

Vision of the Cosmic King 宇宙之王

Revelation 启示录 1:1-20

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In May 2017 Australian tennis legend, and now Pentecostal Christian Pastor, Margaret Court wrote an open letter opposing the support of same-sex marriage by Qantas airlines.

2017年5月, 澳大利亚网球传奇人物, 现为灵恩派教会牧师的 Margaret Court 致公开信反对由澳洲航空对同性婚姻的支持。

In response to that letter, another tennis great, Martina Navratilova tweeted, "Thank you Qantas for your support. And Margaret - you have gone too far. Shame on you."

在回应这封信时, 另一位网球名将 Martina Navratilova 在推特上写道, 「谢谢澳洲航空的支持。还有 Margaret - 你太过份了。你太无耻了。」

The tweet included the hashtag *#thewrongsideofhistory*. It feels like Christians are on the wrong side of history in the modern western world.

该推文中包含了「历史性的错误」的标签。感觉就像基督徒在现代西方世界中是处于历史的错误一边。

Our society is moving further and further from Christians truth.

我们的社会越来越远离基督的真理。

The Christian worldview is not just regarded as outdated or wrong, but deviant. Church attendance is falling.

基督教的世界观不仅被认为是过时或错误, 更是异常的。出席教会的人数不断下降。

Christians are sinking into the shadows and hoping not to be identified as such. Does the Christian faith have a future? Does the church have a future?

基督徒已正成为影子, 并希望不被认为是这样。基督教信仰有未来吗? 教会有未来吗?

What about you Christian? Are you more in love and enthralled by Jesus at the end of the year? Has this strange year taken you closer to him?

你又是怎么样呢, 基督徒? 在年底时, 您是否更多地爱和被耶稣所迷住了? 这一奇怪的一年有否使您与他距离更拉近了?

Are you finishing this year stronger in Jesus?

您在今年将完结时是否在耶稣里更坚固?

Many of us are just falling over the finish line of another year.

我们中的许多人只可说是在另一年的终点线仅仅的越过。

It is easy for us to be lulled to sleep by the ordinariness of our lives. Our senses can be dulled by the humdrum of one day after another.

我们很容易因生活的平凡而沉迷于睡眠。一天又一天的单调乏味会使我们的感官变得迟钝。

So we need to see God as he is. We need to be convinced that Jesus is reigning as the risen King.

因此，我们需要看到神原样。我们需要确信耶稣在位，是复活的王。

We need to have him speak to the situations in our lives, society and church.

我们需要让他向我们的生命，社会和教会中的情况说话。

We need to know that God is right now on his throne, in control in Heaven, worshiped by myriads upon myriads of the heavenly host.

我们需要知道，上帝现在就在他的宝座上，在天堂中掌控一切，被无数的天上万军所崇拜。

We need to see the way God will pulverise wickedness and injustice, obliterate those who oppose him, and set up his kingdom for the eternal joy of all who trust him.

我们需要看到上帝，粉碎邪恶和不公，消灭那些反对他的人，建立他的国度，为所有信任他的人带来永恒的喜悦的方式。

The book of Revelation, and these verses before us today, is exactly what we need.

《启示录》以及今天摆在我们面前的这些经文正是我们所需要的。

Go to the SP APP and get the outline for today...

请到圣保罗堂的手机程序去看今天的大纲...

WHICH KING? 哪一位王?

THE COSMIC KING 宇宙之王

KNOWING & SERVING THE COSMIC KING 认识与事奉那宇宙之王

WHICH KING? 哪一位王?

The message of Revelation was so essential for its first recipients.

《启示录》的信息对于它的第一批接收者是如此重要。

The first recipients were Christians, almost 2000 years ago living in the Roman Empire, facing the biggest nightmare you can imagine.

最早的接收者是基督徒，大约在2000年前居住在罗马帝国，面临着您可以想象的最大的噩梦。

The storm clouds of persecution were building. The might of the Roman Empire was against them.

迫害的暴风雨正在建立。罗马帝国的力量对他们不利。

But the time Revelation is written the Roman Empire had been around for 600 years. It would still exist for another 400 years.

