

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 9: The Perfected Kingdom Revelation 21:1-22:5

Key things to teach:

- There will come a time when God's kingdom promises will reach their final fulfilment
- This will be a perfect kingdom, better than anything we could hope for
- God reigns over our fallen world even now, and the perfect kingdom will only come about through His acts for His glory and our blessing

Study Outline:

(see GBP pp 139-152)

Launching Question:

If you were to ask people in the street what their ideal world would look like, what sort of answers would they give, do you think?

→ What would they want there? What would they get rid of? What would it look and feel like?

READ Revelation 4:1-3

Very often we feel weak, and non-Christians seem strong, and life feels out of control.....

What comfort do these verses alone provide for Christians battling against 'the world, the flesh and the devil' in a fallen world?

READ Revelation 21:1-22:5

What images are used to describe the perfected kingdom?

How do they build on previous passages in the Bible?

What are the features of life in the new creation?

- Where/how do we see God's people?
- Where/how do we see God's place?
- Where/how do we see God's rule?

What do the blessings of this perfected kingdom look like? What will our experience be like?

How does the imagery contribute to this?

How is it like Eden? How is it better?

When we see 'city' rather than 'country house', we may feel disappointed!

→ How does 'city' suggest something that is actually better?

What is there in the passage that reminds us that this perfected kingdom must be God's work, not man's?

(Notice the city 'coming down out of heaven from God' – the exact opposite of man trying to build up to God in Genesis 11)

Who enters this perfected kingdom?

What does it mean to be 'thirsty'? How are we satisfied?

What does it mean to 'conquer'/'overcome'?

(See lots of this in Chs. 2 and 3. Seems to mean 'Keep being faithful to Jesus, continually repenting at His words, trusting Him for your salvation, right to the end').

Application

What have we learnt of God's power, love and faithfulness over this series of studies on His Kingdom?

How does all that we've learnt encourage us to keep going as Christians?

What practical things could we do to encourage one another to keep going?