

# Overview training weekend

**12–13 September 2020**

<sup>25</sup>“And Jesus said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” Luke 24.25–27 ESVUK

# Overview of the Overview

## Introduction:

- a. The dangers of this morning
- b. The aim for this morning
- c. Four questions
  - What is the story about?
  - How does it unfold?
  - Who is the hero?
  - Where does that leave us?

## 1. What is the story we're telling about?

### Discussion:

What is the story of the Bible about?

- a. The first Russian doll: the story of the glory of God

Genesis 1:1–2

Genesis 2:1–3

Habakkuk 2:14

- b. The second Russian doll: the story of the kingdom of God

Genesis 1:26–28

Mark 1:14–15

- c. The third Russian doll: the story of salvation from sin and wrath<sup>1</sup>

Genesis 3:1–7

Genesis 3:8–24

Genesis 49:18

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<sup>1</sup> If you're really paying attention, and if you pray your prayers, you might be thinking 'hang on a second, that sounds like the Lord's Prayer! 'Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done.' Yes.

#### d. Three questions

- How will God's purpose to fill all creation with his glory be fulfilled?
- How will God's purpose to fill the earth with his glory through the kingdom / humanity be fulfilled?
- How will God's purpose to fill the earth with his glory through the kingdom be fulfilled in the light of the catastrophe of sin and death?

## 2. How will the story unfold? (Genesis 6–2 Kings 25)

### a. The two words of God

Genesis 1:3

Covenants, promises and commandments

### b. The word of the **promise** (Abraham) (Genesis 6–50)

Genesis 12:1–3

Genesis 15:1–16

- The promise and rolling back the curse
- The promise and the kingdom
- The power of the promise

### c. The word of the **commandment** (Sinai) (Exodus 1–2 Kings 25)

The story of Exodus–2 Kings

A slightly complicated interplay

- Not two ways
- Or to put it slightly differently, not entirely separate
  - Everyone who lived under the commandment already had the promise
  - The only right way to live under the commandment was to believe the promise
  - The promise kept the commandment on track at some key moments
  - The promise is always there as the answer to a broken commandment

But nevertheless

- The play within the play

The big story = the story of the promise  
The little story = the story of Israel under the commandment

## i. The story of **Israel** and the commandment (Exodus–Deuteronomy)

- Preparing a new 'Adam' - Exodus 1–18
  - Revelation of the LORD's name
  - Display of the LORD's supremacy
  - Rescue from slavery and curse
  - Rescue from judgement
  - New creation moment
  - Testing in the wilderness
- **Re-emplacing the commandment**—Exodus 19–20 (and the rest)

Read Exodus 19:4–6

- Re-running the old response...
  - Immediately:** Exodus 32:1–6

**Repeatedly:** Numbers 14:22

- ... with the same result

Numbers 14:20–30

Will the glory of God fill the earth, and the kingdom be established, and salvation come, by the commandment? \_\_\_\_\_!

- **But:** an asterisked 'no'—the promise had already been given
  - Forgiveness (Exodus 32–34)
  - Atonement (Leviticus 16)
  - A new generation (Numbers 26)
- The Pentateuch's more or less parting shot: the promise

Deuteronomy 30

Deuteronomy 32–33

But mostly, we're still telling the mini-story

## ii. The story of the **kings** and the commandment (Samuel–2 Kings)

- Kings don't come out of nowhere
  - Adam
  - Abraham
  - Joseph
  - Judah
  - Numbers
  - Deuteronomy
- A renewed focus on the individual—the Sinai covenant focussed on one man

eg 1 Samuel 2

- Two kinds of king
  - Saul, the king the people asked for, marked by disobedience  
1 Samuel 15:22–23
  - David, the king the LORD loves, marked by God’s heart and patient obedience  
1 Samuel 16–17
- An old question, reframed: will the kings, especially David’s line, obey the commandment?  
1 Kings 2:1–4  
1 Kings 9:4–9
- An old answer: \_\_\_\_  
1 Kings 11  
2 Kings 17  
2 Kings 25

#### d. Drawing things together

##### i. The commandment cannot...

- ... fix the fall
- ... establish the kingdom
- ... secure the glory of God

##### ii. The problem is not with the commandment

- The problem is with the people
- More than that, we need obedience the commandment requires
- But the power cannot depend on people’s ability to obey a commandment

##### iii. So we *need* a different kind of word, so where will we turn?

##### The promise

(And the bit of Samuel and Kings we’ve airbrushed out)

##### iv. Remembering which stories we’re telling this year

- The big story
- The mini story

### 3. Who is the hero? (Isaiah–Acts)

**Discussion:**

Who is the hero of the Bible story, and how?