但书写《启示录》的时间罗马帝国已有 600 年的历史。它还将再存在 400 年。

The Roman Empire lasted four times longer than the British, Communist, and American Empire combined.

罗马帝国的持续时间是大英帝国，共产主义和美利坚合众国加起来的四倍。

When John writes Revelation, that might and glory was set against Christians.

当约翰写《启示录》时，那威风 and 荣耀定于反对基督徒的。

Revelation 1:9b tells us John was exiled on the island of Patmos *because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus*.

《启示录》1: 9 下告诉我们，约翰被流放在拔摩岛上是为上帝的道，并为给耶稣作的见证。

John is writing to the church from **exile** on the Island of Patmos.

约翰是在被流放在拔摩岛上写信给教会。

These days, PATMOS has 3000 inhabitants and full of five star resorts and luxury villas. In John's day it was a **prison island**.

现今，拔摩岛拥有 3000 名居民，到处都是五星级度假胜地和豪华别墅。约翰的时代是监狱岛。

John is an old man, sentenced to **work in the quarries - because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus**.

约翰已是个老人，被判在采石场工作 - 因为上帝的道和为耶稣作的见证。

John is typical of the hardship many Christians were facing in his day, and face in our day.

约翰代表着许多基督徒在他的时代和今天所面对的困难。

According to the Roman writer *Suetonius*, the Roman Emperor *Domitian* - who was emperor when John wrote these words - was both physically unimpressive, and a moral catastrophe of a man.

根据罗马作家苏托尼乌斯 (*Suetonius*) 的说法，罗马的多米蒂安皇帝...约翰写这些话时是皇帝...身体上并不令人印象深刻，而且是道德灾难的一个人。

He had many affairs with married women, and eventually stole someone else's wife to be his own.

他与许多已婚妇女私通，最终偷走了别人的妻子做自己的妻子。

When his brother Titus was hit with a serious illness he ordered that he be left for dead.

当他的兄弟泰特斯 (*Titus*) 患重病时，他下令让他自生自灭，正如把他处死。

He seduced his married niece, got her pregnant, then she died from the abortion he demanded.

他引诱了已婚的侄女，使她怀孕，然后她因他所要求的堕胎而导致死亡。

This moral catastrophe of a man, who was sensitive about his baldness, pot belly, and spindling legs, demanded that people referred to him as *LORD GOD*.

这一个道德灾难的男人，对他的秃头，大肚腩和幼腿十分敏感，他要求众人称他为上帝神。

Christians were suffering extreme hardship because they refuse to have a Roman Emperor as the dominant reality in their life...the POINT of their life.

基督徒正遭受极大的苦难，因为他们拒绝让罗马皇帝成为他们生命中的主要现实...他们生命中的要点。

His persecution was horrendous. He would have Christians layed out on the ground, have a horse attached to each arm and leg.

他的迫害是可怕的。他把基督徒放在地上，每条胳膊和腿上都有一匹马。

Then he'd have the horses whipped so that they charged off and ripped arms and legs from torsos.

然后他会鞭打马匹，使它们冲开，并从身体的躯干上撕开胳膊和腿。

Some had holes drilled in their skulls and molten lead poured in.

一些人在头骨上被钻了个洞，并注入了熔化的铅。

Some were mercifully thrown to the lions for a quick death.

一些人被仁慈地扔到狮子那里，很快死亡。

How did they face that? Because they did face it, and face it with fortitude, peace, and sometimes witch joy.

他们是如何面对的？因为他们确实面对了，并且是以坚毅，和平，有时甚至是喜悦的面对。

As a result the church grew. The good news spread. Its an historical fact that lives were changed when Roman citizens saw how these Christians died they were desperate to know why.

