

Life in the land

The Story of Life- session 4

The story so far...

1	God made people for LIFE .	<i>Submitting to his rule, Experiencing his blessing, Enjoying his presence</i>
2	People rebelled and chose death	<i>Rejecting his rule, experiencing his judgment, Banished from his presence</i>
3	God promises restoration and rescues his people from slavery	<i>Rule: God's law is given; Blessing: God provides manna for his people; Presence: God dwells with his people through the tabernacle</i>

40 years later...

Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, 'We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it. But the men who had gone up with him said, 'We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.' And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, 'The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.' **Numbers 13:30-33**

→ Hebrews 3:7-11

1. The provision of a land to experience God's **blessing**

a. Entering the land

- God is faithful to his promises (Joshua 21:43-45, p. 237)
- God judges sin and evil

"In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here [to Canaan], for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure" **Genesis 15:6**

- God gives victory to his people through Joshua (Joshua 24:11-15)

b. Enjoying the land

- A land of plenty (Exodus 3:8)

"I have come to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey" Exodus 3:8

- A land of peace (Joshua 14:15, 21:44, 23:1; Deut 12:10)

2. The provision of a King to establish God's rule

- a. **Judges: The need for a king** (Judges 2:10-19, 21:25, p. 58, p. 243)

"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit." Judges 21:25

- b. **Saul: The King the people want** (1 Samuel 8:4-5, p. 278)

"The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" 1 Samuel 16:7

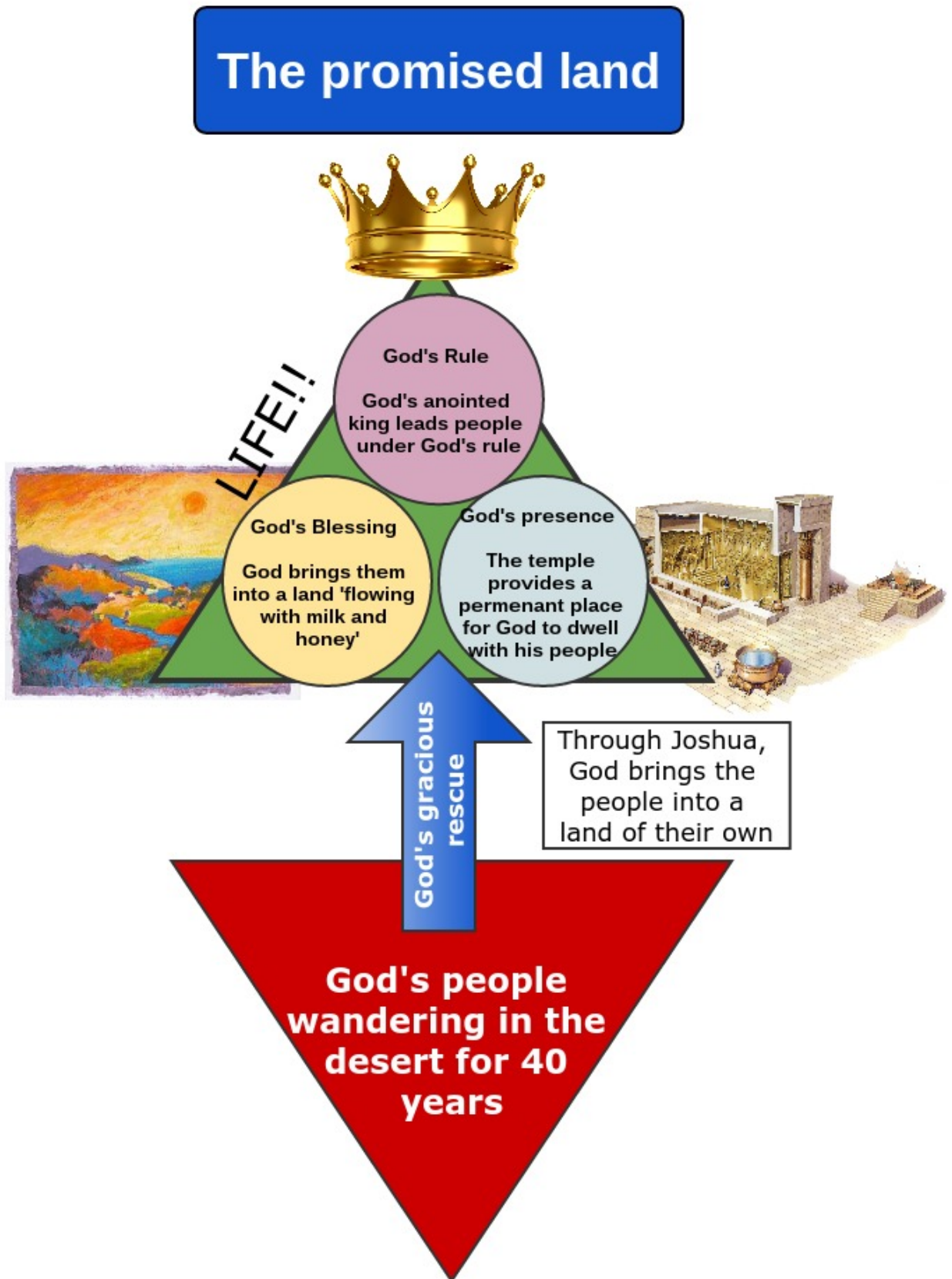
- c. **David: The King the people need**

- d. **Jesus: The King we ultimately need!**

3. The provision of a temple to enjoy God's presence

- a. **A fixed dwelling place for the Lord's presence** (1 Kings 8:6-13, p.345)

- b. Solomon's reign is the fullest realisation of God's promises to his people at this stage (1 Kings 10)



Small Groups – 2 Samuel 7

Next Time

Next time we see the people's sin finally catch up with them. In spite of all the pictures of restoration there have been, the people remain fundamentally unchanged... and their sin has disastrous consequences.

Reading for next week: **2 Kings 17:7-23, 2 Chronicles 36:11-23, Ezra 1, Ezekiel 34, Isaiah 42:1-8, Jeremiah 31**

Tracing the **CHRIST** through the Bible

'The Christ' means 'God's anointed king'. As soon as God made his promise to David in 2 Samuel 7, this Christ was looked forward to with eager anticipation.

- **Isaiah 9:1-7.** What do we learn about the identity of this Christ?
- **Isaiah 61:1-3.** What would this Christ do?
- **Psalms 22.** David speaks of Jesus' sufferings ahead of time. What tone does the psalm end on? How does that fit Jesus?
- **Matthew 1:1.** what is Matthew at pains to demonstrate?
- **Mark 8:27-30.** why is this such a significant moment for Peter?

For the book-worms

<i>God's Big Picture</i>	Vaughan Roberts	A book tracing out the big story-line of the Bible.
<i>Judges-2 Samuel</i>	Dale Ralph Davis	A series of very accessible commentaries unpacking the history books of the Bible