



The Big God Story

Day 2 – Discipleship Pathway

SOUTHVIEW CHURCH

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The Big God Story

The Theme of Kingdom

God's people in God's place under God's rule (Graeme Goldsworthy)

Tools for Understanding the Story of the Old Testament:

The first mention of the Gospel in the Old Testament: *"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 The rest of the Bible is to be read with this passage in mind.

1. God's People:
 - a. Is this the promised seed? With each genealogy and each new character introduced we should ask ourselves, "Is this the one who will crush the enemy's head and free us from the bondage of sin?"
2. God's Place:
 - a. Are God's people living in God's place? If not, we can expect God to work miraculously through people and circumstances to bring His people back into His presence.
3. God's Rule:
 - a. Are God's people living in obedience to His rule? If not, we can know that judgment is coming to change hearts and bring God's people back to obedient living and right relationship with Him.

Abraham & The Kingdom:

- God shows us through Abraham what the Kingdom of God is supposed to look like.

I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and to him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 12:2-3

I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations (God's people), and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant (God's rule) between me and you and your offspring after you...to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan (God's place) for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.

Genesis 17:6-8

- The elements of the Kingdom:
 - God will make Abraham into a great nation – the promised seed will come through Abraham's line
 - God will give them land as an everlasting possession
 - God will be their God/King and they will be His people/subjects

THE KINGDOM WILL LOOK LIKE: GOD'S PEOPLE (THE ISRAELITES)
IN GOD'S PLACE (CANAAN) LIVING UNDER HIS RULE IN WILLING OBEDIENCE TO GOD AS THE ONE TRUE KING.

[Abraham] believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:6

- Abraham's story is one we need to keep at the forefront of our minds as we read the Old Testament – does the Kingdom of God's people look like God's plan or one of their own making?

“Israel was brought to Egypt and the patriarchs never possessed the land, because God intended to reveal the way into his Kingdom. It's a way involving a miraculous redemption from a bondage that holds us and keeps us out of the Kingdom.” - Graeme Goldsworthy

- The way into the Kingdom will always and only come through a miraculous provision of God.

Moses & The Exodus

Moses & The Kingdom

“Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, ‘Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us (so we see God's faithfulness here to grow Israel into a great nation). Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.’ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens.”

Exodus 1:8-11

- God's people are not in God's place – they're in Egypt, greatly oppressed by Pharaoh. We can expect God will act on to rescue His people and bring them back to His place (Canaan).

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live”

Exodus 1:22

- God raises up Moses to lead His people out of bondage in Egypt in keeping with the covenant promise He made to Abraham.
- Moses demands that Pharaoh let God's people go.
- Pharaoh's response in Exodus 5:2 is one we all have to wrestle through ourselves.

Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go?

Exodus 5:2

- Do I recognize God as the one true King and submit myself to His authority? Or am I trying to rule and reign on my own terms?
- God is King and He is establishing His Kingdom in which no evil can enter.
- God's judgment NEVER falls without warning AND God ALWAYS provides a way of escape for the faithful.
- God's plan of salvation will include a slain lamb.
- We would define freedom as “free to be yourself and do what you want to do,” but the freedom God gives is the freedom to serve the real God, not a false one. (Kevin DeYoung)
- God brings His people out of bondage into the wilderness to Mt. Sinai where He gives them The Law. The order is important here – it was grace first and then law, not the other way around, meaning God saves first and then shows us how we live as faithful citizens of His Kingdom.
- Is Moses the promised seed we're waiting for? The end of Deuteronomy shows he is not – he's unable to enter the promised land because of his sin. A better Moses is coming.

Seeing Christ in Moses & The Exodus: Is Moses the One?

- Moses is the son of the King who leaves the comforts of the palace to identify with his people.
- He's mistreated and misunderstood by the political leaders of the day and by his own people setting up the idea that One to come will be a suffering servant (Isaiah 53)
- Moses is called to lead God's people out of suffering and bondage into abundant life – the One to come would do the same.
- We have a slain lamb whose blood covers the people and saves them from death in the same way Christ is the slain Lamb who takes upon Him the judgment and death that we deserve by covering us with His blood.

The Story Continued – How we get to a king over Israel:

- Joshua leads God's people out of the desert into the promised land but God's people continue to find themselves in cycles of rebellion. (*Fyi – not covered in the talk*)
- The period of the Judges show this cycle of rebellion clearly (*fyi – only some points covered*):
 - God's people rebel against His rule
 - impeding judgment falls upon them
 - God raises up an enemy to come against His people
 - They cry out to God in repentance
 - God raises up a Judge to save them and lead them back to right relationship with Him
- The people demand a king like the nations around them.
- God had made provisions for His people to be ruled by a king – see Deuteronomy 17:14-20

The king was not to be an authority separate from God, but would rule under God, submitting to him and his law. - Vaughn Roberts, God's Big Picture

- Saul is a king like the people wanted. They looked at outward appearances.
- David was a king after God's own heart. God looks at the motives of the heart.

David & Solomon

The Kingdom under David: The Warrior King:

- In Genesis 17:6-8, God makes a covenant with Abraham saying, "I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you...to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."
- God also tells His people what a king over His people should be like in Deuteronomy 17:14-20. "When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us," be sure to appoint over you a king the LORD your God chooses. He must be from among your fellow Israelites...[He] must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself...He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver or gold... [He must] learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees and not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites."