结果，教会增长了。好消息传开了。这是一个历史事实，当罗马公民看到这些基督徒如何面对死亡时，他们生命改变了，他们迫切地想知道为什么。

This was written about Christians not long after Domitian's time:

这是在多米蒂安不久之后写的关于基督徒的信：

They love everyone, and by everyone they are persecuted. They are unknown, yet they are condemned; they are put to death, yet they are brought to life. They are poor, yet they make many rich; they are in need of everything, yet they abound in everything. They are

dishonoured, yet they are glorified in their dishonour; they are slandered, yet they are vindicated. They are cursed, yet they bless; they are insulted, yet they offer respect. When they do good, they are punished as evildoers; when they are punished, they rejoice as though brought to life . . .and so Christians when punished daily increase more and more. (Diognetus 5: 11-16; 6: 9b)

他们爱每个人，都受到每个人的迫害。他们不为人所知，但受到谴责。他们贫穷，却使许多人变得富有；他们被处死，却被赋予生命。他们需要所有东西，但他们却拥有很多东西。他们蒙羞，却因蒙羞而被荣耀。他们被毁，但得到了辩护。他们被诅咒，但他们祝福。他们受到侮辱，但他们表示尊重。当他们行善的时候，被当做恶人被惩罚。当他们受到惩罚时，他们仿佛重获新生一样欢欣鼓舞…因此，每天受到惩罚的基督徒越来越多。

THE COSMIC KING 宇宙之王

Revelation 1 reminds these suffering Christians of the dominant reality of their life - the cosmic King - Jesus Christ.

《启示录》第1章提醒这些受苦难的基督徒…宇宙的王…耶稣基督，是他们的生命的主导现实。

Have a look at how he is described.

看看他的描述。

Verse 4, *him who was and who is to come.*

第4节，那位今在、昔在、以后永在的上帝

Verse 5, *Jesus Christ, the first born from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*

第5节，从死人中复活的首生者、世上君王的元首耶稣基督

Verse 6, *the one to whom power and glory belong forever.*

第六节，荣耀、权能归给他，直到永永远远

Then we have this in verse 8: *I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.*

那么我们在第8节有这个：我是阿拉法，我是俄梅戛，是今在、昔在、以后永在的全能者。

Verse 8 is one of the most comprehensive statements of the divinity of Jesus in the whole Bible.

第8节是整本圣经中耶稣神性最全面的陈述之一。

One of the truths that undergirds St Paul's as a church, and the Christian faith as a whole, is that Jesus Christ is the eternal Creator God.

支持圣保罗堂作为一个教会和整个基督教信仰的一个真理是，耶稣基督是永恒的造物主上帝。

During his ministry years he consistently made claims that no other religious leader has ever claimed.

在他的事奉期间，他一直声称没有其他宗教领袖曾宣称过的。

Buddha, Mohammad, and others have claimed to speak on behalf of the divine, but only Jesus claimed to BE GOD.

佛陀，穆罕默德（Mohammad）和其他人声称代表上帝讲话，但只有耶稣声称自己是上帝。

I don't have time to unpack all of that for us today, other times I do, but this church exists that you might grapple with this claim and many others of Jesus and the Bible.

今天，我没有时间为我们整理所有这些资料，其他时间我可以，但我们这个教会的存在，是让您可能努力去应对这一主张以及其他许多有关耶稣和圣经的主张。

Our missions team would be delighted to lead you through exploring Christianity and the claims of Jesus Christ.

我们的宣教团队会很高兴去带领您探索基督教和耶稣基督的主张。

See Adrian, or call the office or send an email to the office.

见 Adrian, 或致电办公室或向办公室发送电子邮件。

Jesus is described here as the Alpha and the Omega. The first and last letter of the Greek alphabet. He is the beginning and the end.

耶稣在这里被描述为阿拉法和俄梅夏。希腊文首末的两个字母。他是起点和终结。

The Bible tells us he existed before the universe was formed and is its Creator. He is the starting point of all things. The origin. The point.

圣经告诉我们，他在宇宙形成之前就已经存在，并且是宇宙的创造者。他是万物的起点。起源。重点。

As the beginning of the Bible declares...*In the beginning was GOD.*

正如圣经开头所宣布那样...*起初，上帝创造天地。*

We all have some starting point? What is your starting point in life?

