

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 5: The Partial Kingdom (part 2) 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Key things to teach:

- God promises a human king as the way He will rule over His people and bless them
- There is a partial fulfilment of this promise in the OT, especially in David and Solomon
- Jesus, revealed in the NT, is the final, eternal, fulfilment of this promise

Study Outline:

(see GBP pp 78-88)

Launching Question:

Who would you say have been the best rulers in world history?

What is it about them that makes them a good ruler? What makes a bad ruler?

(What advice would you give to Gordon Brown?!)

READ Genesis 49:10

What is distinctive about the promise made to Jacob's son Judah?

What's the significance of this for a people living under Pharaoh in Egypt?

In what way might there be a similar hope for people today?

READ Deut. 17:14-20

What is the danger of having a human king?

In what ways might we see this around the world today?

What does God say are the necessary requirements for a king?

What implications might there be here for politics today?

READ Judges 21:25

This verse ends a book describing numerous atrocities committed by the people of Israel...

In what way is a king necessary for God's people?

What needs to be their relationship with him?

What, therefore, would you say to a humanist?

READ 2 Sam. 7:1-11

What does David want to do for God? (Why, do you think?)

What is God's response?

What has God done for David, and for Israel in the past?

What will He do for them in the future? (include v.11c)

What does this tell us about God's and David's roles for the blessing of the people?

How should this affect our view of God?

READ 2 Sam. 7:11-17

How did v.9-11 echo the promises to Abraham?

And how, according to v.11-17 is God going to bring fulfilment to those promises?

What kind of ruler will this be? What makes this a king worth having?

First of all these promises are talking about Solomon. But split into pairs and see how they are finally fulfilled:

Matt 1:1

John 2:18-22

Acts 2:32-36

Romans 1:1-4

Application

How should this study affect our view of Jesus?

How should we be encouraged by God's promises when we see a world full of disorder and danger?

What kind of rule should we seek in every area of government around the world?