

A dark, blue-tinted photograph of a person walking away through a misty forest. The person is in the center, walking away from the viewer. The trees are dense and their leaves are visible, creating a textured background. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

ESTHER

GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN AN EVIL DAY



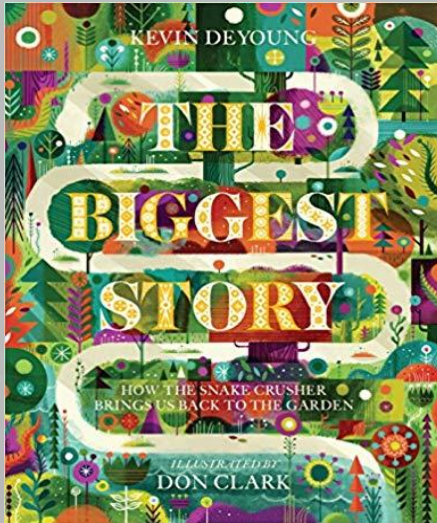
God Protects His Glory

By Protecting His People

The Great Paradox

God is omnipotently present
even where God is most
conspicuously absent.

The Big Picture



The Biggest Story

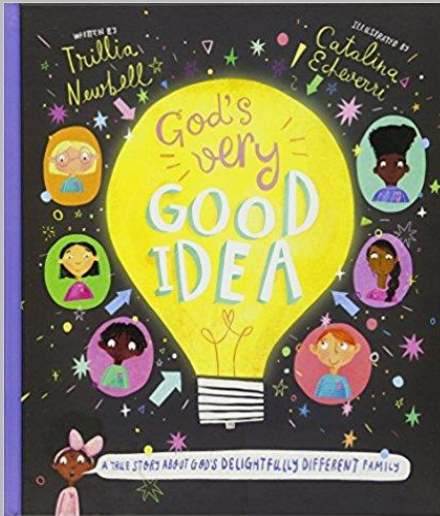
Kevin DeYoung



The Garden, The Curtain, and the Cross

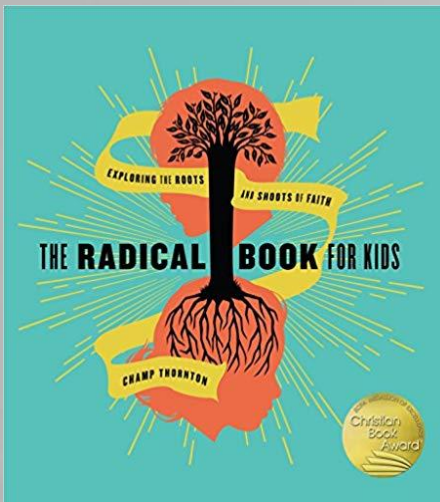
Carl Laferton

The Big Picture



God's Very Big Idea

Trillia Newbell



The Radical Book for Kids

Champ Thornton

The Big Picture of Scripture

To display His glorious grace, God loves and protects His people by choosing them, redeeming them, protecting them, and preserving them for His eternal Kingdom (and Satan fights every step).

The Battle Rages – Satan Attacks

1. Garden of Eden
2. Cain and Abel
3. Tower of Babel
4. Noah's Generation
5. Famine in Palestine (Joseph)
6. Egypt and Exodus
7. Conquest and Canaanites
8. Divided Kingdom
9. Disbursement of the ten northern tribes
10. Exile of the two southern tribes
11. Haman and Esther
12. Greek Invasion
13. Roman Rule
14. Death of Christ
15. World/Flesh (Eph 2)
16. Final Conflict (Rev 19-20)

Esther 9 – Theme/Story Line

Theme: God protects His Glory by providentially saving His People and honoring His Word.

1. First Scene: The Jews Defend Themselves – vs. 1-10
2. Second Scene: Esther Asks for More – vs. 11-15
3. Third Scene: Summary of the Victory – vs. 16-19

The Edict's Content – Holy War

Was it right to allow the Jews to kill and plunder?

1. The language was identical to Haman's decree (3:13).
2. The decree was to defend.
3. Plunder was not taken (9:10, 14-16).
4. The final death count was 75,000 of "those that hated them" (9:16).
5. The edict aligns with, but moderates God's Word in 1 Sam 15:2-3 and Exodus 17:8, 14-16.

Esther's Request – Justified?

Daniel 2

- Spared Life
- Functioned as a prophet
- Prayed for wisdom
- Role was to proclaim God's use of Gentile nations until the coming Kingdom of God
- Portrayed a man of committed integrity

Esther 9

- Took Life
- Functioned as a protector
- Acted singularly
- Role was to protect God's people from destruction until the coming Kingdom of God
- Portrayed as a woman of spiritual ambiguity

Faith in God's Providence

Divine providence means that God governs all creatures, actions, and circumstances through the normal and ordinary course of human life, without intervention of the supernatural.

Believing the Providence of God is difficult when:

1. Godless leaders rule.
2. There is a famine of the Word of God in life.
3. There is an absence of the tangible power and presence of God.
4. Even “good” people make sinful choices.
5. Good deeds go unrewarded while evil men rise to fame.
6. Actions are taken that render us powerless to do right.
7. The mundaneness of life seems to grind us to “small” people.

Lesson from Esther 9

The very definition of faith (Heb 11:1) calls us to a certainty in the unseen reality behind the events that we see, even when those events are so incompatible with what we would expect, given our knowledge of God.

Our certainty and hope always rest in the unseen reality that God is moving all events in the direction of His final victory for the sake of His glory.



ESTHER

GOD'S PROVIDENCE IN AN EVIL DAY