

G O D ' S B I G P I C T U R E

Aim:

Using Vaughan Robert's 'God's Big Picture' (GBP) as our guide, we are aiming to get an overview of the whole Bible story. It can be summarised by the unifying theme:

The Kingdom of God: God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing

(read GBP pp 20-25 for a fuller explanation)

STUDY 4: The Partial Kingdom (part 1) Exodus 19:1-13; 20:1-17

Key things to teach:

- God's promise of a kingdom is partially fulfilled in the history of Israel.
- God's people are saved by him, to live under his rule.

Study Outline:

(see GBP pp 73-74)

Use [Figure 15](#) (GBP p 60) to summarise OT history.

Let's see if we can fill in the 'God's people' bit of the story from Abraham (= Study 3) to Mount Sinai (= Study 4). We left Abraham without a son ... how come they've now grown to be a nation that fills Egypt (Exodus 1:7)?

OPTIONAL EXTRA: How was God working out his promise about 'people' in the stories of ...

- Abraham and Isaac (eg why did Abraham [17:17] and Sarah [18:12] laugh? and Isaac get his name [21:1-7]?)
- Jacob and Esau (eg why did God choose Jacob the Deceiver over Esau [cf Romans 9:10-13]?)
- Joseph and his brothers (eg why did God allow Joseph's brothers to sell him? [cf Gen 50:19-20]?)

READ Exodus 19:1-13

What does this passage teach us about God?

How does it challenge the way we often think about him?

How should we relate to such a God?

What do these verses say about Israel's relationship with her God?

What has God already done for Israel (cf 20:2 also)?

How did he save them from Egypt ...

- by substitution? (see GBP pp 65-66)
- by conquest? (see GBP pp 66-67)

What does he promise to do in the future?

How do these promises relate to the promises he made to Abraham in Gen 12:1-3?

What must the people do? is that possible?

How can God's promises be fulfilled?

READ Exodus 20:1-17

Why begin with v2? why is God giving these laws if he's already redeemed Israel without their obedience?

How are the Israelites to treat God?

How are the Israelites to treat each other?

Which of these reactions to the Ten Commandments should we have:

- The Ten Commandments show me how sinful I am (because I fail to keep them) and why I need a Saviour;
- The Ten Commandments show me how God wants me to behave now that he has saved me.

Let this debate continue for a while; the 'right answer' is 'both'. The next few questions could also be added in ...

How many of the Ten Commandments have you kept? Why do the people think they will die (20:19)? Why does the next paragraph (20:22f) have instructions for an altar?

Why should we want to obey these commands, as Christians? How can we ensure we obey the commands more?

Application

How can any people enjoy God's blessing? How can we?

What should be my response to Exodus 19-20?