

# Seeing the Big Picture

---

## Intro

- Welcome
  - So stoked to see you guys
    - Thanks to Ron for covering
      - Super grateful for this church and its grace
  - Wanted to make sure we are being safe and wise
    - Totally safe and good to go
      - Cassie still has covid but its very mild
  - Essentials class at 12 after service
  - Gentle and Lowly study each Wednesday night over zoom
- Series Introduction
  - Seeking to find Jesus in all of scripture, especially the OT
    - Remember, when the church was born, the only scripture they had was the OT, and over and over again you see Paul, the apostles, and authors of the NT urging everyone in to the scriptures. What are those scriptures? The books we currently call the OT.
  - Now that the NT is written, we tend to gravitate toward it, for obvious reasons. It is extremely Christ centered, the Gospels are a story of his life, acts describes the growth of the church, and the epistles are extremely practical for churches and individual life's in our day to day stuff
- But the Bible is much more than the NT, of the 66 books in our scriptures, the OT is 39 of them.
  - This means that as a whole, the OT is clearly still incredibly important for the meta narrative of the gospel as well as being incredibly important for us today.
    - But I've found in my spiritual life that I tend to gravitate towards the NT and then a few of the OT books like Psalms and Isaiah, and Song Of Songs on date night. Just kidding!

Friday, September 10, 2021

- The point is, as a whole, I think that Christians have limited the OT to being useful in small doses and its become difficult for us to see just how Christ centered the whole thing is.
- I read my kids the Bible every night and the Bible that i use for them, which I highly recommend, is called the Jesus Storybook bible and I want to read an excerpt from it for you this morning. This is from the first chapter of the kids bible, yet it is an incredible reminder for all of us that the Bible is Jesus' book about Jesus.
- Read the first chapter of the Jesus Story book bible
  - “God wrote, “I love you” — he wrote it in the sky, and on the earth, and under the sea. He wrote his message everywhere! Because God created everything in his world to reflect him like a mirror—to show us what he is like, to help us know him, to make our hearts sing. The way a kitten chases her tail. The way red poppies grow wild. The way a dolphin swims. And God put it into words, too, and wrote it in a book called “The Bible.” Now, some people think the Bible is a book of rules, telling you what you should and shouldn't do. The Bible certainly does have some rules in it. They show you how life works best. But the Bible isn't mainly about you and what you should be doing. It's about God and what he has done. Other people think the Bible is a book of heroes, showing you people you should copy. The Bible does have some heroes in it, but (as you'll soon find out) most of the people in the Bible aren't heroes at all. They make some big mistakes (sometimes on purpose). They get afraid and run away. At times they are downright mean. No, the Bible isn't a book of rules, or a book of heroes. The Bible is most of all a Story. It's an adventure story about a young Hero who comes from a far country to win back his lost treasure. It's a love story about a brave Prince who leaves his palace, his throne—everything— to rescue the one he loves. It's like the most wonderful of fairy tales that has come true in real life! You see, the best thing about this Story is —it's true. There are a lot of stories in the Bible, but all the stories are telling one Blg Story. The Story of how God loves his children and has come to rescue them. It takes the whole Bible to tell this Story. And at the center of the Story, there is a baby. Every Story in the Bible whispers his name. He is like the missing piece in a puzzle—the piece that makes all the other pieces fit together, and suddenly you can see a beautiful picture. And this is no ordinary baby. This is the Child upon whom everything would depend. This is the Child who would one day— but wait. Our Story starts where all good stories start. Right at the very beginning...
- Every story, every narrative, every book whispered his name. Every book in the Bible is meant to point us to Jesus, every hero to show us what he is and isn't like, every

villain to make us long for a rescuer, every law to make us see how good his way of life is, every prophet pointing us and showing us who and what he is like, every priest standing in the gap points us closer to him, every prophet declares his coming and resembles him in shadow form. He is the word, the light, the sustainer of the universe, and everything in this book is about him and what he has done to rescue us. Praise his holy name.

