

The Big Picture of the Bible

The Kingdom of God

12th August 2018

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31, 2:1-3, 15-25, The Bible is the world's best-selling book; Some 300,000 Bibles are sold each year at Koorong. Although many have a copy on their shelves, very few ever read it and also it is possible to know a lot about the Bible without really understanding the Bible. Hope this sermon series gives us frame work to understand the Bible better!

There would be many different thoughts about the main theme of the Bible. For example, salvation, Christ's death and resurrection, the Church, God's People, truth, love, mercy, forgiveness, grace, eternal life, the gospel might be some of them. However, I believe that the main theme of the Bible is *'the Kingdom of God'*. All other themes are all related, ultimately, to that Kingdom; from beginning to end, God's Kingdom is the focus of what God does, His interactions with people, and His work here on earth; when He chose Israel, it was in relation to the Kingdom; when He saves men from their sins and declares them righteous, it is with a view to His Kingdom; when Christ died, it was to make that Kingdom possible. All these things ultimately relate back to His great purpose, the theme of the Bible, which is His Kingdom.

In the text today, the Kingdom of God is revealed. We see in the garden of Eden a pattern of the kingdom of God. God's people, Adam and Eve, live in God's place, the Garden of Eden, under God's rule. God, the Creator and King of the Universe, lives in harmony with his people in His paradise, the Garden of Eden. God gives Adam and Eve power over everything on Earth (Genesis 1.26, 28); they themselves are to be under His authority. As they trust Him and remain obedient to Him, they will experience God's blessing. They will enjoy a wonderfully abundant life – a life under their Creator's richest blessing, truly the best that life could ever be. This is *'the kingdom of God'*. Once we, as Christians, understand the kingdom of God as the theme, it will help us to see so much more clearly the plan that God sets forth in His Word.