

Overview of the overview

Why spend a whole year doing a Bible overview?

“Postmodern culture is deeply suspicious of all grand stories. We live inside the future of a shattered past because that “past” told grand stories of Marxist utopia, technological freedom, or capitalist paradise. Yet we have come to see not only that these stories are unfinished, but that they are also fundamentally unfinishable, for the simple reason that they are fundamentally lies. The postmodern ethos insists that stories such as these that have so shaped our lives are not stories of emancipation and progress after all, but stories of enslavement, oppression and violence. And on such a view, any story, any worldview, that makes grand claims about the real course and destiny of history will be perceived as making common cause with such violence and oppression. This characteristic of the postmodern shift is, I think, the most challenging to Christian faith. If there is one thing that Christianity is all about it is a grand story. How else can we interpret the cosmic tale of creation, fall, redemption and consummation that the Scriptures tell? **Yet it is precisely this story that we must tell in a postmodern culture. In the face of dissolution of all grand stories, Christians have the audacity to proclaim, week after week, the liberating story of God’s redemption of all creation. It is, we insist, the one story that actually delivers on what it promises.”**

Brian Walsh, *The Church in a Postmodern Age: Ten Things You Need to Know*

What is a Bible overview?

What is the Bible all about?

The Bible story is God’s plan to establish his _____ through the progressive unfolding of the biblical _____ that are fulfilled supremely in _____, all to the _____ of God.

- KINGDOM

From morning till evening [Paul] expounded to [the Jews], testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. (Acts 28:23)

- COVENANT

- CHRIST

- GLORY

Genesis 1-2

The kingdom pattern

GOD'S POWERFUL & GOOD RULE



GOD'S PEOPLE



GOD'S PLACE

KINGDOM		
Powerful & Good Rule	People	Place
God the King (blessing)	Man and woman as royal image-bearers	Eden (garden/temple)

The kingdom purpose

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen. 1:28)



Day 6 → Day 7

Does the rest of the Bible confirm the trajectory of Genesis 1-2?

Yes – Revelation 21-22

Yes – The Old Testament

Blessed be his glorious name for ever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! (Ps. 72:19)

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Hab. 2:14)

But – Genesis 1-2 itself gives us the Bible's trajectory (an implied eschatological goal)

Genesis 3

The fall

Human rebellion (the kingdom pattern reversed – Gen. 3:1-6)

- God's rule questioned (Gen. 3:1)
- God's word twisted (Gen. 3:2-4)
- A false promise (Gen. 3:5)
- Disobedience (Gen. 3:6a)
- A failure to subdue and have dominion (Gen. 3:6b)

Divine wrath (the reversal of the kingdom pattern confirmed in judgement – Gen. 3:7-24)

- Humanity and creation (Gen. 3:17-18)
- Humanity's own relationships (Gen. 3:11-13, 16)
- Humanity's relationship with God (3:19, 24)

What about the kingdom purpose?

Summary

	KINGDOM		
	Powerful & Good Rule	People	Place
CREATION	God the King (blessing)	Man and woman as royal image-bearers	Eden (garden/temple)
FALL			

Genesis 3:15

Discussion: What does this verse say? Why might this verse be significant?

Noah and the flood (the Noahic covenant)

Gen. 6:18 – ‘I will establish my covenant with you’

Is there a covenant in Genesis 1-2?

	KINGDOM			COVENANT
	Powerful & Good Rule	People	Place	
CREATION	God the King (blessing)	Man and woman as royal image-bearers	Eden (garden/temple)	?
FALL	God the King (curse)	No one	Banished from Eden	?

