

- Ever struggle trying find a fit for a piece of a puzzle?



- Ever focused on one piece until cross-eyed?
- The secret of finding where it fits...?

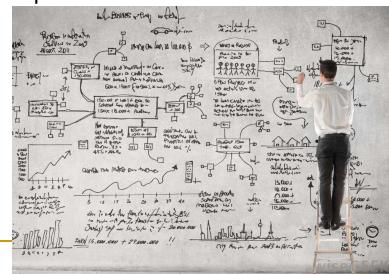


- Can't see the forest for the trees



Seeing the Big Picture

- To understand life and **where we fit**, we need to step back and make sure that we seeing the whole equation



Seeing the Big Picture

Text Habakkuk 1:5

October 7, 2016

Seeing the Big Picture

- ❑ If I told you what I am about to do you wouldn't believe it

“Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.” **Habakkuk 1:5**

God's Big Picture



Earth's solar system

God's Big Picture

□ God's plan to save man

❖ "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly *places* might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Ephesians 3:9-10**

❖ God's intent before time on earth began

God's Big Picture

□ God's plan to save man

❖ An eternal plan with eternal hope

❖ "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."

Titus 1:2

❖ Many will miss heaven, many others will live a life of doubt, fear and discontentment because they fail to see the big picture

Seeing the Big Picture

□ Man's struggle to see the big picture

❖ Abraham's assumption Eliezer would be heir

❖ "And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir." **Genesis 15:2-4**

Seeing the Big Picture

□ Man's struggle to see the big picture

❖ Sarai gives Hagar to Abraham assuming she would be forever childless

❖ "And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai." **Genesis 16:2**

❖ Seemingly the only solution

Seeing the Big Picture

□ Man's struggle to see the big picture

❖ Abraham's suggestion that Ishmael be his heir

❖ "And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!" **Genesis 17:18**

❖ Once again, seemingly obvious, and simple solution

Seeing the Big Picture

◻ Abraham later sees the big picture

↳ Abraham looked beyond the present to what was possible with God

❖ “And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am I*, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide** himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.” **Genesis 22:7-8**

Seeing the Big Picture

◻ Abraham later sees the big picture

↳ Abraham looked beyond the present to what was possible with God

❖ “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: **Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead;** from whence also he received him in a figure.” **Hebrews 11:17-19**

Seeing the Big Picture

◻ Esther sees the big picture

↳ Esther recognized the fate of the Jewish nation was greater than her life

❖ “Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which *is* not according to the law: and **if I perish, I perish.**”

Esther 4:16

Seeing the Big Picture

◻ Antipas sees the big picture

↳ Antipas looked beyond this life into eternity

❖ “I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, **even where Satan's seat *is*:** and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein **Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you,** where Satan dwelleth.” **Revelation 2:13**

Seeing the Big Picture

“Pliny, governor of Roman province of Bithynia, stated in letter to Trajan, “he gave those who were accused an abundant opportunity of recanting; those who persisted in this faith were executed.”

....Antipas persisted because he saw the big picture

Seeing the Big Picture

◻ Two keys to seeing the big picture

↳ Looking beyond the present... beyond what is seen and what is known

❖ “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.” **(continued)**
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Seeing the Big Picture

❑ Keys to seeing the big picture

- ❖ Looking beyond the present... beyond what is seen and what is known
 - ❖ "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; **While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:** for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

Seeing the Big Picture

❑ Two keys to seeing the big picture

❖ Faith

- ❖ "For we walk by faith, not by sight." **2 Corinthians 5:7**

- ❖ "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son..." **Hebrews 11:17**

Seeing the Big Picture

❑ Why should we seek to see the big picture?

❖ Understanding

- ❖ "By faith we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which appear." **Hebrews 11:3**

Seeing the Big Picture

❑ Why should we seek to see the big picture?

❖ Understanding

- ❖ "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." **Matthew 10:28**

❖ Antipas understood

Seeing the Big Picture

❑ Why should we seek to see the big picture?

❖ Acceptance... Paul

- ❖ "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me." **2 Corinthians 12:7-9**

Seeing the Big Picture

❑ Why should we seek to see the big picture?

❖ Acceptance... Paul

- ❖ "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. **Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities,** that the power of Christ may rest upon me." **2 Corinthians 12:7-9**

Seeing the Big Picture

- **Why should we seek to see the big picture?**
- ↳ **Understanding**
 - ❖ **Esther**... if I perish, I perish
 - ❖ **Antipas**... my faithful martyr
- ↳ **Acceptance**
 - ❖ **Abraham**... God would provide
 - ❖ **Paul**... most gladly will I glory in my infirmities

Seeing the Big Picture

- **Why should we seek to see the big picture?**
- Understanding**
- Acceptance**
-  **Contentment**

"But godliness with contentment is great gain"