- This morning, before we dive into Deuteronomy, I want to zoom out and show us the big picture, what the whole Bible is about. Then I'll show how Deuteronomy fits in this story, and finally where we fit into this story and how it affects us. Let's pray

---

## Creation

- In the beginning God
  - Right off the bat we see who is the main character of the story
    - The Bible first and foremost is a book about, who? God
      - Not first and foremost about us. It is about God
        - The Bible is a book about who God is, and what he has done.
- God created the heavens and the earth
  - Right away we see the power of this God.
    - From nothing, ex nihilo, he created all things. He didn't take what was already there and form it into something different like artists do, before this moment there was nothing. No time. No matter, nothing. And then BANG. God created all things.
- The narrative continues, he created the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them and filled it with all sorts of creatures, but the defining creation was man. Adam in Hebrew. Man was to engage with the creator in a way that nothing on earth or in heaven could. Man was to image this creator to the rest of creation, to show the creation what the creator was like through how man lived.
  - So God looked over all that he had made and saw that it was very good, or perfect.
- There is a reason we are drawn to nature, to the immensity of creation, Paul says that God reveals himself to us in creation in a general way, the psalmist says, the

heavens declare the glory, or the weight, majesty of God, the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

- The world and all that is in it is beautiful, majestic, and it was perfect.
  - Man and woman perfectly interacting with God. No strife between the two of them. A perfect world, with perfect relationship with God and perfect relationship with each other. The way things were supposed to be, the three in one god in perfectly communion within himself and with humankind. But it did not stay like this for long.

---

## Fall

- By chapter three we have already seen things go south quickly.
  - God created all things, and created them to work perfectly. He created mankind to relate to him, to abide in him, and to live with him in a perfect relationship, but it was a relationship that was on his terms. Do not eat from the tree in the garden. Why? for you will die. This was the way that life worked best, creature submitting to creator. Within these parameters came joy, life, and peace.
    - Adam and Eve get a hard rap for what comes next, but if you are honest with yourself, you must admit that you are exactly like them. We do not like being constrained. We want more. We want freedom from limits. We want autonomy. Joy and life and peace is not found in boundaries but in the absence of them. Without limits we are free, when we are limitless we excel, or so we think. Put limits on us and you clip our wings, you pull us down. Like Icharus, we want to fly as close to the sun as possible, don't you tell us no. Yet like Icharus, we are deluded as to the true freedom that is found in boundaries and limits. And yet just like Adam and Eve, we still want to fly as close to the sun as possible. And just like them, each time, we get burned.
- The snake was the craftiest animal in the garden and it came to eve and tempted here. Surely you will not die, did God really say you would? No, but if you eat of it you will be like God. Isn't that what you want? A life without limits? So eve ate of the tree and gave some to her passive idiot husband who was standing there watching TV>
- God was walking in the garden in the cool of the day and he called out to Adam and Eve, "Wher are you?" Adam replied, I heard you so I hid myself. I covered myself with leaves because I knew that i was naked. I couldn't stand as myself in your holy

presence, I had to put on something, I had to make myself presentable, I had to cover myself.

- Who told you that you were naked the lord said? The women you gave me! The serpent you created! This isn't our fault, it's yours they are saying! And the blame shifting continues to this day.
- So our first parents brought sin into the world and it fractured everything. Firstly, it fractured our relationship with God, secondly our relationship with each other, and finally our relationship with the world as a whole. Everything in God's perfect world has now been broken by sin, infected as with a cancer. Sin has separated us from the holy presence of God, it separates us from true open honest relationship with each other, and it has separated us from the way we should treat this world to the point now where the earth groans in the pains of childbirth, waiting for God to renew all things. Everything has been touched, not a thing has been left out.
- So at one time we can see just how great the world is, how amazing God has made it to be, it is wonderful, and yet broken and flawed. Where there is joy and beauty, there is also bugs and animals waiting to tear your face off. Where there is immensity in the power of the waves, there is the potential for drowning. Where there are incredible cultures and the possibility of human thriving, there is war, pain, power struggles, and death.
  - Simultaneously we see how awesome the world is, and how broken it is. Is there a solution? Yes, look at Genesis 3:15

---

## Redemption

- in the midst of Judgment, there is also mercy.
  - Genesis 3:15 (ESV): I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
    - Sin has consequences. The serpent would be defeated, he would be crushed. The women would no longer experience pure joy in bringing children into this world but pain would be mingled with joy. The husband would no longer work and experience freedom in it, but would find it frustrating and difficult, either his identity would be found in it or he would strife with it. And the marriage relationship would no longer be exclusively blissful, it would be filled with a power struggle and strife.

