

# St Thomas Home Group

## 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### Christ the King

Read: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24.

#### The Study

In ancient times kings and rulers were often described as shepherds of their people. Frequently, the kings and other leaders of Israel are criticised for being bad shepherds. (See *Ezek.34:1-2*). Ezekiel condemns them for neglecting and exploiting the people, leading ultimately to their being scattered. (See *Ezek.34:5-6*).

- Q1 What does the phrase 'Christ the King' mean, or symbolise, to you?
- Q2 What had caused God's flock to be scattered – '*on a day of clouds and darkness*'? (*Ezek. 34:12b*).  
See Jeremiah 23:3.
- Q3 God's judgement is to be on the shepherds who failed to look after his flocks, they will be held accountable. (See *Ezek.34:10*).  
Might this have any application for us today?
- Q4 Having dealt with the faithless shepherds, God says: '*I myself will search for my sheep and look after them... I will rescue them.*' (*Ezek. 34:11-12*).  
Where might God find his dispersed sheep?  
See Jeremiah 43:1-7.
- Q5 Who are '*the fat sheep and the lean sheep*'? (*Ezek. 34:20*)

#### A final thought:

- Q6 God says: '*I will make a covenant of peace with them...*' (*Ezek. 34:25*).  
Is this to be a New Covenant that will 'abolish' the Old Covenant?  
See Jeremiah 31:31-34 for helpful info.



#### Background

The Feast of Christ the King was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925. As waves of nationalism and secularism were on the rise across the globe, Pope Pius XI instituted Christ the King as a reminder that Christ reigns above all earthly rulers.

While temporal powers will fade away, Christ's reign and his kingdom remain eternal. The General Roman Calendar of 1969 moved its observance in the Roman Rite to the last Sunday of Ordinary Time, the final Sunday of the liturgical year. Most Anglicans, Lutherans and some Protestants celebrate it on the same day.