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17 April 2025 Academic Dean

**The Theme of the Bible**

***Genesis-Revelation***

**Topic:** Overview

**Subject:** What is the theme of the Bible?

**Complement:** The Bible’s key theme is the kingdom—God sharing his rule with us.

**Purpose:** The listeners will learn to share in God’s kingdom rule.

# Introduction

### Interest: Talking details is easy, but the big picture is complicated.

### Need: So one of the most challenging questions about the Bible is…

### Subject: What is the theme of the Bible?

### Background: It has many subjects, but which is the central teaching?

# I. Many say the central theme of the Bible is *salvation*.

## The main person in Scripture is Jesus, whose name means “salvation” (Matt 1:21).

## Ever since the Fall of man in Eden, we’ve needed redemption from sin.

## Isaiah 53 looked to Jesus, by whose stripes we would be healed.

(But is salvation the ***main*** theme of God’s Word?)

# II. The Bible’s central subject is the *kingdom.*

## There was no need for salvation in Genesis 1–2 because there was no sin.

### Instead, God, as the King of all creation, showed his rule like a human king by commanding things into existence.

### He also has the power to delegate his rule to humans.

#### Ancient kings placed their images through their domain to show their rule there.

#### God did the same by placing his image bearers on earth to represent his rule.

#### Adam and Eve co-ruled with God over fish, birds, and land animals!

## In the NT, John the Baptist and Jesus preached the same message: “Repent, for the kingdom is at hand” (Matt 3:1; 4:17)—not “salvation is near,” but “the kingdom is near.”

## He will return not as “savior of saviors” but as “king of kings and lord of lords” (Rev 19:16).

## The Bible’s first chapter commands us to rule (Gen 1:26-27), and final chapter says that we will rule forever (Rev 22:5). The kingdom gives us the bookends of the Bible.

# Conclusion

### The Bible’s key theme is the kingdom—God sharing his rule with us (Main Idea).

### Paul said, “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?” (1 Cor 6:2).

### We better get some practice now—so let’s learn how to share in God’s kingdom rule.