



The Big God Story

Day 1 – Discipleship Pathway

SOUTHVIEW CHURCH

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The Big God Story

Defining the Kingdom of God:

- God's People in God's Place under God's Rule
- Living within the parameters of the Kingdom leads to God's blessing
- God's blessing is being in God's presence

Why we Need to Know the Bible as One Big Story:

- It's how the Bible was intended to be read and understood
- It gives us a framework that helps us see who God is and what He's doing from beginning to end
- We begin to see how the smaller stories move the larger story along and point us forward to Christ and God's ultimate plan of redemption and restoration.

The General Makeup of the Bible:

- 66 Books – 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament
- Numerous themes including suffering, brokenness, friendship, sexuality, marriage, divorce, lying, truth, obedience, and character
- 14 different literary styles including allegory, biography, satire, memoirs, letters, etc.
- The Old Testament includes Historical Narrative (Genesis), Wisdom (Proverbs), Law (Leviticus), Prophecy (Isaiah), Romance (Song of Solomon), and Poetry/Songs (Psalms)
- The New Testament includes the Gospels (4 historical books about Jesus), Parables (teach a key truth), Epistles/Letters
- 43% of the Bible is narrative or story; 33% is poetry; 24% is discourse

The Story Arc of The Bible:

Creation

God is Creator/King. This means He has the authority to define our purpose as humanity AND He gets to define good & evil, right & wrong.

Rebellion/Fall

We are God's subject. We either willingly and joyfully submit to His rule or we reject His rule and define good & evil ourselves.

Redemption

God, through the death and resurrection of Christ redeemed His people from their sin and made a way for sinful man to dwell in the presence of a holy God.

Restoration/Consummation

Jesus will return to earth as King to judge humanity, destroy the kingdom of Satan and the effects of sin and evil on this world, and usher in the new heavens and new earth so His faithful followers can live in perfect community with our triune God for all eternity.

Creation & Rebellion:

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

Genesis 3:4-5

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 21:25

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalms 51:10

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:3

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

Mark 1:15

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:15

Discussion Questions:

1. If God is Creator/King, what does this tell us about Him and His authority? How does what and who God created teach us about the Creator Himself?
2. Who or what most shaped your understanding of yourself? What were the sources of your personal value and identity? (Think about this from the perspective of how your family, others, and experiences shaped you as a person before you became a Christ follower and after.)
3. In what ways are you serving God as King in your life? In what ways are you serving yourself as King?
4. Where, in your life, do you see examples that your relationship with God and with others is not the way God intended it to be?

Redemption:

The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands and forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished.

Exodus 34:6-7

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Genesis 3:15

- God will bring another, like Adam who will defeat evil and crush the enemy's head.

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Genesis 3:21

- God's way of redemption is going to include a covering for shame and a blood sacrifice.

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 9:22

- The sacrifices of the tabernacle/temple system were to satisfy the price of the people's sins, but our continual pattern of sin meant a sacrifice was always needed.

Those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:3-4

The law was only a shadow of the good things that are coming – not the realities themselves

Hebrew 10:1

- The blood sacrifices of the Old Testament pointed forward to a greater blood sacrifice that would fully and finally atone for the sins of the people and give them open access to God.

Therefore, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:19-23

He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:13b-15

- Christ is the new Adam, the One who conquered sin and crushed the enemy's head.
- He perfectly covers all our sin and shame.
- He is the perfect blood sacrifice that fully satisfied all the requirements of the law.
- He took on death and paid our debt so we could have freedom and life with the Father for all eternity.
- God is working to restore creation to the way it was always intended to be.

Restoration:

- Eden was good, pure, and full of potential, but it was also vulnerable to temptation and evil was allowed to enter it.

*Nothing impure will ever enter [the city], nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful. **Revelation 21:27***

- God is restoring His Kingdom – that's what the end is all about.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

- Christ's death and resurrection on the cross marked the beginning of His Kingship.
- Christ is seated at the right hand of God as the anointed King preparing the Kingdom for the faithful to enter.
- Satan is the prince and ruler of this world (John 12:31; Eph 2:2).
- Christ defeated Satan on the cross.
- At the second coming, Christ, the anointed King will finally be acknowledged as the one true King.

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:10-11

The Holy City, Jerusalem...shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal...The street of the city was of pure gold.

Revelation 21:10-11, 21

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

Revelation 21:22

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:1-5

- We will have access to the tree of life.
- Creation will be free from curse.
- God will be recognized as King.
- We will see God's face and have communion with Him.
- God's glory will fully and finally cover the whole earth
- We will be home in eternity with Him
- We will forever be able to love Him as He's commanded with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

How the Story Unfolds Through the Books of the Old Testament:

Genesis 1 & 2

The story of Creation.

Genesis 3

Rebellion and the fall of Adam & Eve.

Genesis 4-11

The continued cycle of rebellion from Cain, through Noah, to the tower of Babel where God dispersed His people in judgment.

Genesis 12-Joshua

The rest of Genesis, along with the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy and Joshua tell us God promised His Kingdom to Abraham's descendants. God then moves in miraculous ways to establish them as a nation, instruct them on how to live as Kingdom citizens, establish His dwelling place with His people, and bring them into the promised land.

Judges & Ruth

The cycle of rebellion continues as God's people rebel against His rule but God continually raises up a judge to save His people and restore relationship with Him.

1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles

The people reject God as King and demand a king like the nations. These books show God fulfilling His promises to Abraham under David & Solomon's reign, but sin once again turns the people away from God and the united kingdom divides into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah).

The Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah

These prophets warn God's people that because of their disobedience, judgement is coming at the hands of foreign enemies.

Exile: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Lamentations, Obadiah

The Northern Kingdom is conquered by the Assyrians in 722BC, and The Southern Kingdom is captured by Babylon in 586BC and taken into exile. The prophets of this day offer encouragement and hope to God's people that He will rescue them and restore them to the land He had promised them.

Return to Jerusalem & The Rebuilding of the Temple: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

God brings His people back from Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple but the people's hope that this temple will be more glorious than the first is not met. The prophets continue to point God's people forward to a future date when their hopes will be fulfilled.

Waiting: Malachi

God promises to send a new Moses and a new Elijah to restore God's people, heal their hearts, confront evil, and bring forth justice. And then they wait during 400 years of silence.

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