

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church

A Kingdom Book: "God's Big Idea" Bible Study Part 1

Preface & Introduction

1. The Power of an Idea

- "The Idea is the "Source of Creation".
- Idea-> Theory-> Philosophy-> Belief System
- When an idea is cultivated into a belief system, it becomes:
 1. The motivator of all behavior and response to life and environment.
 - Ex. King Solomon in Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he"
 2. The lens through which all of life is viewed and interpreted (21).
 3. Therefore, if an idea is the source of our belief system and our belief system is the source of how we live. Then a person, a family, a community, a world can only change when our Ideas change.

- Men and Women throughout history have built the world into what it has now become, through the power of their Ideas.
 - Monroe says, "The world is ruled by dead men" (13)
 - Example: Genesis 11 (The Tower of Babel).
 - All of the Ideologies that serve as the foundations of all government, religions, social and civic institutions, every law that's in place, the Social and Cultural Standards are the products of **IDEAS**.
 - Example: Imperialism, Monarchism, Socialism, Communism, Democracy, Dictatorship.

2. God's Big Idea

- Monroe says that God's Big Idea is "The Only Answer" to the deep cry in the heart of every human being. It is the only thing that can satisfy the perpetual vacuum in the spirit of humankind (14).
- **Definition:**
 1. **The concept of the ultimate governing program for mankind on Earth that provides for all the fundamental needs of humanity and produces a culture that integrates all the noble aspirations of all mankind, such as equality, justice, peace, love, unity, respect for human dignity, human value, and personal and corporate empowerment.**
- **Monroe says, It is "The Solution" to:**
 1. All Earthly Problems, War, Terrorism, crime, Disease, Child Abuse, Environmental Destruction, culture clashes, poverty, oppression, ethnic cleansing, economic crisis, family disintegration, political and religious corruptions, community violence, and the culture of fear.
- **What is this Idea?**
 1. The Divine Conception of the Colonization of Earth by the Kingdom of Heaven:
 - It Produces a colony of citizens who exhibit the nature, values, morals, and lifestyle of Heaven on Earth
 - The Idea that humankind can be restored to the original passion, purpose, and plan of The Creator to extend His heavenly kingdom and fill the Earth with his divine nature in all human behavior.
 - **Yet, there is a Battle For Ideas: God's vs. Satan's**

Chapter 1

1. People Are Tired of Religion

- Monroe Speaks in front of an Ecumenical Conference filled with leaders from every major world religion.
 1. Jesus is presented as different from the other “founders” of the world’s religions.
 2. Jesus, “Was Never Religious”.
 3. Religion is Man’s Idea and Not God’s
 4. Religion cannot answer the deepest questions and the longing of our souls.
 5. People are looking for something more. Many people have left and/or leaving the Institutional Church.
- Religion vs. Relationship
 1. Most religions promote an “eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” philosophy. Jesus says, “Love your enemies”.
 2. Jesus went around building connections, meeting needs, restoring lives, redeeming a person instead of condemning them.
 3. Ex. Matthew Chapter 6:5-14
 1. Jesus vs. “Hypocrites”
 2. Prayer (personal communion w/God)

2. How Did God Bring His Idea Into Being?

- God Planted a Garden
 1. Monroe says that God’s heavenly colony on Earth was created in the form of a Garden.
 2. Colonization in human history entails Outright conquest and Domination, where human coercion, brutality, greed, exploitation, victimization, and oppression are the primary methods.

3. Why a Garden?

1. It's The hub of abundance and beauty
2. God created this outpost here on earth to populate it with his own children and mimic the reality of Heaven.
3. "The Garden" paradigm follows the Divine Kingdom Government mandate to "Be Fruitful and Multiply" (Genesis 1:28)
4. Humanity's role was to fill the Earth with their kind and planting "Kingdom Gardens" wherever they went, so as to infuse the Earth with the nation of Heaven.
5. God revealed his intent through his creation.
6. Just as a garden gradually, beautifully, and completely transforms the "fallow ground" where it is planted, the influence of God's Kingdom on Earth grows gradually and often invisibly until eventually it will fill the Earth infusing it with the culture of Heaven.
7. Example:
 - The Kingdom of Heaven is Like Yeast (Matthew 13:33)
 - The Kingdom of Heaven is like a Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:18-19).

3. Heaven On Earth

- Monroe suggestions, that any religion that teaches or emphasizes leaving Earth to live forever in some other place in the “life to come” misses the point. He suggests this is not God’s Intent.
- Jesus teaches, “Thy kingdom come on Earth as it is in Heaven” (Matt. 6:10)
- The bible plainly states that this present world will pass away, but it also promises that a new Earth will take its place (1 Corinthians 7:31, 1 John 2:17)

4. God’s Glory

- Hebrew word is “Kabod”, and the Greek word is “Doxa”, which means “weighty” or “heavy weight”. Glory refers to the full nature of a thing.
- God wants to fill the earth with his “Full Weight”, his “Full and True Nature”, the fullness of who he is and what he is like. He wants Earth to be on Earth just as He is in Heaven.
- God accomplishes his aim by filling it with people who are filled with His nature and His Spirit.

5. The Rise... Fall...and Rise... of a Kingdom

- God established a Kingdom, the Kingdom on Earth was lost to Satan, and then God put a plan in place to restore the Kingdom to its former place.
- Genesis 2 and 3 details the creation and fall of humanity.
- Humanity was given rulership and dominion over the Earth, not ownership. God the creator, is the owner.

- Satan, God’s archenemy by subtlety and deceit stole the dominion that rightfully belong to human beings. The Apostle Paul calls him “The ruler of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2).

6. Jesus enters into History

- Redeem, Reconnect, and Restore humans back into fellowship with their “Father and Creator”, and back into their rightful place as Kingdom Citizens.
- Matthew 4:17 says, “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand’”.
- Many Sermons Jesus described what “The Kingdom is Like”:
 - Treasure (Matthew 13:44)
 - Wheat and The Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)
 - Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32)
 - Yeast (Matthew 13:33)
 - Net (Matthew 13:47-50)
 - Pearl (Matthew 13: 45-46)

Questions

1. What is the historical power of Ideas?
2. How does an idea inform belief and behavior?
3. What is God’s Big Idea?
4. In what way did God establish His Idea?
5. What was God’s original intent and purpose for Humanity on Earth?
6. How was God’s kingdom on Earth lost and how has it been regained?
7. Was Jesus religious? What separated him from “religious people” of the time?
8. What separates Jesus from “religious people” now?