

FOCUS on Jesus: Making Sense of the Whole Bible

Q. What do you find difficult about reading the Bible?

The Bible: God’s big picture for the world

A unifying theme: The kingdom of God.

“God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule and blessing.”
(Vaughan Roberts, *God’s Big Picture*, p.22)

One book, one author, and one subject

God’s wonderful plan to _____.

1. The Pattern of the Kingdom: Creation

Gen 1:26–27; 2:1–3, 7–9, 15–17

<i>People</i>		
<i>Place</i>		
<i>Rule & Blessing</i>		

2. The Perished Kingdom: Fall

<i>People</i>	Gen 3:19	
<i>Place</i>	Gen 3:23	
<i>Rule & Blessing</i>	Gen 3:6, 17	

Fulfilment in Jesus: He comes as the serpent crusher (Gen 3:15; 1 John 3:8)

Fulfilment in Jesus: He is like Adam, but better (Rom 5:19; 1 Cor 15:20–22)

3. The Promised Kingdom: Abraham

Gen 12:1–4

<i>People</i>	
<i>Place</i>	
<i>Rule & Blessing</i>	

Fulfilment in Jesus: He is the one through whom blessing flows to all nations (Gal 3:14)

4. The Partial Kingdom: Covenant with Moses; Covenant with David

4.1. Exodus

Slavery and deliverance at Passover (Exod 6:6–8; 12:21–22; 14:29–30)

Fulfilment in Jesus: He is the Passover lamb who was sacrificed for us (1 Cor 5:7)

4.2. Living under God

Covenant through the Law (Exod 19:4–6)

Tabernacle (Exod 25:8)

Land (Josh 23–24)

Fulfilment in Jesus: God is with us in Jesus (Matt 1:21–23)

4.3. Judges and Kings

David (2 Sam 7:8–16)

Fulfilment in Jesus: He will rule on David's throne forever (Luke 1:30–33)

<i>People</i>	
<i>Place</i>	
<i>Rule & Blessing</i>	

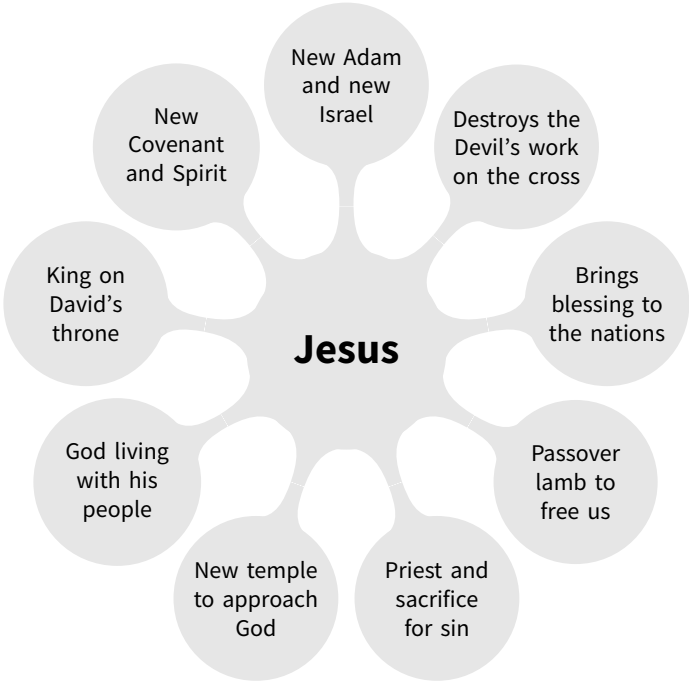
5. The Prophesied Kingdom: Hope of the New Covenant

- 5.1. Israel’s decline
- 5.2. Promise of Messiah/servant (Isa 53)

Fulfilment in Jesus: He makes a new covenant with us and pours out God’s Spirit on all God’s people (Matt 26:28; Acts 2)

6. The Present Kingdom: Jesus

- 6.1. Jesus came to fulfil the Old Testament (Matt 5:17–18)
- 6.2. Jesus: The centre of God’s plans



People	
Place	
Rule & Blessing	

7. The Proclaimed Kingdom: The Last Days (Today)

<i>People</i>	1 Pet 2:9; cf. Exod 19:6; Deut 7:6	
<i>Place</i>	1 Cor 6:19	
<i>Rule & Blessing</i>	Rom 3:20; 7:6	

8. The Perfected Kingdom: New Creation (Future)

<i>People</i>	Rev 7:9; 21:3	
<i>Place</i>	Rev 21:1–4	
<i>Rule & Blessing</i>	Rev 22:3–5	

Exercise

Read Judg 3:7–11

Judg 3:7 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD; they forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs. ⁸ The anger of the Lord burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years. ⁹ But when they cried out to the LORD, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them. ¹⁰ The Spirit of the LORD came on him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him. ¹¹ So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died.

Q. How would you read Othniel's story in light of God's picture of salvation?

Book Recommendations

LLoyd-Jones, Sally. *The Story of God's Love for You*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015.

Roberts, Vaughan. *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible*. Nottingham: Inter-Varsity, 2002. (Also available in Chinese [Traditional Script]).