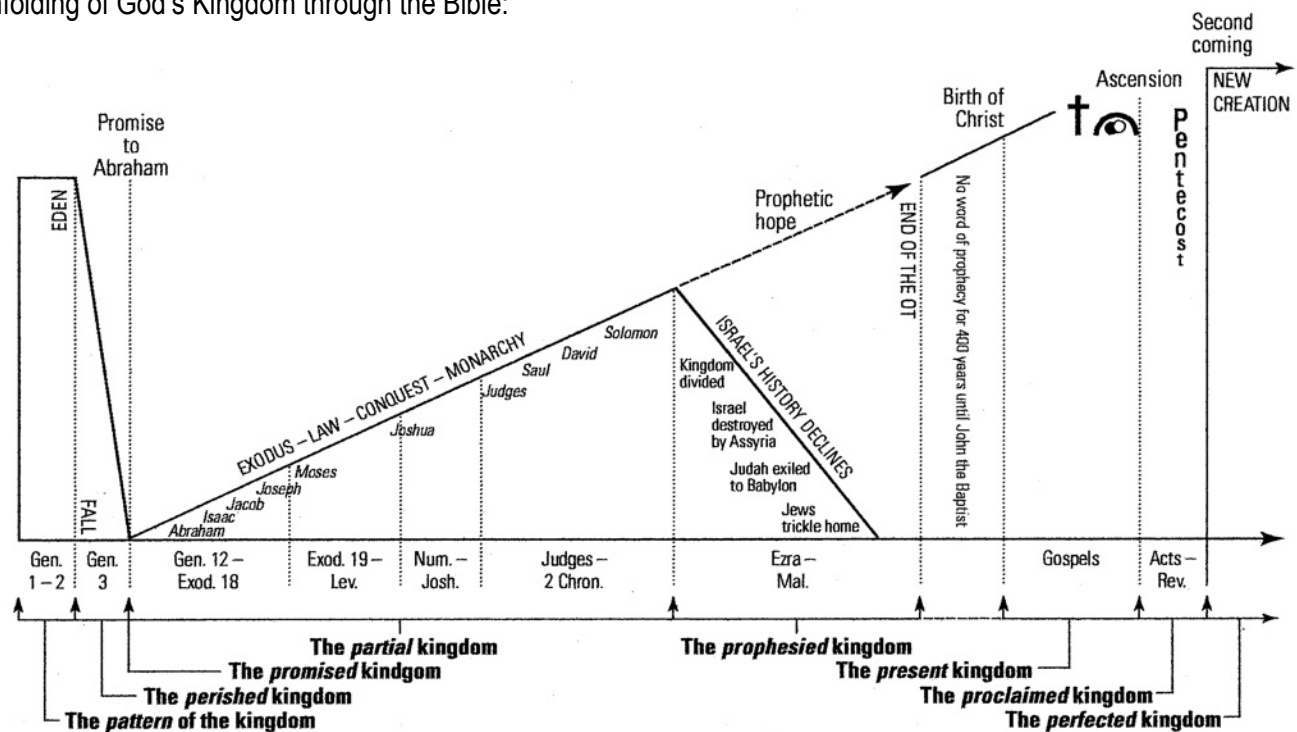


- If you lived in Corinth, it was typical to visit the marketplace on any given day and hear professional orators talk at length about various topics and opinions ... Speakers were charismatic and passionate, who were highly intelligent and spoke eloquently ... Their goal was to create a following and earn a living – the larger the crowd, the larger the income ... For them speaking was a performance: messenger is greater than message ... When Paul preaches the gospel in Corinth, he's not what people expect ... He's chastised for his lack of performance (2Co10:10) ... Paul isn't there to sell himself or the gospel ... He's there to spend himself and give the gospel away freely to all who want to receive it ... For Paul, speaking was a ministry: **message is greater than messenger** ... The messenger is the vessel through which the message is proclaimed – through which the power of God is demonstrated ... **It's the message that's powerful and exalted**, not the messenger
- **V2:2** – Paul writes 13 letters, multiple sermons in Acts, obviously he has a lot to say, so what does he mean by this statement ... Of everything he says and could ever say, what is of greatest importance is to speak of Jesus Christ and Him crucified – essentially, who Jesus is and what He's accomplished and how this bears upon humanity
 - To the Jews a stumbling block – our Messiah would never subject Himself to such humiliation and defeat ... To the Gentiles foolishness – how great and powerful is a crucified Messiah ... But in God's hidden wisdom what is deemed as foolish and weak has been used to shame the wise and strong (see 2:7, 1:23-28) ... To the world, the message of Christ and Him crucified is confounding ... It doesn't fit the narrative people want to believe about themselves and about the control they desire to have over themselves ... If the message of Christ is true, then everything is thrown into question – and this unsettles people
- But what greater message does the world need to hear than Jesus Christ and Him crucified ... So, this must be the central message of the church day by day ... Because this is the **central message of God's Kingdom**
 - Christianity is no longer met with friendly tolerance or majority ... Culture continues to become secular and hostile towards our message concerning God, sin, truth, salvation, repentance ... For many this is hard to accept; we're not used to experiencing such bold rejection ... But we need to remember why they reject our message (it is the message they reject, not the messenger) ... **2Co4:4** ... Only when the veil is removed – the hold of Satan is removed, is the message of Christ seen for what it is and then received by those who put their faith in Christ ... How then is this veil removed – prayer and proclaiming Jesus and Him crucified (the gospel), these are weapons we use to battle the spiritual forces that wage war against us (2Co10:4-5)
 - In God's wisdom, **the very message that we're persecuted for believing and proclaiming is the same message that frees people from Satan's hold when it's proclaimed and believed in** ... The message that the world does not want to hear or receive is the very message it needs to hear and receive ... God's mission has been given to the Church, and He calls them and equips them to herald this message far and wide ... We start in our own homes and move outward ... But how many of us stop at the front door ... Or we get side-tracked with other messages that we deem as being more important
- This message of Christ should be evident in our words and actions ... We're vessels through whom the Holy Spirit is speaking through to others ... What are we saying ... We gotta stop playing games and get serious
 - What is our response to a world in chaos – Jesus and Him crucified ... What is our response to suffering and trials – Jesus and Him crucified ... What is our response to injustice and war and evil – Jesus and Him crucified ... It seems simplistic, but it is the single-greatest message people need to hear and believe in

The unfolding of God's Kingdom through the Bible:



"God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible," by Vaughan Roberts

Purchase the book here: <https://us.10ofthose.com/partners/gracemissionary>

Books this series is based on:

- Graeme Goldsworthy
 - According to Plan: <https://us.10ofthose.com/product/9780830826964/according-to-plan-paperback>
 - Gospel and Kingdom: <https://us.10ofthose.com/product/9781842270363/the-goldsworthy-trilogy-paperback>
- Vaughan Roberts – God's Big Picture: <https://us.10ofthose.com/product/9780830853649/gods-big-picture-paperback>