

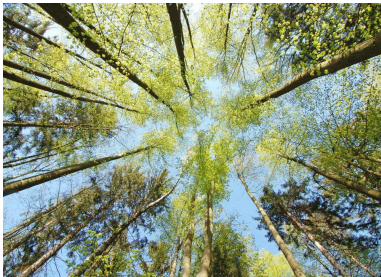
- Ever struggle trying find a fit for a piece of a puzzle?



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

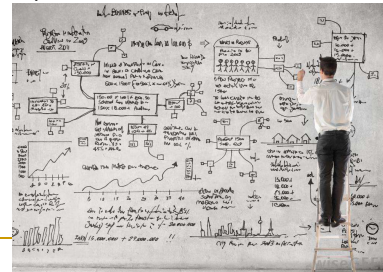


- Can't see the forest for the trees



### 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 gain, 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

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### Seeing the Big Picture

□ Why should we seek to see the big picture?

**Understanding**

**Acceptance**

➔ **Contentment**

**“But godliness with contentment is great gain”**

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