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth** and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Gen. 1:28)

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.** The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. (Gen. 9:1-2)

	KINGDOM			COVENANT
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FALL	God the King (curse)	No one (covenant relationship broken)	Banished from Eden	Human rebellion (covenant broken)
NOAH				

What does the Noahic covenant teach us?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Genesis 11:1-9

Babel = anti-kingdom of God, Genesis 3 on a international scale

The Abrahamic covenant

Two spheres of promises

Abraham and his family (Gen. 12:1-2)

- I will make you a great nation
- I will bless you
- I will make your name great

Abraham, his family and the rest of the world (Gen. 12:3)

- I will bless those who bless you
- I will curse him who curses you
- In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed

God's promises to Abraham

...in light of Genesis 1-2

...in light of Genesis 3

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NOAH	God the King (blessing/preservation)	Noah and his family	Post-Flood world	"I will never..." Unconditional promise (preservation)
ABRAHAM				

Through the Abrahamic covenant, God promises to establish his kingdom by fully reversing the fall of Genesis 3

How will these promises be realised? Some hints:

1. God will do it all himself... (Gen. 15)
2. ...through the line of Gen. 3:15
3. ... a blameless offspring?

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; **walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you**, and may multiply you greatly." (Gen. 17:1-2)

The Exodus

The purpose of the Exodus

In light of the Abrahamic covenant...

For the Mosaic covenant...

God as the king of creation

But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. (Ex. 9:16)

The battle of the kings and their offspring

Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'" (Ex. 4:22-23)

God saves his people to be king over them

The Mosaic covenant

Exodus 19:1-6

- My treasured possession
- A kingdom of priests
- A holy nation

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ABRAHAM	God the King (blessing)	Abraham and his family (and the world!)	The land of Canaan	"I will..." Unconditional promise (blessing)
ISRAEL				

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant... (Ex. 19:5)

If you obey, you will be blessed (Deut. 28:1-14)

If you disobey, you will be cursed (Deut. 28:15-68)

Israel's choice (Deut. 30:19) – which will they choose?

Deut. 29:2-4

Deut. 31:16-21



How can the Abrahamic covenant be fulfilled if the Mosaic covenant cannot be?

Don't resolve the tension too quickly! But do notice some clues...

1. Sacrifices (e.g. Lev. 16)
2. Mediation (e.g. Ex. 32-34)
3. The Abrahamic promises (e.g. Ex. 32:13)
4. The promise of Gen. 3:15 (a single blameless offspring who will crush the serpent)

Offspring = singular and plural?

The **sceptre** shall not depart from Judah, nor the **ruler's** staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and **to him** shall be the obedience of the peoples. (Gen. 49:10)

God brings him out of Egypt and is for him like the horns of the wild ox; he shall eat up the nations, his adversaries, and shall break their bones in pieces and pierce them through with his arrows. He crouched, he lay down like a lion and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you. [...] **I see him, but not now**; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a **sceptre shall rise out of Israel**; it shall **crush** the forehead of Moab and **break down** all the sons of Sheth. Edom shall be dispossessed; Seir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed. Israel is doing valiantly. And one from Jacob shall **exercise dominion** and destroy the survivors of cities!" (Num. 24:8-9, 17-19; compare also Num. 23:22-24)

Why did God give the Mosaic covenant?

1.

2.

Israel in the land and exile

The Davidic covenant

2 Samuel 7:8-16

How does the Davidic covenant fit with the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants?

1.

Cf. Luke 1:67-75

2.

And when [the king] sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them... (Deut. 17:18-19)

And as for you [Solomon], if you will **walk before me**, as David your father walked, **with integrity of heart and uprightness**, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules, **then I will establish your royal throne over Israel for ever**, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.' (1 Kings 9:4-5)

However – 2 Samuel 7:14-15

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ABRAHAM	God the King (blessing)	Abraham and his family (and the world!)	The land of Canaan	“I will...” Unconditional promise (blessing)
ISRAEL	God the King (blessing/curse in response to law)	Israel (Abraham’s family)	The land of Canaan	“If obey, blessing”, “If disobey, curse” Inheriting promises conditional upon obedience
DAVID				

God’s covenants at the time of the exile

1. The conditions of the Mosaic covenant have not been met...curse!
2. God’s faithfulness to the Abrahamic, Mosaic and Davidic covenants has not waived

2 Kings 25:27-30

The new covenant

Jer. 31:31-34

Ezek. 11:14-21, 36:22-36

Isa. 52:13-53:10

The new covenant is the definitive solution to the _____ and therefore is also the definitive solution to the _____

Through the new covenant, God's kingdom will be established.

