

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 7: The Present Kingdom

Luke 4:1-13, John 2:12-22, Mark 1:14-15

Key things to teach:

- Every OT kingdom promise finds its focus in Jesus, i.e. they point to Jesus.
- Every OT kingdom promise finds its affirmation in Jesus, i.e. Jesus says 'yes' to them.
- Every OT kingdom promise finds its fulfilment through Jesus, i.e. Jesus brings about the kingdom in all its glory.

Study Outline:

(see GBP pp 107-121)

Launching Questions:

Where, ultimately, do we find our confidence that God is establishing a kingdom? (*The person and work of Jesus*).
How might you persuade a Jew of this, with both OT and NT in front of you?

(Massive question – can't answer all the issues now, but hopefully this study will give some pointers!)

People

OPTIONAL: READ Luke 3:21-38

In what way is Jesus the person we should be looking for, having read the OT? (See esp. v.21 (*identifies with sinful people like us*), 22 (*is the beloved Son of God* – ref. 2 Sam. 7:14), 31, 33-34).

READ Luke 4:1-13

What OT event does v.1-2 remind us of? Why? (*Desert wanderings after the Exodus – notice Red Sea → Jordan*).

So, thinking also of 3:38, in what way is Jesus a better 'people' than anyone in the OT?

What's the significance of Jesus quoting from Deuteronomy, do you think?

How might that give us a more confident hope for a Promised Land than any Jew might have? (See Deut 11:8-9 – *getting in and staying in*).

Application

How should this give us encouragement, when we are conscious of being like the OT people of God, repeatedly being deceived by the devil, and falling short in our obedience?

And so how should we regard Jesus?

Place

OPTIONAL: READ John 1:14 (*The word translated 'dwelt'/'made his dwelling' is the same one that's used for 'set up a tent/tabernacle' – it's got that sense to it*).

READ John 2:12-22

In what way is Jesus the place pointed to by the OT?

What is His attitude to God's place?

How does Jesus give us a better place than any Jewish land or temple?

How do His resurrection and ascension emphasise this?

Application

How should this give us encouragement if we feel that our lives are unsettled, or if our church building is falling down?!

Rule/Blessing

If you were a Jew living in Roman-occupied Jerusalem in 0 AD, able to worship freely at the temple, what aspect of the OT promises would you most long for, do you think? (*Perhaps rule and blessing. Simeon and Anna, in Luke 2:21-40, seem particularly to be seeking this. Though God's presence may be another good candidate – Matt. 1:23*).

READ Mark 1:14-15.

In what way is Jesus the ruler pointed to by the OT?

What kinds of blessings does he provide for His disciples? (See 1:16-2:12 for info).

What makes Jesus the best Jewish King by far?

Application

How should this give us encouragement when our politicians let us down? How should we respond to Jesus?