我们都有一些起点？您生命的起点是什么？

Whatever it is it will fundamentally alter how you live life, and especially how you handle the tough times in life.

无论是什么，它将从根本上改变您的生活方式，尤其是您应对生活中艰难时刻的方式。

Secularism declares that there is no divine starting point, all existence is a result of a random accident.

世俗主义宣称没有神圣的起点，所有的存在都是偶然事故的结果。

Random collection of events and chaos is the only explanation for life. There is no reason or purpose in life, and no explanation for the hard times.

生命的唯一解释是随机的收集起来的事件和混乱。生命是没有理由或目的，也没有对困难时期的解释。

We are left to our own devices to determine our own path and meaning.

我们在随我们自己的意思来确定我们自己的道路和意义。

If however there is a Creator at the beginning then it is essential we discover his truth...his purpose...his meaning.

但是，如果开始时有一位创造者，那么我们必须去发觉他的真理…他的目的…他的意思是至关重要的。

We are told here that Jesus is the starting point, BUT ALSO the end point. The OMEGA.

这里告诉我们耶稣是起点，但也是终点。俄梅戛。

He created the universe, and the universe is oriented towards him. He built it for himself. All things are for his glory, knowledge and service. We are built for him.

他创造了宇宙，宇宙依向他。他为自己建造。万物都是为了他的荣耀，知识和服务。我们是为他而建。

He didn't just start history, but all of history is rushing towards him.

他不仅开始历史，而且所有历史都在向他冲来。

What we think our starting point and our end point are, will determine how we live. If he is the starting point and the end point, he is THE POINT.

我们认为的起点和终点将决定我们的生命。如果他是起点和终点，那么他就是那重点。

The good news here is that the source of all hope and life and meaning and purpose is close. This COSMIC KING IS NOT DISTANT...or unapproachable.

这里的好消息是，所有希望和生命以及意义和目的的源头都是接近的。这个宇宙之王不是遥不可及…或无法接近的。

This is good news for imprisoned John, and persecuted Christian in the Roman empire, and for Christians in a thousand hard places in our world.

对于被监禁的约翰，在罗马帝国受迫害的基督徒，以及在我们世界上无数的艰难地方的基督徒来说，这都是好消息。

For those who are suffering...for those who are tired...weary...running out of steam ...confused...disheartened...disenfranchised...insecure.

对于那些遭受苦难的人…对于那些疲倦的人…劳累的…疲惫不堪的人…感到困惑…沮丧的…被剥夺了权利的…

We need to see Jesus Christ, the cosmic King, as ruling and close.

我们需要看到耶稣基督，宇宙之王，的统治和接近。

In v12: John turns to see whose voice was like a trumpet (v. 10). And what he saw was seven golden lamp-stands and Jesus Christ in the midst of them.

在第 12 节中：约翰转身看谁的声音像吹号（第 10 节）。他看到的是七个金灯台，中间有耶稣基督。

Notice verse 20 for an interpretation of the lamp-stands:

请注意第 20 节对灯台的解释：

The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lamp-stands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp-stands are the seven churches.

至于你所看见、在我右手中的七颗星和那七个金灯台的奥秘就是：七颗星是七个教会的使者，七个灯台是七个教会。

The COSMIC KING is among the churches. Jesus Christ is standing among the churches.

宇宙之王就在教会之中。耶稣基督站在众教会中间。

He is **not merely over** the churches. He is **not distant** from the churches. He is in the **middle** of them.

他不仅在教会之上。他不远离教堂。他们在他们中间。

John saw, according to v. 13, *one like a son of man*.

根据第 13 节，约翰看到了一位好像人子的。

In Daniel 7:13-14 the term "son of man" or "one like a son of man" refers to a great ruler.

在《但以理书》7: 13-14 中，「人子」或「像人子的人」一词是指伟大的统治者。

So when John says that he saw "one like a son of man" standing in the middle of the lamp-stands, he means that he saw someone with dominion and glory and kingly power.