A new exodus (Isa. 11:11, 15-16)

A new heavens and a new earth (Isa. 65:17-25; Isa. 25:7-8)

A new temple (Ezek. 47:1-12)

A new king (Isa. 11:1-5; cf. 9:6-7)

A new people? (Isa. 55:1-5)

God delights to bring new covenant promises about – Jer. 32:37-41

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ISRAEL	God the King (blessing/curse in response to law)	Israel (Abraham's family)	The land of Canaan	"If obey, blessing", "If disobey, curse" Inheriting promises conditional upon obedience
DAVID	God the King (blessing)	Israel and their kings	The land of Canaan (plus temple)	"I will..." Unconditional promise of king/kingdom
NEW				

The end of the Old Testament

Ezra and Nehemiah

Israel are still in exile, even when they are back in the land

Great expectations

The New Testament

Jesus comes to fulfil God's covenant promises and therefore to establish God's promised kingdom because he is the promised Christ.

Luke 1:67-75

Mark 1:14-15

The kingdom comes in two stages

Jesus' first coming

	KINGDOM			COVENANT
	Powerful & Good Rule	People	Place	
...
NEW	God and New David	Remnant of Israel, the thirsty (Isa. 55:1), peoples	New heavens and new earth (new temple)	"I will..." Unconditional promises
JESUS				

Jesus as God

Jesus as people

Gal. 3:16

Acts 2:30-32

Mark 1:9-11

Jesus as place

The cross as the climax of the Bible story

What does it look like to be part of Jesus' kingdom now?

Acts 1:6-8

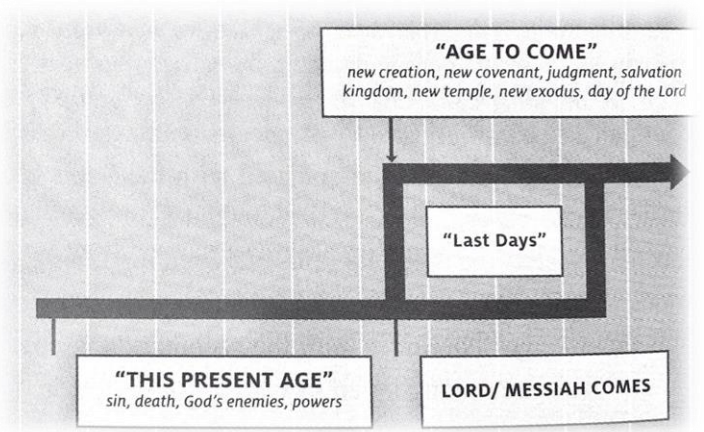
The gospel goes global

The 'now' and the 'not yet'

Gal. 3:29

Heb. 10:15-22

1 Peter 1:8-9



Jesus' second coming

Revelation 21:1-22:5

	KINGDOM			COVENANT
	Powerful & Good Rule	People	Place	
...
NEW	God and New David	Remnant of Israel, the thirsty (Isa. 55:1), peoples	New heavens and new earth (new temple)	"I will..." Unconditional promises
JESUS' FIRST COMING	Jesus = God's King (powerful/good rule over sin, curse and death)	Jesus = God's people (offspring of Abraham/ David, true Israel)	Jesus = God's place (true temple, glimpse of new world in his ministry)	Jesus <u>inaugurates</u> new covenant at his death
JESUS' SECOND COMING	God and the Lamb	Peoples	New heavens and new earth as universal temple	Jesus <u>consummates</u> new covenant upon his return. Marriage!

Conclusion

The Bible is a story about God

We need to know God better