

The Bible's “Big Picture”

Looking at the overall ‘shape’ of the Bible – and the big themes which it presents

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- in contrast to other religious writings, the Bible has a definite "shape", or a *meta-narrative*, which it aims to put across
- what is this *meta-narrative*?
- this presentation helps to show the overall "shape" of the Bible "at a glance"

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- What is the Bible's *meta-narrative*?
- some would say – it's the story of Salvation

The Bible's "Big Picture"

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The Bible's "Big Picture"

- What is the Bible's *meta-narrative*?
- some would say – it's the story of Salvation
- others might say its "His Story" (and that all history is ultimately "His Story")
- yet others would say, it's the call to peace

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- So which of these 3 propositions is right?

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- In practice a strong case can be made to say that all 3 are correct!

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- The Bible's big picture is *each* of these things
- the story of Salvation
- "His Story" (all history is "His Story")
- the call to peace

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- We will focus on that third aspect - **the call to peace**

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- What we do now is to 'map-out' the *Big Picture* and provide a series of supporting passages from the Bible
- We invite you to "invest" some time in home-work on this, to check out the passages and see if they "ring true" to you

1. CREATION

2. REBELLION – **DEATH REIGNS**

ADAM

3. COVENANT (A CHOSEN PEOPLE)

ABRAHAM

4. A NATION

5. SLAVERY

6. PROMISE

7. REBE

MOSES

The Bible's "Big Picture" looks like this

.....THE PROMISE.....

THE PROMISE FULFILLED

SECOND ADAM †

16.

17.

18.

19. **CONQUE**

†

A NEW COVENANT

†

NEW KINGDOM INAUGURATED

†

20. ENLARGED COVENANT PEOPLE

†

21. JESUS RETURNS (KINGDOM RESTORED)

THE PROMISE

THE PROMISE FULFILLED

1. CREATION

2. REBELLION – **DEATH REIGNS**

ADAM

3. COVENANT (A CHOSEN PEOPLE)

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4. A NATION

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6. PROMISED LAND (A “TYPE” OF CREATION ?) (COVENANT RENEWED)

MOSES

7. REBELLION

8. NEW COVENANT PROMISED

9. PRIESTS / JUDGES

10. KINGS

11. REBELLION

12. EXILE (1 + 2)

13. DIVIDED KINGDOM

14. OCCUPATION

15. EXILE (3)

16. **JESUS**

SECOND ADAM †

17. SINLESS SAVIOUR – **DEATH CONQUERED** †

18. SEAL OF A NEW COVENANT †

19. NEW KINGDOM INAUGURATED †

20. ENLARGED COVENANT PEOPLE †

21. JESUS RETURNS (KINGDOM RESTORED)

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- Some people like to think of "The Old Testament" as being THE PROMISE and the "New Testament" as being THE PROMISE FULFILLED
- Those are the terms we have adopted in our diagram

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- So how can we know that this big picture is a fair reflection?
- This is where we invite you to do some homework
- In the next slide you will find some supporting references from the Bible

The Bible's "Big Picture" – readings

Selected Bible readings associated with main diagram.

1. Gen 1 - 2; Ps 33: 6-9; Isa 50: 2-3; Job 38: 1 - 18
2. Gen chapter 3
3. Gen 12: 1-9; Gen 15: 1-21; Gen 17: 1-14
4. Gen 12: 2 -3; Ps 33: 12
5. Ex 1 – 12 inclusive
6. Josh 1: 1 – 9; 12 inclusive; 13: 1 – 7; Ps 105: 6; Isa 41: 9
7. Throughout Old Testament (Tanakh)
8. Jeremiah 31: 31 – 33;
9. Judges / 1 Samuel 1 – 7 inclusive
10. 1 Samuel 8 inclusive; 1 Sam 16: 1 – 13; 1 and 2 Kings inclusive; 2 Chronicles 36: 5 – 8;
11. 1 and 2 Kings inclusive
12. 2 Chronicles 36: 13 – 23; [Babylonian 1] Jeremiah 52: 1 – 34 [Babylonian 2]
13. 2 Chronicles 10: 1 – 19
14. Roman occupation is not explained in Scripture, although there are allusions to it
15. Exile under Rome is not recorded in Scripture. Exile is alluded to by Jesus in Matthew 24. Revelation 16: 1 – 7 may prefigure the Roman exile.
16. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John gospels inclusive
17. 1 John 2:2; 1 John 1: 5-7; Coloss 2: 9-15; Philipp 2: 6-11; Coloss 1: 15 - 23
18. Matt 26: 26-30; Luke 22: 17-20; 1 Cor 11: 23-25; Rev 5: 6-14
19. Matt 6: 33; Matt 12: 28; Luke 11: 20; Matt 8: 11; Acts 1: 6-8. There are several levels of meaning to "Kingdom".
20. Romans 9-11 inclusive; Romans 11: 11-24 especially; Galatians 3: 26-29; Ephesians 4: 4-5; Rev 7: 8-10; Rev 14: 6-7
21. Rev 19: 1 – 9; Rev 21: 1 – 7; Rev 22: 7 – 17; Acts 1: 11

The Bible's "Big Picture" – readings



A few technical notes – for those who want to know

A note on the biblical references:

- These references are the author's personal selection. Many others might have been selected to illustrate the same points, but hopefully these contain sufficient directness and precision to emphasize the broad roadmap of Salvation History.

A note on the periods of exile:

- Deportation of defeated enemy leaders was a common feature of both Assyrian and Babylonian empires. In the Bible the term "the exile" or "the captivity" refers to the deportation of Judah's leaders from Jerusalem in the 6th century BC. Earlier, the leaders of the Northern Kingdom (Israel) had been deported by the Assyrians, following the fall of Samaria in 722 BC.

THE PROMISE

THE PROMISE FULFILLED

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12. EXILE (1 + 2)

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The Story of Salvation

16. JESUS

SECOND ADAM †

17. SINLESS SAVIOUR – **DEATH CONQUERED** †

18. SEAL OF A NEW COVENANT †

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The Bible's “Big Picture”

- Why does all this matter?
- What does this ‘prove’?

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- The Bible and its associated teaching might seem appallingly complex to newcomers
- This diagram helps us to see the *meta-narrative* of Scripture – and explains in outline, God's overall good purpose

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- If the big picture reveals anything, then it is God's good desire to bring true peace – true shalom – to everyone on this planet
- God has chosen to do this through the Man – Jesus (whose actual name is Yeshua)

The Bible's "Big Picture"

- Without wishing to over-complicate this, another simplified diagram might go a long way to reveal God's overall purpose
- This diagram, in 2 halves, helps us to see in a series of 'events' how God's plan to usher in His Kingdom of peace, is to be accomplished

The Eternal Search for Peace (1)



The Eternal Search for Peace (2)



The Bible's "Big Picture"

Why not check-out these key texts?

- Psalm 22 – anticipates the crucifixion of Jesus
- Isaiah 52: 13-15 and Isaiah 53 – anticipates the crucifixion of Jesus
- Matthew chapters 5 through 7 – the core teaching of Jesus
- John 3: 1- 21 – Jesus' teaching on the need for re-birth
- 1 John 1:1 through 2: 1 – 17

These will give you a good sense of the Good News – the Good News of peace with God through Jesus.

Thank You

Look out for other presentations
in this series