因此，当约翰说他看见「一位好像人子的」站在灯台中间时，他的意思是说他看见了一个有统治力，荣耀和王权的人。

The one who stands among the churches is the one who received from the Ancient of Days **dominion and glory and kingdom rule and power and authority** in heaven and on earth.

那站在教会中间的，是从亘古常在者面前得了**权柄、荣耀、国度，权能**，天上和地上的权柄。

In v.13 this son of man was *dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest*

在第 13 节中，这个人子**身穿垂到脚的长袍，胸间束着金带**。

The robe here is similar to the robe in the Old Testament where it almost always refers to the robe of the high priest.

这里的长袍与《旧约》中的长袍相似，几乎总是指大祭司的长袍。

Jesus is not only the *son of man* from Daniel 7 who receives everlasting dominion over all nations.

耶稣不仅是《但以理书》第7章所指得到永远统治所有国家的权柄的人子。

He is also the final high priest who brings all the priestly work of the temple to an end.

他还是最后一位大祭司，他结束了圣殿的所有祭司工作。

He gave his own blood once for all to put away sin once for all by the sacrifice of himself.

他一次献出自己的鲜血，通过自己的牺牲彻底解决罪恶。

These early Christians willingly put their lives on the line for Jesus because Jesus gave his life for them. 1:5 says ***To him who loves us.***

这些早期的基督徒愿意为耶稣献上生命，因为耶稣为他们献出了生命。1:5说**他爱我们**。

Jesus loves them. It is in the present tense. Jesus loves his people, RIGHT NOW.

耶稣爱他们。以现在式。耶稣**现在正在**爱他的百姓。

Jesus' love for his people led him to lay down his life for them. They are blessed because in laying down his life for them, v5, he has ***freed us from our sins by his blood.***

耶稣对他的百姓的爱使他为他们牺牲了生命。他们是有福的，因为他在为他们舍命，5节，**用自己的血使我们从罪中得释放**。

Those who sin deserve to die. Death is separation from God.

那些犯罪的人应该死。死亡是与上帝分离。

Jesus' death cancels our obligation to pay the penalty for our sins to God so that we might be reconciled to God and live.

耶稣的死取消了我们为自己的罪向上帝支付惩罚的责任，以便我们可以与上帝和解并生活。

The blood of Jesus frees people from lust, greed, pride, anger, and every other enslaving sin that makes US THE POINT OF LIFE. The blood of Jesus breaks the power of canceled sin.

耶稣的宝血使人们摆脱了情欲，贪婪，骄傲，愤怒和其他使我们成为自己生命的重点的奴役罪恶。耶稣的宝血打破了罪过的能力。

He is a LOVING COSMIC KING.

他是爱心的宇宙之王。

In verse 14 John describes, *his eyes were like blazing fire.*

约翰在第 14 节中描述，*他的眼睛好像火焰。*

The eyes of this son of man are not the clouded eye of fading glory.

这个人子的眼睛不是荣耀褪去的乌云密布的眼睛。

They are eyes of sharpest clarity and purification. They miss nothing that happens in the universe. They are exploding with energy.

它们是最清晰和纯净的眼睛。他们没有错过宇宙中发生的一切。他们正以能量爆炸。

We all know the drooping eye that is about to go to sleep or is resentful and grumpy and half shut with scowl or a bad mood.

我们都知道即将入睡下垂的眼睛，或者充满怨恨和脾气暴躁，半张着嘴皱着眉头或心情不好的眼睛。

And we know the eye that is alive with wonder and excitement and hope and expectancy and energy.

我们也知道充满惊奇，兴奋，希望，期望和活力的眼睛。

Jesus' eyes were like a flaming fire.

耶稣的眼睛像烈火。

Know today, 2000 years after John saw this vision, that Jesus is God, the COSMIC KING, and he is not tired or burned out or fatigued.

在约翰看到这个异像后的 2000 年，今天知道耶稣是上帝，宇宙之王，他并不疲倦，疲劳或疲乏。

His eyes are aflame with the flashing fire of inexhaustible energy and hope and love.

