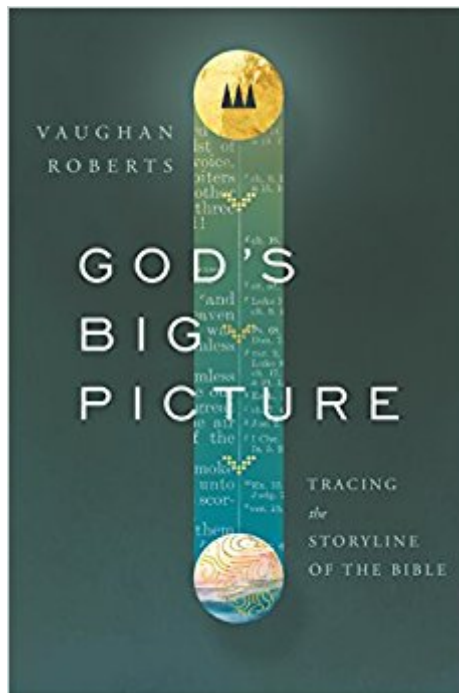




The book was found

God's Big Picture: Tracing The Storyline Of The Bible



Synopsis

Sixty-six books written by forty people over nearly 2,000 years, in two languages and several different genres. A worldwide bestseller published in countless sizes and bindings, translations and languages. Sworn by in court, fought over by religious people, quoted in arguments. The Bible is clearly no ordinary book. How can you begin to read and understand it as a whole? In this excellent overview, Vaughan Roberts gives you the big picture--showing how the different parts of the Bible fit together under the theme of the kingdom of God. He provides both the encouragement and the tools to help you read the Bible with confidence and understanding. And he points you to the Bible's supreme subject, Jesus Christ, and the salvation God offers through him.

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Customer Reviews

"God's Big Picture will serve as an excellent introduction to the Bible for anyone perplexed or overwhelmed by its seeming breadth and diversity." (Mark Traphagen, Modern Reformation, November/December 2007)

Vaughan Roberts is rector of St. Ebbe's Church in Oxford, England, and author of *God's Big Picture* and *Life's Big Questions*. He is also a popular speaker at Spring Harvest and a founding member of "9:38" which encourages people to consider full-time gospel ministry.

I do recommend this book! It put the whole Bible in perspective and opens how the Scriptures all

point to Christ and eventually to the consummation of all God's promises in the Kingdom of Heaven. What truly help me get a deeper understanding was my pastor used this book for a compliment to the latest sermon series which included daily Scripture readings corresponding with the week's chapter and sermon. We also formed small Bible study groups where we read and discussed the Bible chapters, the chapter in the book and the sermons every week. Really saw folks eagerly reading their bibles, growing in their knowledge of the Word of God and experiencing God presence as we pursued him.

Vaughan Roberts wrote a superb introductory book helping people understand the storyline of the Bible. Roberts traces the main theme of the kingdom of God throughout his writings, beginning with Genesis and ended in Revelation. He begins his book by explaining that a majority of his writing relied heavily on the Gospel and Kingdom by Graeme Goldsworthy (10). His introduction covers several elementary areas such as the books of the Bible, order, and how the Old Testament relates to the New Testament (12-20). Relating the New Testament to the Old Testament, Roberts argues for a Christocentric hermeneutic (16-20). Roberts defines the kingdom of God as "God's people in God's place under God's rule and blessing" (21). Roberts's definition of the kingdom of God is significantly important for the entire book. Throughout the book, he chronologically traces the kingdom of God following this definition. Each chapter provides the reader with a chart helping them understand where God's people, place and rule were within particular areas of history. In addition to this chart, there was another chart, which showed the progression from creation, fall, history of Israel, Christ and the new creation (157). The final chart presented the line of Israel beginning with Abraham progressing to the Northern and Southern split, the Southern exile and release, Jesus and the last days (158). The book is divided in eight chapters focusing on the pattern, perished, promised, partial, prophesied, present, proclaimed and the perfect kingdom. The main chart illustrating the kingdom of God is included at the end of each chapter to help the reader understand the progressive unfolding of redemptive history. The books main agenda is to introduce the reader to the storyline of the Bible. The writing is not scholarly, but it will equip the reader with the proper tools to help them understand where they are when they pick up their Bible. Roberts's book may remain one my favorite entry-level books to teach others Biblical Theology. Teaching others the storyline of the Bible by utilizing Roberts charts has proven significantly practical for learners. Roberts understanding of the Kingdom as God's people in God's place under God's rule will help you identify where you are within any book in the Bible. Buy it, read it and enjoy!

I've grown up reading the Bible and going to church, and I have good foundations in systematic theology. So I'm better grounded than the average North-American Christian. But this book was surprisingly useful in getting the big picture storyline of the Bible. No, really, it surprised me, even though this goal is in the subtitle. The charts and graphs are especially valuable. This book will have a significant influence on our junior high curriculum this summer. Highly recommended, especially since it's so helpful and easy to read. It's a good starter in biblical theology (to use the technical term).

This is a great little book, and very easy to read. For me it was required reading but I found it very interesting. I'm pretty sure I will continue referring to it. I'm not sure I share his eschatological views. What I do resonate with, though, is the idea that God's agenda to bring his kingdom, and his king, to earth is a relentless pursuit. So many say the God of the Old Testament is wrathful and grumpy compared to the loving God portrayed in the New Testament. Such uninsightful baloney is arrived at in part through selective viewing and misunderstanding of what's been read. Ergo the title. Roberts does a good job of showing that everything God does throughout history is motivated by love and care. The fall of man that led to the rise of violent civilizations required counter-measures that seem harsh and cruel by today's standards. That we have standards at all, however, is evidence of the forward progress of his agenda. Again, Roberts makes this clear through his well-written, thoughtful, engaging and easy to read book. He inspires much renewed hope in unifying the Bible's message and focusing God's loving intentions throughout history into a laser sharp point.

This is the best book on Biblical Theology ever. It is easy to read and concise... at the same time, it is deep and thought-provoking! It helped me understand the unity of the Biblical storyline in a way I never understood before.

Fantastic. What a great book. This should be required reading for anyone serious about understanding what the Bible is all about. It's a great overview of the Kingdom of God for those new to the Bible, but also for those of us who've been reading it for decades. Well written, easy to follow and very clear.

I know I should wait to rate this until I'm done with this book, but I can't because it's that good! Do not skip the intro! a Christian who attends church, follows along in the Bible during church, enjoys Christian music, prays and believes. I've attempted to read the bible, or at least parts of it. I have a

Bible Study book, which helps about as much as my children's versions do (regarding understanding the layout and overall big picture). This book is a game-changer! This book is helping me to gain a deeper understanding of the overall Bible, how it relates to today and the past, why I should even read the entire Bible, and even better, HOW to read it. (Better than any Bible study group I've ever attended.) I also find it extremely easy to read and enjoyable. I'm impressed!

This book opens my eyes to challenge myself more about my knowledge of how the Bible was interpreted.

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