

Term Plan – Autumn Term 2016

We are going to be following the Bible overview using “God’s Big Picture” by Vaughan Roberts. Below is the focus for the sessions that we are going to be looking at but a wider understanding will be found in the chapters of the book. This is the focus for the sessions but these are not the sessions themselves - teaching what is below as is would not be good for 11-14 year olds!

11th Sept: The pattern of the kingdom - God’s kingdom will be God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule and enjoying God’s blessing

Introduction: Briefly go to 2 Timothy 3:15-16 to show that the Bible has one author (God) and one message (salvation). Explain that the theme running through the Bible is; “the kingdom of God is God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule and blessing” and we will see this played out in our overview.

The pattern of the kingdom: Genesis 1 and 2

- God made everything: Gen 1:1, 1:31
- God made human beings in his image: Gen 1:26-28. This means God made humans to be rulers (v. 26) and to be in relationship (v.27) with each other, God and the environment
- Relationships are perfect - between God and human beings (Gen 2:7-8), man and woman (2:25) and between human beings and creation (2:15)
- **God’s *people* (Adam and Eve) in God’s *place* (Garden) under God’s *rule* (word) enjoying God’s *blessing* (perfect relationships)**

18th Sept: The perished kingdom - man messed up and this means for kingdom is no longer as it was intended

- Human beings rebel against God (both a one off event and repeated pattern that we see). They disobey God’s word (2:17, 3:11, 3:17). God’s rule is rejected.
- God judges rebels - spoils relationships (God’s blessing is forfeited) between men and women (3:7, 12, 16b), between human beings and creation (3:17-18) and between human beings and God (3:8, 24)
- Seems hopeless situation but note that before God passes judgement on man and woman He has already made the promise of salvation in the form of someone who will be human, defeat Satan and will be hurt.
- **God’s *rule* (word) is rejected, so God’s *blessing* (perfect relationships) is forfeited and they are no longer God’s *people*, banished from God’s *place* (garden)**

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25th Sept: The promised kingdom - God is gracious and promises the kingdom to man again

- Gen 12:1 - 3. God is promising the kingdom! Focus was on the whole world, now to one people (Israel) and one land (Canaan).
- God promises a people (12:2). Problem is Sarai is barren (and ninety years old!) - 17:17, 18:11 - this is going to need a miracle!
- God promises a land (12:1). Problem is land is occupied by Canaanites (12:6). This is going to need a miracle!
- God promises a blessing (12:2-3, 17:7-8). God will be their God, promise of relationship and rest with God.
- The promise is **God's people (Abraham's descendants) living in God's place (promised land, Canaan), under God's rule and enjoying God's blessing (God).**

9th and 16th Oct: The partial kingdom - Israel's history shows glimpses of the kingdom that is to come but never perfect

Israel's history shows how the promise of God's kingdom is partially fulfilled. The table below is helpful to show the focus of different books:

God's people	Genesis 12 - Exodus 18
God's place	Exodus 19 - Leviticus
God's rule and blessing	Numbers - Joshua
God's king*	Judges - 2 Chronicles

*this is a new feature which shows how God will rule and bless His people

- God's people. Exodus 1:7 starting to become a great nation. But not in God's place and as a result were under threat from king over Egypt (1:8-10). Needed a miracle to rescue them, which God did by substitution (Passover) and conquest (Parting of Red Sea and destroying Pharaoh).
- God's rule and blessing. Exodus 20:2. God rescues His people and then tells them how to enjoy being His people - by keeping His law.
- God's place. Numbers tells the story of disobedience and delay (13:27-28, 14:20-24), then we reach Joshua where God's promise is kept (21:43-45)
- **God's people in God's place under his rule and blessing. But there is a warning to continue to obey God's word 23:15-16**
- God's king. Starts in Judges where people want a king. In 1 Samuel shows this is wanting a king instead of God. First king Saul is disobedient and so rejected. Next David is obedient and people blessed (mostly), then Solomon is wise and high point. However disobeys God's word about foreign wives and things start to unravel towards the end of his reign. Following from Solomon is disobedience, division and decline. The kingdom splits in two and both are exiled. God's people, God's place and God's rule and blessing???

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23rd and 30th Oct: Culture – looking into the messages that we hear from culture, whether they point towards God’s way or away from it and how Jesus is far better even than those that point towards God’s way

13th Nov: The prophesied kingdom - showing what has gone wrong and what will be in future with kingdom

Prophets are God’s mouthpiece and point the people back to God’s covenant telling them that if they live under God’s rule they will be blessed and if they do not, they will be cursed.

Two themes run through the prophets:

- i) Failure of Israel (judgement) - a new captivity (Hosea 11:1-5)
- ii) Future of Israel (Hope):
 - God’s people: There will be a new exodus (Isaiah 49:5-6) and a new nation (where all nations are included) (Isaiah 49:6)
 - God’s place: a new creation, beyond all people (Isaiah 65:17-18)
 - God’s rule and blessing: perfectly kept (Jer 31:31-34)
 - A new king: eternal and universal (Isaiah 9:6-7) and so extraordinary blessing (Amos 9:13-14)

20th Nov: The present kingdom - promises of OT fulfilled in Christ, the kingdom has arrived

We see that Christ is the fulfilment of the OT promises:

- God’s people - Jesus is true Adam and if we trust in him we enter into new humanity headed by righteous act (Romans 5:18-19)
- God’s place - Jesus is the true temple - He is where God dwells, if we want to find God we have to go to Jesus. John 2:19-21
- God’s rule and blessing - Jesus was treated as a covenant breaker so we can be seen as a covenant keeper (Hebrews 9:15)
- The true king - this is Jesus! Acts 2:36

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27th Nov: The proclaimed kingdom - what is going on between Jesus first and second comings

The kingdom of God:

- God's people - the "new" Israel - the church (1 Peter 2:9)
- God's place - the "new" temple - church and individuals (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19)
- God's rule and blessing - new covenant with Spirit enabling us to live under God's rule and enjoy God's blessings (Romans 7:6)

Holy Spirit is given to enable the kingdom to be proclaimed. His work includes:

- i) Salvation - the Spirit applies what Jesus did in history to us. John 3:3, 5
- ii) Service - empowers us to serve one another. 1 Cor 12:12 - 31
- iii) Sanctification - makes us holy, more like Jesus. Romans 8:13, 28-29

This bit is quite nice but may be too much to include in the session!

"Now" and "Not yet" - we have tasted the kingdom and so frustrated that we are not there yet:

Salvation:	Past	We have been saved from sin's power	Eph 2:8
	Present	We are being saved from sin's power	1 Cor 1:18
	Future	We will be saved from sin's presence	Titus 2:14

Meanwhile, we witness, serve and wait Romans 8:17-25

4th Dec: The perfected kingdom - something to really look forward to!

- **At last God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing. This is really something to look forward to!**
- God's people - a vast multitude (Rev 7:9)
- God's place - a new creation (Rev 21:2), a new temple (Rev 21:3 - God will dwell with his people)
- God's rule and blessing - people will be able to rest in God and enjoy his rule and blessing (Rev 21:4)
- The only road to this perfected kingdom is by the blood of the lamb through the cross.

18th Dec: Christmas – looking at what we should be excited about by Christmas (and having a Christmas party, hopefully not conflicting messages!)