他的眼睛被不断取之不尽的力能，希望和爱所闪烁。

He sees everything that has been and will be. Nothing takes him by surprise. Nothing came make him love you more or less.

他看到过去和将来的一切。没有什么让他感到惊讶。什么都没让他更多或更少地爱你。

When Jesus thinks about his plans for you and for St Paul's and for Australia and for Christians of all the nations of the world beyond this day, he is not hesitant or tired or bored.

当耶稣想起他为您，为圣保罗堂，为澳大利亚以及世界上所有国家的基督徒的计划时，他不会犹豫，疲倦或无聊。

His eyes are a flame of fire with utter exhilaration and passion and enthusiasm for the work he intends to do.

他的眼神如火如荼，对他打算做的工作充满兴奋，热情和热情。

The **bronze feet** of v.15 are the feet of a glorious and almighty conqueror.

第 15 节中的**青铜的双脚**是光荣全能的征服者的脚。

The voice like the sound of many waters is a picture of raw power. The thunder of a voice of authority.

像众水的声音是原始力量的表现。权威之声。

The right hand with seven stars and a sharp sword coming out of his mouth and his face shining is like the sun in full strength.

右手拿着七颗星，从他口中吐出一把两刃的利剑，面貌好像烈日放光。

Jesus is not to be trifled with. Domitian might be the Emperor of the Roman Empire, but he is a kitten compared to Jesus.

耶稣是不容忽视的。多米蒂安可能是罗马帝国的皇帝，但与耶稣相比，他是一只小猫。

There are two ways to approach God. Either he is the means to your end, or he is the end and everything else is the means.

有两种方式可以接近上帝。他是达到你的目的的手段，或者他是你的终点目的，其他所有都是手段。

Religion is one way to approach God as the means to your end. Religion is doing certain things in order to manipulate God to do certain things for you.

宗教可以是一种为达到自己的目而接近上帝的方式。宗教在做某些事情，以便操纵上帝为您做一些事情。

In the past I've described as treating God like a cosmic vending machine...put in your offerings and God will spit out what you truly value.

在过去，我曾比喻为将上帝当作宇宙自动售货机来对待...投入您的奉献，上帝就会吐出您真正珍视的东西。

That is, you are using God to get what you really value in life...your true POINT. Inevitably it has to do with us gaining glory for ourselves in some way.

也就是说，您正在使用上帝来获得您在生命中真正珍视的东西...您的真正重点。不可避免地，这与我们以某种方式为自己赢得荣耀有关。

The other way to approach God is to see that it is all about him...the COSMIC KING...and we discover our true joy and freedom when everything is about pursuing him.

接近上帝的另一种方法是看到一切都围绕着他...宇宙之王...当一切都在追求他时，我们会发现我们真正的喜悦和自由。

KNOWING AND SERVING THE COSMIC KING 认识和服侍宇宙之王

Our cosmic king is not just a ruler, but he is a benevolent, relational ruler. He wants us to know him...to know life and hope and meaning and love.

我们的宇宙之王不仅是一个统治者，而且还是一个仁慈着重关系的统治者。他希望我们认识他…去认识生命，希望，意义和爱。

God gives John this revelation not just for John but for the seven churches of Asia. The voice that he heard in v10, says in v. 11, ***“Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches…”***

上帝不仅给了约翰，而且也是为了亚洲的七个教会把这个启示给约翰。他在第10节中听到的声音在第11节中说：「把你所看见的写在书上，寄给…那七个教会。」

The point of writing it down is to transmit to us the same kind of experience of seeing Jesus that he had.

写下来的目的是向我们传达与他见过的耶稣相同的经历。

He appears to John and says, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches." John gets the vision, we get the book.

他向约翰显现对他说：「在书中写下你所看到的，然后寄给七个教会。」约翰见到异像，我们得到这书信。

He wants to come to us in and through his Word. He wants us to seek him in his Word, and know him by his Word, and gaze upon him steadily through his Word so that we would know how blessed we are.

