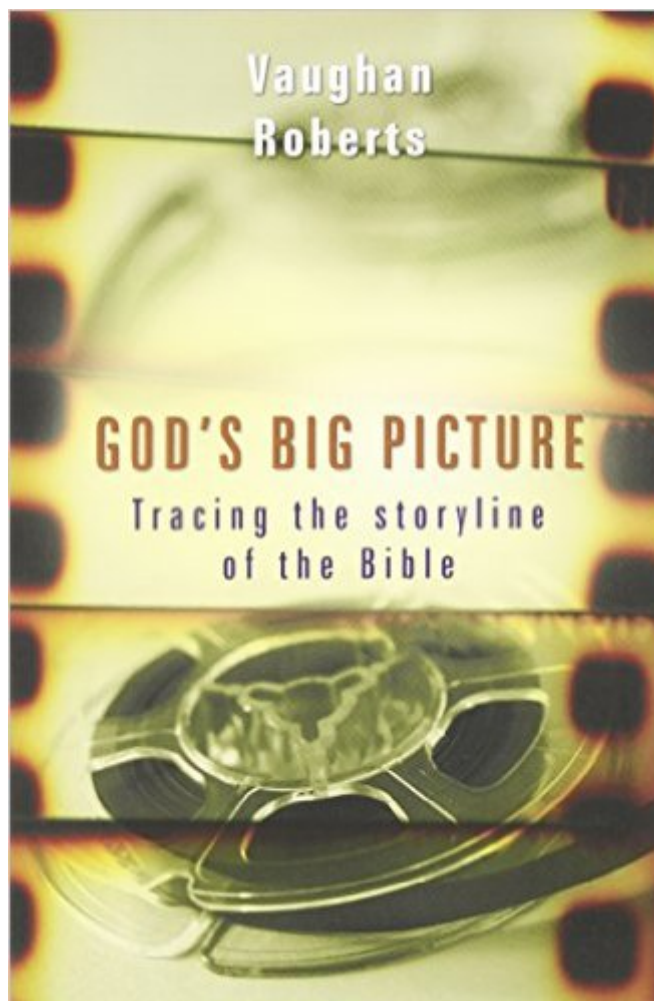


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# God's Big Picture: Tracing The Storyline Of The Bible



## 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

David and Goliath. Daniel in the lion's den. Jesus' feeding of five thousand people. Too many of us know the stories in the Bible without ever understanding the Story of the Bible. Vaughan Roberts' book *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible* (IVP 2002) provides a remedy to this problem by giving a terrific overview to the entire Bible in less than 150 pages. Roberts interprets the Bible with "The Kingdom of God" as the central motif. Each chapter progresses through the Bible, showing how the Scriptures are united around God and His rule. Roberts takes us through Creation, Fall, Israel, the prophets, the exile, Jesus, the Church, and the coming Kingdom, all the while showing how the Bible itself tells one story - the story of our world. This book is similar to Graeme Goldsworthy's *Gospel and Kingdom*, but a little more user friendly. Roberts does a good job of

summarizing biblical doctrines within the overarching metanarrative that the Bible provides. Though the book traces the Bible's story at a rapid pace, there are times when the writing seems to drag. But overall, this little book is a helpful introduction to the Bible's big picture.

This book provided a wonderful overview of the entire bible in one book. Not an indepth study, but it was fun to read about the bible, all 66 books in one volume. It also helped in understanding how they all fit together and that the central theme is God's redemptive plan for mankind.

Sixty six books written by forty people over nearly 2,000 years, in two languages and several genres. A worldwide bestseller published in countless size and bindings, translations and languages. It has been sworn by in court, fought over by religious people, quoted in arguments. The Bible is clearly no ordinary book. How can we begin to read and understand it as a whole? Do you feel that it is time to step back and look at the big picture of God's word? Do you think that although looking through the microscope is fascinating perhaps it might be time to step back and look through the wide vision binoculars? Well here's a resource which may be of help to you. This is an overview, showing us how the different parts of the Bible fit together under the theme of the Kingdom of God. It's an accessible book (160 pages) which does not require a brain the size of a small planet to read. It's a book which can either be read end to end as a reading book, or can be used to compliment a small group Bible study (or 1 to 1). It is divided up into eight sections, each of which ends in a small Bible study. It has loads of diagrams to illustrate the points. Roberts goal in writing the book is to show how the whole Bible points to the Lord Jesus and as a result the following may happen; \* That sections of the Bible, previously closed to us may be opened up, \* That we may be better equipped to point people to Christ from any part of the Bible (rather than from a few favourite passages), \* That we may grow in the knowledge and love of God through Christ Jesus. Roberts hope in writing the book is that through it we can have a map in our head that gives us the big picture. The result should be that wherever we land in the Bible, we can find our way around and know where we are in the overall story of God's unfolding plan to save the world through Christ. Anyone who has read Graham Goldsworthy's Gospel and Kingdom, will see it's influence on this book. Roberts acknowledges, that this is not an attempt to improve on that book, he adopts largely the same approach, but in a slightly less technical way. I recommend this book - it's an excellent resource - not only to read - but also to refer back to.

Having read 5 various books on this subject of the Kingdom of God, Mr. Roberts book was the most

organized, structured, illustrated and understandable. It became the foundation for my own series on the Kingdom. A great first book since it lays the foundation necessary for understanding the more in depth books such as: Announcing the Kingdom and According to Plan.

Roberts does a wonderful job of giving us a big picture overview of the main storyline of the Bible. Too many times we are familiar with some of the major stories of the Bible or Characters of the Bible but we don't see, or care, how they fit into the overall story of God's redemptive work. Roberts take a very complex subject and breaks it down into very understandable language and diagram's that all will find helpful. I have several students who have asked for overview books and I have been searching for ones that would bring good clarity to the Bible and how each of the separate books pull together to form one basic story. Roberts short book has given me a basic text that I can use to help students on that journey. Whether we want to believe it or not there is a theme that runs through the Bible. Each verse, chapter and book actually form a theme that points toward's the Kingdom of God, towards Christ's redemptive work on the cross. This book will only take you a couple of hours to read through, it is quick, easy to understand, yet profound in the organization and logic of his thesis. His chart on page 149 that shows the structure of the Bible and how it relates to The Kingdom of God is worth the price of the book alone. It follows three premises that he expounded on in the book. Those are how 1) God's People, 2) God's place and 3) God's rule and blessing, are reflected throughout the Bible in drawing our attention to the Kingdom of God. I'm sure you will find this book useful and helpful as you teach others about the storyline of the Bible. Enjoy!

For anyone interested to know how the 66 books of the Bible fit together to point towards salvation in Christ, this is a great tool to use.

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