



# THE PROPHESED KINGDOM

>> 4-10 June 2007 – WEEK 5

## THE BIG PICTURE OF THE BIBLE:

There are 66 books in the Bible. There were some 40 human authors of the Bible. The Bible was written over a period of almost 2000 years. There are many great themes and subjects and stories in the Bible... but ultimately the Bible is **ONE BOOK**, with **ONE AUTHOR** (God) about **ONE SUBJECT** (Jesus)

### [trek] introduction

[trek] is a daily tour guide to help you journey into the bible. It's aims are to:

- t** - train you to live God's way
  - r** - remind you God is the one who saved you, through Jesus
  - e** - encourage you to tell others about Jesus
  - k** - know the truth so you can't be tricked by lies
- [trek] is all about journeying into the bible because it is only in the bible that God speaks to us clearly and completely. When we read the bible, we are hearing what God has to say to us today. That is a seriously special thing! So get into it.

Our aim this term is to understand **GOD'S BIG PICTURE**, that is – the BIG STORYLINE of the Bible. Hopefully by the end you will know God better – and see how from beginning to end the whole of the Bible is about JESUS!

### HERE IS THE SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK... The PARTIAL Kingdom.

God's promises to Abraham are **partially** fulfilled in Israel's history. Through the exodus from Egypt, God makes Abraham's descendants his **very own people**. At Mount Sinai he gives them his law so that they might **live under his rule** and enjoy his **blessing**, as Adam and Eve had done before they sinned. The blessing is marked chiefly by God's presence with his people in the tabernacle. Under Joshua they enter **the land** and, by the time of Kings David and Solomon, they enjoy peace and prosperity there. That was the high point of the history of Israel. They were **God's people** in **God's place**, the land of Canaan, **under God's rule** and therefore **enjoying his blessing**. But the promises made to Abraham had still not been completely fulfilled. The problem was sin, the continual disobedience of the people of Israel. That was soon to lead to the dismantling of the partial kingdom as Israel fell apart.

Reflections or questions I have...

### ■ [trek day 1] The PROPHESED Kingdom [GBP]

#### God's People

Read Isaiah 10:20-21 & 49:6

Israel continue to reject God and so God punishes them [read summary at the bottom]. What hope does the prophet Isaiah give the nation for the future?

Thank God that we too can be a part of God's people by **relying** on Jesus.

### ■ [trek day 2] The PROPHESED Kingdom [GBP]

#### God's Place

Read Isaiah 65:17-18

What do we learn about the future of God's place?

Read Revelation 21:1-4 How does this passage remind you of Isa 65?

Pray from Rev 21.

### ■ [trek day 3] The PROPHESED Kingdom [GBP]

#### God's Rule & Blessing

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34

What will God do for his people under the 'New Covenant'?

Thank God that [v34] he completely forgives our sin.

### ■ [trek day 4] The PROPHESED Kingdom [GBP]

#### God's King

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

See if you can find a similar passage to this one in the New Testament.

Ask God that he's help you to live with Jesus as your King.

### ■ [trek day 5] The PROPHESED Kingdom [GBP]

#### For the adventurous...

Read Hosea 1-3

Read as much of this passage as possible. What can you work out from it?? What questions do you have from it?? Pray for our time as we look at it on Sunday morning.

#### SUMMARY.

After the death of King Solomon civil war broke out and the kingdom of Israel split into two parts: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Neither was strong. After 200 years of separate existence, the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed by the Assyrians. The southern kingdom struggled on for another century, but then it too was conquered and its inhabitants were taken into exile in Babylon. During this depressing period in their history God spoke to the people of Israel and Judah through some prophets. He explained that they were being punished for their sin but still offered hope for the future. The prophets pointed forward to a time when God would act decisively through his King, the Messiah, to fulfil all his promises. The people of Judah must have thoughts that that time had come when they were allowed to return from exile, but God made it clear that the great time of salvation was still in the future. That is where the Old Testament ends: waiting for God's King to appear to introduce his kingdom.

### [trek] instructions

To get the most out of [trek], work out a time each day when you can read the bible using [trek] for 5-10 minutes (by all means read for longer). There are 5 readings. Here's how we suggest you use [trek] each day:

- 1) Ask God to help you understand this part of the bible.
- 2) Read the part of the bible for that day.
- 3) As you think about the passage, answer the questions. (Writing may help)
- 4) Thank God & ask him to help you obey what this passage says.
- 5) Put what you've learnt into practice in your life.

**NOTE:** Much more can be said about each passage... you may use the "reflections or questions I have..." box for further thought.