- a. The promise and the hero
  - i. It had to be the promise
  
  - ii. We knew it would be the promise
    - Genesis 15
    - Numbers 24
    - Deuteronomy 32–33
    - 2 Samuel 7 and 22
  
  - iii. But now, the promise (the New Covenant) takes centre stage
  
- b. The LORD promises to do it all
  - i. Rescue (Isaiah 40)
  
  - ii. Atonement (Isaiah 52–53)
  
  - iii. Transformation (Jeremiah)
  
  - iv. Resurrection (Ezekiel)
  
  - v. The kingdom and the glory (Daniel)
  
- c. The LORD promises to do it **himself**
  - Isaiah 40
  
  - Isaiah 52–53
  
  - (Isaiah 59)
  
  - (Ezekiel 34)
  
  - Daniel 7

#### d. The LORD **does** it himself

- Jesus
  - The LORD himself
  
  - Salvation
  
  - Kingdom and glory
  
- The Spirit
  - The LORD himself
  
  - Salvation
  
  - Kingdom and glory

#### e. Promise, performance and what makes the New Testament exciting

### 4. Where does that leave us?

#### a. Joy

John 20  
Acts 2  
1 Peter 1  
Galatians 3–4

#### b. Endurance

1 Peter  
Hebrews 10  
Revelation 21–22  
(A point about the Old Testament)

#### c. Praise

Acts 2  
1 Peter 1–2  
Revelation 21–22  
Ephesians 1

## Conclusion

### a. Seeing what God has done

### b. Using the Overview of the Overview

# Achieving our aims in RML Overview

**Discussion questions** (5 minutes)

Q How are you feeling about leading RML Overview this year?

Q What should our aim(s) be for people in RML Overview this year?

## 1. The excitement and privilege of leading RML Overview

Teaching the Bible is the most exciting and worthwhile thing we can spend our time doing

**Our aim this year:**

**Where we as God's people are heading**

Revelation 21

**How we get there**

Ephesians 1

The unique opportunity of a Bible Overview—seeing the Bible story unfold so we know God better

What our primary aim is **not**

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**How our aims could be frustrated**

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## 2. How to achieve our aims

### I) **Preparing for studies**

#### **The 3 C's**

Close context (look down)

Continuing Context (Look back)

Complete Context (Look ahead)

#### **The 4 T's**

Tension

Typology

(growing) Transparency

Transformation

## **II) Writing studies**

**Discussion questions:** (5 minutes)

- i) What is the aim(s) of each individual RML study?
- ii) How does this contribute towards our aim for the year?

In an individual RML study, how can we achieve this aim?

### **Seeing how a passage fits in the Bible story**

- i) **The questions we are asking compared to previous RML years**
  
- ii) **Why does the fit in the Bible matter and how do we get there?**

**Discussion questions** (5 minutes)

- i) Why does it matter that we see how a passage fits into the Bible story?
- ii) How might we do this well in RML Overview?

### **Top Tips for writing studies that achieve our aim**

#### **1. See the big things being said**

#### **2. Ask simple questions**—three questions that can get you through any overview study!

What is the passage saying?

Why do we need this passage in the Overview?

Why does that (the answer to question two) matter for us?

#### **3. Don't overcomplicate**

#### **4. Don't oversimplify**

**5. Don't focus on the detail**

**6. Be careful of jumping to Jesus—the Overview red herring!!**

**Application—growing to know God better!**

Some questions that could be a starting point for us:

How is the God we meet the same as or different to our current view of God?

How does this passage change my view of what God cares about?

How does this passage change my view of what God is doing in the world?

Why do I find it hard to think about God this way?

**Prayer in Overview studies**

**Remembering God's big aims for people**

**Prayer!**—praying our aims for our group members this year