Friday, September 10, 2021

- Yet simultaneous God promised that one day an offspring of Eve would come and put an end to sin once and for all. He would be wounded in the process, but would crush the head of the serpent for good.
- This passage is what theologians call the PROTOEVANGEL which means first gospel. All the way back in Genesis the good news of the gospel is preached in shadow form. A perfect offspring would come, accomplish perfect victory, but would be hurt in the midst of it.
- God promised salvation to Adam and Eve's descendants, and this plan of redemption is the rest of the narrative of the Bible.
  - God's chooses Abraham out of all the world and promises to save the world through his line
    - Issac, Jacob, Judah, Joseph, and now Moses.
- Though the world is broken and fragile, God has a plan to bring it all back to himself and it is accomplished through one man descended from Adam through Abraham's family.

---

## Restoration

- This plan find's its culmination in Jesus Christ the Messiah. The snake crusher. The offspring of Adam. The descendent of David. The prophet better than Moses, the king greater than Solomon, the priest greater than Aaron. Born of a virgin, lived a perfect life, died a substitutionary death, resurrected from the dead, seated at the throne of the most high, and he will one day return to make all things new.
- The promise of Revelation is less a prediction of what will happen during the tribulation and more a promise of victory. One day every knee will bow, every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is lord to the glory of God the father.
  - One day the new Jerusalem, the garden city, will descend and all things will be made new, not done away with. Jesus says behold I am making all things new not all new things. We will dwell with him forever in perfection, perfect relationship with God, perfect relationship with each other, perfect relationship with the renewed earth. What was undone in the garden is fixed in Jesus.
  - When we talk about seeing the promised land, this is the reality to which we are referring. While the Israelites saw the promised land as the land of Canaan, we see the new heavens and new earth and the renewed garden city.

- This is the meta narrative, the grand story. The story that makes sense of all other stories, and into which the stories of the OT and NT fit. So let's dive into our text today and see how the Israelites fit in this story.

---

## Creation (Deut)

- Open your bibles to Deuteronomy 1:1–8 (ESV): These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab. 2 It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea. 3 In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him in commandment to them, 4 after he had defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and in Edrei. 5 Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to explain this law, saying, 6 "The Lord our God said to us in Horeb, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. 7 Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. 8 See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.' "
- Right away we see that this narrative is placed in history, it is placed in the overall narrative.
  - Israel was a nation that came from one man, Abraham and his offspring.
    - They were held captive in Egypt for 400 years, and Exodus-Deuteronomy is the story of their initial creation as a nation.
      - Deuteronomy takes place while Israel is on the border of the promised land, it is made up of sermons and teachings from Moses and is probably the most important book in all of the OT. Quoted frequently by Jesus, especially during his testing in the wilderness (which we will get to), this book is incredibly important for understanding the OT as a whole and how the NT authors understood Jesus in particular.
- The Israelites were to be God's chosen portion, his chosen people out of all the peoples of the earth. Out of all he created, like Adam, they were to best image him to the rest of the nations, to show the world what God was like and what he required of

humanity. They were given the law, the boundaries, like in the garden, that told them how life works best. But as we've seen, it did not take long after their deliverance from Egypt for them to fall and go astray just like Adam and Eve.

---

## Fall (Deut)

- While Moses was on the mtn, Sinai or Horeb depending on the account you're reading, the people grew impatient and asked for Aaron to make them a golden calf that they might worship as YHWH.
- They did not want God for God, they did not want a relationship with their creator that had boundaries. When God was saying, this is how life works best, you may not use images to worship me, I have already chosen you to be my image to the world. Yet that was not enough, so they worshipped and served creation rather than their creator
- As a punishment, the first generation of wilderness wanderers was forced to remain in the desert for 40 years until all but Caleb and Joshua had passed on. Look at verse 2 and 3 as they hammer this punishment home.
- Deuteronomy 1:2-3 (ESV): 2 It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea. 3 In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him in commandment to them
  - What should've taken them 11 days took them 40 years, and those who witnessed the redemption from Egypt would not experience the promised land.
    - over and over throughout Numbers we have seen that the first generation constantly rebelled, complained, and grumbled against what God was doing. They experienced miracles in the desert, miracles at Egypt, but it wasn't enough. They wanted God on their terms. But that is not the way it works. They repeated the fall just like Adam and Eve. But God still had a plan of redemption that he was working out.

---

## Redemption (Deut)

- Look with me at v 5-7 Deuteronomy 1:5-7 (ESV): Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to explain this law, saying, 6 "The Lord our God said to us in Horeb, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. 7 Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the



Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.

