

**General Subject:**  
**God's Big Picture: The kingdom of God – God's people in God's place  
 under God's rule and blessing.**

**Session 1: Introduction to God's Big Picture**

**Scripture reading:** 2 Tim. 3:16; Luke 24:25-27, 44.

**I. The Bible:**

- A. A collection of writings of diverse genre: narrative, poetry, and discourse.
- B. Two main sections:
  - 1. The Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) – 39 books.
  - 2. The New Testament – 27 books.
  - 3. The advent of Jesus of Nazareth distinguishes the two sections.
- C. A single book with one divine Author: *"All scripture is breathed out by God"* (2 Tim. 3:16).

**II. Metaphors of God's big picture:**

- A. The metaphor of a jigsaw puzzle.
- B. The metaphor of a river.
- C. The metaphor of a rope.

**III. Examples of big picture themes in the Bible:**

- A. Temple: God dwells among humanity.
- B. Covenant: God enters into a personal relationship with humanity.
- C. Creation: God starts with creation and finishes with a new creation.
- D. Courtship: God and humanity in a love relationship which results in a wedding.

**IV. The theme of the kingdom of God:**

- A. God's people: the citizens of the kingdom of God.
- B. God's place: the locus of the kingdom of God.
- C. God's rule and blessing: the effects of the kingdom of God.

**V. God's Big Picture (8P's):**

- A. The Pattern of the Kingdom (the Garden of Eden).
- B. The Perished Kingdom (The rebellion).
- C. The Promised Kingdom (Abraham's family).
- D. The Partial Kingdom (Egypt→wilderness→Promised Land→David's kingdom).
- E. The Prophesied Kingdom (Prophets: cause of the exile and a vision for the future).
- F. The Present Kingdom (Jesus Christ).
- G. The Proclaimed Kingdom (The church as its locus).
- H. The Perfected kingdom (A new heaven and a new earth).

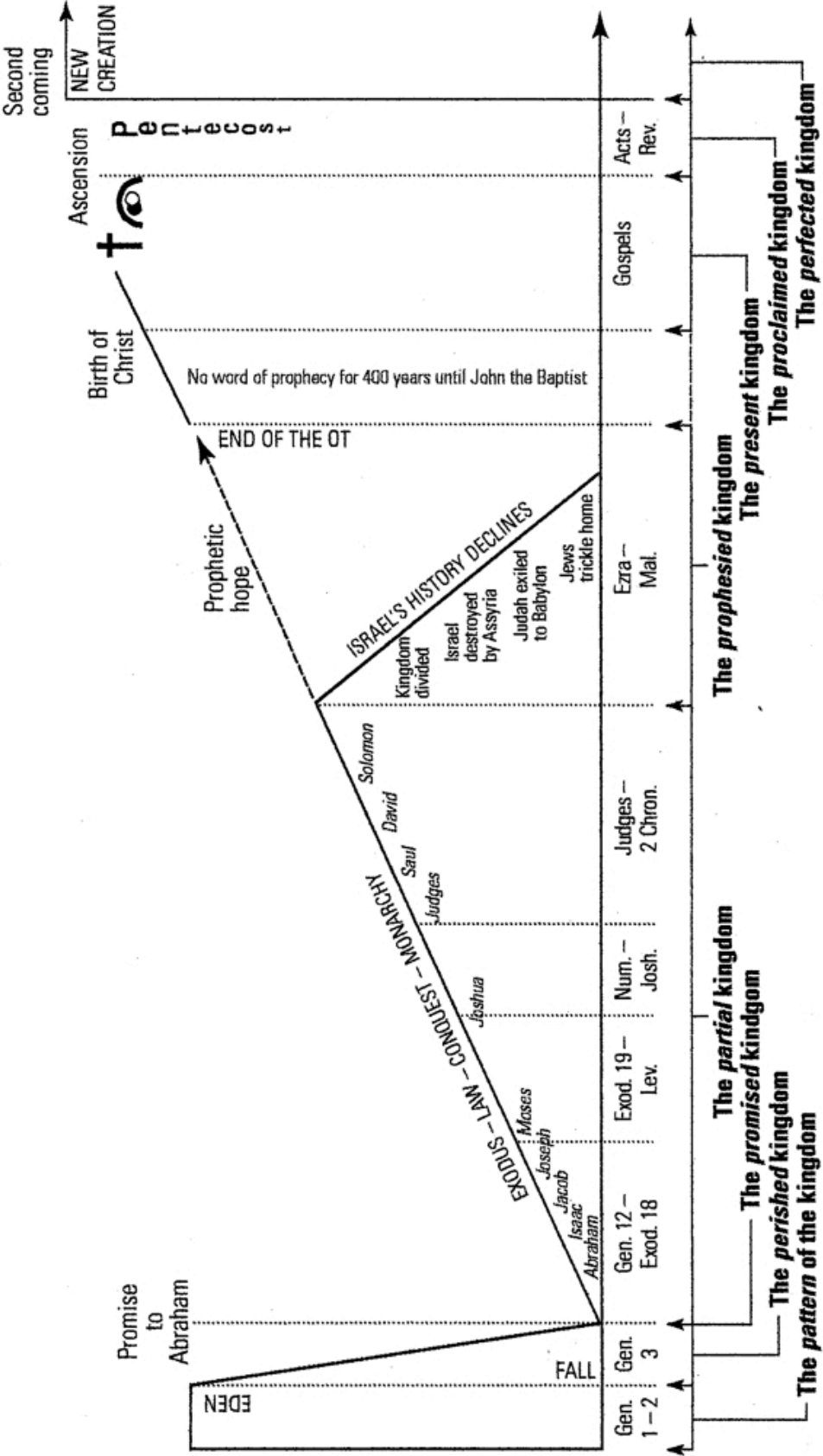


Figure 46. God's big picture