

03 – God’s big picture – The promised kingdom**God’s big picture**

... the big story of the bible that flows from Genesis to Revelation.

The story so far

Kingdom of God =

God’s people ...

living in God’s place ...

under God’s rule and blessing.

God = King of the kingdom.

God’s kingdom rule seems to have all but perished.

... glimmers of hope.

... God’s grace and mercy shown to humanity in the face of our rebellion against his right to rule.

... Gen 11, God’s people were judged and banished.

Always God’s plan

... the need to rescue people from sin has always been part of God’s eternal plan.

Ephesians 1:3-5, “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will”

“Why did Jesus bother to create us if he knew that we would need saving”.

... questions about human free will and God’s sovereign decision before the creation of the world.

A gracious promise

Gen 12 is another generation later.

... God make a promise to a very unlikely person.

Abram = Abraham

Gen 12:1, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’

John Stott - “it may be truly said without exaggeration that not only the rest of the OT but the whole NT are an outworking of these promises of God”

Firstly, God promised to make him and his descendants into a great nation

Secondly, God promised to give them a land to live in.

Finally, God promises to bless Abram and through him to bless the whole world.

... Kingdom of God at this stage seems a pale version of what it once used to be.

For us today

1) Character of the King

... God's loves humanity.

... God's justice does not cause him to overlook or ignore our rebellious ways.

... he is gracious towards us.

= underserved mercy and grace despite their rebellion.

2) Context matters

... promises made in one part of the story are not always what God's promises to do throughout the entire story.

Qu 1: When is this promise made in the big story of the bible?

Qu 2: Is this promise (or even part of the promise) made to everyone or to one person (or group) in particular?

Qu 3: Does the coming of Jesus change this promise or fulfil it?

God's kingdom =

God's people = Abraham's descendants

God's place = Caanan

God's rule and blessing = God's promise to bless Abraham's descendants and all the nations

My one thing

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To talk about over MT / supper?

- **What are ways we can be tempted to take God's promises out of context?**