

# How do you wear your Crown?

*Then God said 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness.  
They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth,  
and the creatures that crawl on the earth'  
Genesis 1.26 ( CSB )*

We may find that a strange question, but if we read on to verse 30 God repeats the instruction that we are to rule, so that makes us Kings! It is not designating a single person as a King ruling over the earth but each of us having that responsibility. When we think about that it gives us a different perspective on our role on earth.

In this current era of focus on climate change, which may be right or wrong, it should make us think about our impact on the earth. As Christians how gently do we rule our part of the earth? In the loving, sacrificial way of the example of our supreme King and ruler, Jesus? Or in the brutal, unthinking way that so many of our leaders today rule their countries. While there are some good things going on, such as the UK's commitment to plant millions of trees, there are also some bad things going on. For example, in the past Zimbabwe was known as Africa's breadbasket, but now struggles to feed its own people.

Where wars are fought no thought is given to the damage done to the earth. For example in Northern Syria, buildings, water supplies, hospitals and the people are attacked without mercy. Crops and cattle are destroyed with no thought for the damage done. Stable communities are ruined and millions of people turned into refugees. What kind of rule is that?

In China airports and coal fired power stations are built with no regard to the damage done to the environment. But you could single out other countries which damage the earth as well, polluting rivers and seas, destroying forests in Borneo and Brazil to feed our frenzied desire to get!

Given by God the great responsibility to rule in the right way it is sobering to look at what humanity has done and is doing to our earth. We can't very easily change what governments and leaders do but what about us. We may have only a house and garden to rule over but do we do so in the right way? Do we try to live in as gentle a way as possible with respect for our environment? How we do that depends on our individual circumstances and doing what we can. But do we also pray that God will guide the leaders of this world, that he will send out a spirit of peace, make them aware of their responsibility to our wonderful earth? Do we wear our crown in a way which is pleasing to God or just blunder on unthinking and unaware?

*Gracious God, you have created a wonderful world for us,  
help us to respect it in a right way and pray that our leaders do so as well,  
that we and they may be good stewards of the earth and all its resources.  
In Jesus name we pray,  
Amen.*