

Joshua W. Jipp, *Christ is King. Paul's Royal Ideology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press (www.fortresspress.com), 2015. Pages, viii + 380. Paper, \$44.00.

Many interpreters of Paul's Christology discount the importance of royal categories or motifs, implying even that Paul uses the term "Christ" as something of a proper name for Jesus rather than as a royal title (i.e., the "anointed one"). In this thorough and cogent analytical study Joshua Jipp, assistant professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, convincingly demonstrates that Paul did in fact understand Christ as king. The apostle drew on several strands of traditions within Greco-Roman and Jewish literature that reflected on the "good king"—the all-pervasive form of political governance in the ancient world. However, Paul did not simply impose these characteristics on Jesus but redefined the meaning of the good king in light of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This vision of Jesus as king also helped Paul understand the relationship of the Risen Christ to his "subjects," that is, the church. This is a very constructive contribution to Pauline studies.