他想通过和借着他的话语来到我们这里。他要我们在他的话语中寻找他，并通过他的话语认识他，并通过他的话语稳定地注视他，以便我们知道自己有多么幸福。

What would it look like for JESUS CHRIST to become the dominant reality in your life?
耶稣基督要成为您生命中的主导现实将会是什么样的？

What would it look like for the things in the Bible to be more real to us than the things on television or the news, or the Internet or social media?

若圣经的现实要与电视，新闻，互联网或社交媒体上的相比，圣经中的现实要对我们来说感觉更真实将会怎么样？

Are you losing heart, weak, because you aren't communing with him in his word. Which worldview narrative dominates your day?

您是否因为您没有按照他的话与他交往，在失去信心和成为软弱。哪种世界观的叙事主宰了您的生活？

As the cosmic King, Jesus Christ also wants us to serve him. Whatever dominates your life...whatever is you're starting point or end point...will require you to sacrifice everything for it.

作为宇宙之王，耶稣基督还希望我们为他服务。不论什么在支配您生活的一切…无论您的起点或终点是什么…都将需要您为此付出一切。

It will require you to serve it. Jesus is the only King...the only POINT...who has first served us and so our service of him is freedom.

它将需要您服务。耶稣是唯一的王...唯一的要点...首先服侍了我们的那位，因此我们对他的服务就是自由。

In v6 we read Jesus has freed us from our sin and ***made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father.***

在第6节中，我们读到耶稣使我们从罪恶中解脱出来，***使我们成为国度，作他父上帝的祭司。***

This is an allusion to the moment when God's people were gathered at Mt Sinai to meet God, hear his law and enter into covenant with him.

这是对上帝的子民聚集在西奈山与上帝见面，聆听上帝的律法并与他立约的那一时刻的暗示。

God reminded them they were freed from slavery, just as we are reminded here we are freed from sin.

上帝提醒他们，他们已经摆脱了奴役，就像我们在这里提醒我们已经摆脱了罪恶一样。

Then in Exodus 19 he describes them as a *kingdom of priests*. Israel was to make God known to the world and bring the nations to the sacrifices that would free them from sin through blood.

然后在《出埃及记》19章中，他将他们描述***为祭司的国度***。以色列要使世人认识上帝，并使万国来到使他们通过鲜血从罪恶中解脱出来所作的牺牲。

Israel's life together was to display the goodness of God's reign.

以色列的生命在一起就是为了彰显上帝统治的美好。

We belong to Jesus. We are his people. Our allegiance is to him. Our life together is to attract people to God.

我们属于耶稣。我们是他的百姓。我们效忠于他。我们在一起的生命就是去吸引人们归向上帝。

We are to bring people to the sacrifice that frees us from sin - Jesus' death on the cross.

我们要带人到使我们摆脱罪恶 - 耶稣死在十字架上的牺牲。

Proclaiming the good news of the benevolent COSMIC KING who offers us life forever with him is central to our mission as a church.

宣扬仁慈的宇宙之王，他提供永远与我们同在的生命的消息，这对我们作为教会的使命至关重要。

It is a central part of our identity as Christians. We are in the service of the COSMIC KING, heralding his return, and in his priestly service making him known to the world.

这是我们作为基督徒身份的核心部分。我们为宇宙之王服务，预示着他的归来，并在他的祭司事奉，使他闻名世界。

That's not easy. In our generation it seems to be getting harder. We face, misunderstanding, apathy and even hostility.

那并不容易。在我们这一代，它似乎越来越难。我们面临着误解，冷漠甚至敌对。

The encouragement here is that despite how it looks, Jesus is with his church, with us, as the son of man, the one with power over all that is, seen and unseen.

令人鼓舞的是，尽管看起来如此，但耶稣仍与他的教会同在，与我们同在，作为人子，一个掌管一切可见和看不见的权柄的人。

Gaze upon Jesus and let his royal power and his priestly forgiveness and his fiery hope fill you with confidence afresh that TREASURING JESUS is not a vanity.

凝视耶稣，让他的王权，他的祭司的宽恕和他的炽烈希望重新充满信心，那就是「珍爱耶稣而不是虚荣。」