- God was not done with his people. Yes, the first generation was condemned to die in the wilderness, but even there God provided for their daily need. In this account we read that he did not let their sandals or clothing wear out over the 40yrs and provided them manna and quail for food constantly.
  - Even in judgement there was mercy.
- The plan of redemption was to continue, God was going to bring his people into their promised land. The land that he had promised to Abraham and his offspring. The land where the messiah, the offspring of Eve, the snake crusher would be born. They had wandered in the wilderness long enough, it was time for the second generation to take possession of the good land.
- God commanded them to go, and go they went, with their eyes fixed on what god was going to do. look at verse 8

---

## Restoration (Deut)

- Deuteronomy 1:8 (ESV): See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.’
  - This verse sets up the motive for the rest of the narrative. God promised that his people would take possession of this land, all the way back in Genesis God promised this to Abraham. He promised it again to Abraham’s son Issac, and again to his grandson Jacob who later was renamed Israel. He SET the land before them, that means that this land was to be the grounds of their faith in him, it was to be the thing that occupied their vision so that while things would be difficulty, they would not be something that overcomes because the future was set in stone in God’s good plan.
- They WOULD occupy the land, it was as good as done already. Even though Moses wouldn’t get to go in, he WOULD see the land, it was as good as done.
- God set before the promise of his victory, the promise of rest in the promised land. But as we move through the scriptures we will see that through the promised land was obtained, it didn’t fix the meta problem, the larger issue. It simply points us to one who could

## Creation (Us)

- Every single one of us was created to experience God in the manner and way of his choosing. We were created to live in perfect relationship with him, perfect relationship with each other, and perfect relationship with everything else.
  - There are things in your marriage that are supposed to point others to the glory and goodness of God. As you walk in the path that God created for his glory and your good, others look on and see a loving, gracious, powerful, and caring God.
  - How you parent your kids is meant to show them and others the loving care of our good father almighty.
  - Our parents are meant to lead us to the true father, to disciple us and show us what love in the union of god looks like.
  - In your singleness you are to point others to Christ in the way you live your life. You were created not for another person but for a relationship with the most high.
  - How you interact with your friends is intended to lead others to their creator.
  - How the church behaves in this world is meant to lead watches to their creator
  - How we engage in politics is meant to show others their loving, sacrificial, caring God
  - How we care for the needy, the downtrodden, the vulnerable, the wounded, the sexually broken, the confused, the angry, the hurting, is meant to lead them to the one who can make them new.

---

## Fall (Us)

- The problem with all of this is that we are flawed, fragile, and frail beings whose motives are never pure, and whose actions are stained by sin.
  - Our marriages have the tendency of going one or two ways
    - 1) we idolize our spouse and then put a weight on them they cannot bear and so when they aren't perfect we criticize and there is never enough they can do to fix us. But they were never intended to fix us.
    - 2) we idolize something apart from God in our marriage> A job, the kids, money, whatever, and our marriage stops being a union that God uses to grow us spiritually and becomes a hardship and a struggle and a burden

Friday, September 10, 2021

- When we parent with either worship our children or abandon our responsibilities to disciple and pastor them because of our worship of work or other things
  - We put the weight of perfection on our kids so when they succeed we feel good about ourselves and when they fail we are crushed. They were never meant to bear this weight.
- Our parents fail us, they hurt us, they abuse their position and we suffer. And so we promise never to repeat their mistakes, yet find ourselves going down similar pathways with our kids.
- Our singleness is not used to bring glory to god as we pursue his ways but instead because the avenue through which we find a lover, a partner, a spouse. We spend our days pining after the one who will complete us and make us feel whole all the while missing out on the savior who has already accomplished this for us.
- Rather than lead our friends to the fountain of life, they lead us to springs of death as we put an unhealthy, idolatrous weight on our friendships. we want so desperately to have their praise that we are willing to do anything, even to the extent of missing out the praise of one who has already said “my good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master.”
- Rather than the church being a place of healing and comfort, it becomes a hotbed of division, gossip, and strife. Leaders abuse their power and hurt, we are so terrified of authority that we refuse to submit to any sort of leadership structure, we disengage and our mission is compromised because of it.
- Politics stops being an avenue for us to pursue kingdom change and becomes an idol. Our freedoms become ultimate, sacrifice becomes nonexistent, we can't even see the logic in the other side because we have become blinded by our idol. What is good has become ultimate and cannot bear the weight of our worship, so we are left constantly disappointed.
- We hurt, we abuse, we drink, we use, we misappropriate, we operate in the same sexual patterns, we are confused, we are lost, we are broken, and over and over again we find ourselves in this pattern. But all is not lost

---

## Redemption (Us)

- What we can't do, Jesus did for us.

