the nations of the world.

DAY 2 • TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

GOD RULES THE NATIONS



When God revealed Himself to the nation of Israel, one of the first big-picture truths He taught them is that He's the one who rules over the affairs of the nations. Today, we look at a story about Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, and how God reveals Himself to Nebuchadnezzar as the *true* King of all creation.

Scan the QR code above or visit rockypeak.org/encounter to watch a short video about *God as the King who rules the Nations* and then answer the following questions.

1. Begin by reading Daniel 4. As you read, be aware of what the Holy Spirit is highlighting for you. It might be a word, phrase, or theme. Be sure to write those things down.
 - a. What one new thing did you learn about God through this story in Chapter 4?
2. What reasons do Daniel 4:17 and 25b provide for why God would decree judgment upon Nebuchadnezzar?
3. The Lord brought King Nebuchadnezzar to his knees through a tremendous trial, which caused him to fully surrender to God and declare Him Lord over his life.
 - a. What kind of impact do you think his surrender to God's Lordship had on the way he ruled the nation of Babylon moving forward?
 - b. What impact do you think his example of surrendering to the Lord had on the Jews living in his kingdom?
 - c. Have you ever gone through a challenge or trial that led you to surrender in a new or deeper way to God? If so, what led you to that moment of surrender?
 - i. How have you grown spiritually since surrendering to Him in that way?
4. Nebuchadnezzar shares what he learned about God through his trial in Daniel 4:34-35 and 37. Reread these verses. What about these words do you find encouraging?
 - a. Using Nebuchadnezzar's words as inspiration, write your own praise and declaration about the Lord. As you finish this study today, use these words to pray and thank Him for who He is for you and how He's ruling over creation, the nations, and over your life.

DAY 3 • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

JESUS IS KING OVER CREATION AND HISTORY



God has been working throughout human history to bring all creation under the authority of King Jesus. In today's study, we will explore what it means to say that *Jesus is King*.

Scan the QR code above or visit rockypeak.org/encounter to watch a short video about *Jesus as King over Creation and History* and then answer the following questions.

1. When Israel was conquered by Babylon and taken into exile, many in Israel wondered if God was through with their nation, and their confidence was deeply shaken as to whether God was still in control of their lives. In this context, God raised up the prophet Daniel and gave him visions and dreams to remind them that God is still ruling over the nations and that He is working out His plan in human history. Read Daniel 7:1-14 and then answer the following questions.
 - a. The four “*great beasts*” represented the present and future superpowers that would arise in that part of the world. Many scholars believe them to be the Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans. How is “*Ancient of Days*” described in this passage?
 - b. There is a fifth and final kingdom that is described in this passage. To whom does God give the authority to rule over this kingdom, and how is the kingdom described (Daniel 7:13-14)?
 - c. Jesus quoted this passage when He was on trial before the Jewish Sanhedrin the night He was betrayed. Read Mark's account in **Mark 14:53-65**. What is the amazing claim Jesus is making in this passage?
 - d. Now read **Mark 1:1-15**. When Jesus came, this was His claim: that the long-promised Kingdom of God was starting, and we could enter that Kingdom by trusting in Him and surrendering our lives to Him as our King.
2. When do you first remember someone referring to Jesus as “*King*”? Did you grow up hearing that? Was it recently? Explain.
 - a. How would you explain what it means to say, *Jesus is King*?
 - b. Jesus is also given other titles such as *Savior*, *Servant*, and *Son of Man*. What makes the title of *King* distinct from any other? Explain.
3. For a Christ-follower, to say that *Jesus is King* is to declare that we now live under *His authority*.
 - a. Read Matthew 28:18. Pause and reflect specifically on the phrase *all authority*.
 - b. Describe a time when you wrestled with submitting to Jesus' authority in your life. What were the circumstances involved? What were you afraid would happen if you submitted to Him? What did you experience when you did submit to His authority?
4. As Christ-followers, *Jesus is King* is not simply something we say- it's a truth we build our entire lives upon.
 - a. At Encounter, we will have the opportunity to bow the knee to our *King* in all areas of our life. Spend some time now asking the Holy Spirit to show you if there is any area of your life that you need to surrender to His authority.