1. Using the following verse, how do you see God's covenant promises to Abraham in Genesis 17:6-8 being fulfilled under David's reign?

Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says...Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel...wicked people will not oppress them anymore...I will also give you rest from all your enemies... The LORD himself will establish a house for you.'

2 Samuel 7:8-11

2. Compare Deuteronomy 17:14-20 above with the verses listed below. Does David meet God's expectations for a king over His people?

David reigned over all Israel, doing what was just and right for all the people.

2 Samuel 8:15

For I have kept the ways of the LORD; I am not guilty of turning from my God. All his laws are before me; I have not turned away from his decrees.

2 Samuel 22:22-23

3. What were the terms of the new covenant God made with David and what does it tell us about the coming King and Kingdom?

The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you...I will raise up your offspring to succeed you...and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my

Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son...Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.

2 Samuel 7:12-16

4. What indicators do we see in the verses below that David is not the one we're waiting for?

One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her...then she went back home.

2 Samuel 11:2-4

This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: "I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own"...Then David said..."I have sinned against the LORD."

2 Samuel 12:7-9, 13

The Kingdom under Solomon: The Wise King:

1. How do we see God further establishing His people in His place under Solomon's reign?

...my father David...could not build a temple for the Name of the LORD his God until the LORD put his enemies under his feet. But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster. I intend, therefore, to build a temple for the Name of the LORD my God.

1 Kings 5:3-5

2. Did Solomon meet the expectations that God set out for a king? (Refer again to Dt 17:14-20)

King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth...Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses.

1 Kings 10:23, 26

King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter...He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of his father David had been.

1 Kings 11:1, 3-4

3. As a result, what can we expect is going to befall the people of Israel?

The Kingdom under David & Solomon

- The kingdom, as promised to Abraham is pretty much fulfilled under their reign:
 - God's people were incredibly numerous
 - They were in God's place – Canaan
 - They were living under God's rule – David ruled in submission to God
 - The kingdom under Solomon was marked by incredible wealth and splendor – Israel was a great nation
 - There was peace in the land
- Solomon rebelled against God
- The kingdom of Israel split into two kingdoms under the leadership of Solomon's son: The Northern Kingdom – Israel, and the Southern Kingdom – Judah
- Both of these kingdoms continued to rebel against God and as a result of God's judgment the Northern Kingdom was conquered by Assyria in 722 BC, and the Southern Kingdom by Babylon in 522 BC when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

Exile and Return from Babylon

How is God fulfilling His Kingdom purposes during the exile?

- The rest of the Old Testament primarily focuses on the Southern Kingdom of Judah – This is the line of Abraham and David through whom the Promised Seed is coming.
- God's people are living outside of His place – they're in Babylon as a result of God's judgment upon them.

Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper...

(verse 10) 'When seventy years are complete for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you', declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,' declares the Lord, 'and I will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.

Jeremiah 29:5-14

- God gave His people a time frame for their exile and instructions on how to live well as His kingdom citizens even in exile.
- God promised His people a new covenant:

I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people...For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

Jeremiah 31:33-34

- After 70 years in exile, God raised up the Persian Empire to conquer Babylon, and the Persian King allowed the exiles to return home. God's people were once again in God's place.
- The people rebuilt Jerusalem and the temple, but both fell short of expectations.
- While elements of the kingdom were once again restored, the people were left longing for more. A greater Kingdom had been promised.
- As the Old Testament closes, a faithful remnant watches and waits during 400 years of silence for the promised Kingdom and the promised Seed they knew were still coming.

The Story of Gospel & Kingdom in the New Testament

Jesus Christ is the One We've Been Waiting for:

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham

Matthew 1:1

- Jesus fulfills over 300 Old Testament prophecies:
 - He is the new Adam who conquered sin and crushed the enemy's head
 - He is the perfect blood sacrifice that fully satisfied all the requirements of the law
 - He is the new tabernacle where God dwells with His people

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel

Isaiah 7:14

His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:18

Jesus Christ and the Sermon on the Mount:

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand

Matthew 4:17

- Jesus is ushering in God's Kingdom
- Jesus shows in the Sermon on the Mount that citizens of His Kingdom would not be marked by external obedience but by internal obedience – He raises the bar

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10

- God's Kingdom would not look like the world's
- Jesus was offering seekers a glimpse of the power His Spirit could work through them

What does the Kingdom look like in Christ?

- God's people (all those who put their faith in Christ as the Son of God) in God's place (in Christ, we have fellowship and communion with God) under God's rule (those who submit to God's reign and humble themselves under His authority)
- The Kingdom is now in Christ

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:19-23

"Made for spirituality, we wallow in introspection. Made for joy, we settle for pleasure. Made for justice, we clamor for vengeance. Made for relationship, we insist on our own way. Made for beauty, we are satisfied with sentiment. But new creation has already begun. The sun has begun to rise. Christians are called to leave behind, in the tomb of Jesus Christ, all that belongs to the brokenness and incompleteness of the present world ... That, quite simply, is what it means to be Christian: to follow Jesus Christ into the new world, God's new world, which he has thrown open before us."

"The point of the resurrection...is that the present bodily life is not valueless just because it will die...What you do with your body in the present matters because God has a great future in store for it...What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—will last into God's future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether (as the hymn so mistakenly puts it...). They are part of what we may call building for God's kingdom."

N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*

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