Friday, September 10, 2021

- Where our marriages are broken, Jesus shows us a better relationship between himself and us. He is the perfect husband that our spouse could never be, only he can bear the weight of our problem of needed to be fixed. He is patient unlike our spouse, loving and tender as we wish our spouse would be, he pursues us and sacrifices for us and though our spouse may not do that, we have a better spouse who does.
- He is the better son of the father who shows us that our children will never be perfect and can never bear the weight of identity. Only he was perfect, we can let our kids off the hook. Only he never talked back, we can forgive our kids when they do. Only he was successful in all things, when our kids fail we don't have need to take it personally. He was the perfect son therefore ours need not be perfect for us.
- While our parents disappointed us and hurt us, Jesus shows us the better love of a father who will never disown, never let go, never abandon, never abuse, never unjustly control, never shame, never leave us. In his image we see a father who delights in his kids, the way we wanted our dad's to delight in us. When the father tells Jesus, this is my son with whom I am well pleased, if we are in him, he says the same things to us. Things we desperately wanted our dad to say. Only He can bear the weight of our longing to be loved and appreciated. We can begin to let our parents off the hook, we can begin to forgive.
- Jesus' friends betrayed him, they spit on him, they abandoned him. He knows what it is like to be alone. When we are in him, we can be secure in the fact that what he says about us matters immensely more than what our friends think of us. He has delighted in us, calling us his friend and if we are his friend than the friendship of others finds its proper place, it no longer becomes ultimate.
- The church will never be perfect. The church will never fully heal you. Leadership will always let you down, they were never meant to bear the weight of perfection. Only Jesus is the perfect leader, only he will never make you go astray. Only he will pursue you to the degree that you abandon and forsake all others and submit to his leadership. Only he will never let you down. So you can let your leaders, pastors, and teachers off the hook. You can expect them to make mistakes, to fail, to be equally broken and fragile as you. They are not perfect, there was only one perfect leader.
- With Jesus as king, the politics of this world become an avenue for change, not a pathway to worship. They find their proper orbit as you become aware that all governmental officials are broken, fragile, and yet put there by God. In their

Friday, September 10, 2021

success' they image Jesus, in their failures they remind us that we need a better king, a better president. Only Jesus' kingdom is worth ultimately fighting for and when we grasp this we can begin to see ourselves as citizens of a better nation, a better kingdom, America is not our first home. We are simply foreigners. Our lives lived on this soil are meant to show others the joy, the freedom, the sacrifice, the love of the better kingdom to which we belong.

- Jesus was hurt, Jesus was abused, Jesus was counted as a sinner, Jesus was sexually abused dying naked on the cross, Jesus was spit upon, Jesus was whipped, Jesus was mocked, Jesus was left alone, Jesus was abandoned, Jesus was broken and laid out on that cross so that we might never be. He was crushed that we might be made whole. He was broken that we might be remade. He was abused that we might find healing. He was mocked that we might find acceptance.

---

## Restoration (Us)

- In Jesus we see the beginning of the better promised land, the better home, the better country. He brings a better kingdom, a better purpose, a better nation. A nation from every tribe, tongue, and people. A city where there are no boundaries, no divisions, no strife. In Jesus we see what humanity was intended to be. In Jesus we see possibility, we see change. Most importantly, in Jesus we see that we are forgiven. We are changed. We are welcomed. We are whole. We are brought home. We are saved. We are safe.
- We may not yet be in the new promised land. But in Jesus we can begin to see it. It is on the horizon. It is coming. There will be a day when tears will be no more, where pain will cease, where striving will come to an end, where hurt will disappear, where abuse will be judged, where violence will cease. There will be a day when our troubles will all be laid at the feet of the just, righteous, and perfect king. And that day is closer today than yesterday. As we stand on the verge of the promised land, let us fix our eyes on the author and perfect of our faith and let us run with endurance the race that is marked out for us. Let us cast away every weight and sin that clings so closely/. Looking to Jesus who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despised the shame, and is seated at the right hand of God the father almighty. Let the vision of the promised land fill our eyes and our hearts and may we accept our identity as ambassadors, as foreigners of this great land as we sojourn in these lands. May we bring the promised land of the kingdom into this reality by our love, by our preaching of the gospel, by our sacrifice. May we be a kingdom people, never resting satisfied in the temporary things of today, but trusting

Friday, September 10, 2021

in the secure promise of tomorrow. May springs of life be a church that is an outpost of the coming kingdom and may her people be kingdom people, bringing the good news of Jesus' reign and coming victory to a world that so desperately needs it. Let's pray.