



FOR THE BIG PICTURE TO HELP ALLEVIATE MY BIG PROBLEMS...

1. I NEED TO SEE THE BIG PICTURE.

- THE BIG PICTURE REVEALS SOME **BIG PROBLEMS** IN THE WORLD.
 - A 13–15-year-old Jewish virgin is pregnant with God’s baby.
 - The baby will be born in a stable in Bethlehem.
 - Rome, a powerful, polytheistic and hedonistic empire is in power.
 - God’s chosen people are enslaved to Godless Rome.
 - Herod, Israel’s evil pseudo-king is hell bent on protecting his throne.
 - The young family must flee to a foreign country for sanctuary.
- THE BIG PICTURE REVEALS THAT JESUS CREATED THE WORLD
 - Three “views” of Christ’s Coming into the World.
 1. Our myopic micro view: Think Nativity.
 2. The mid-range view: Think Matthew Chapter One.

The family tree of Jesus Christ, David’s son, Abraham’s son...¹⁷ There were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, another fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and yet another fourteen from the Babylonian exile to Christ. Matthew 1:1, 17 (MP)

3. God’s Macro View: Think John Chapter One.

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was already with God in the beginning.³ Everything came into existence through him. Not one thing that exists was made without him...¹⁴ The Word became human and lived among us. We saw his glory. It was the glory that the Father shares with his only Son, a glory full of kindness and truth. John 1:1-3, 14 (GW)

- THE BIG PICTURE REVEALS THAT JESUS IS **IN CONTROL** OF THE WORLD.

NOTE: If it is prophesied, it is planned and not out of control.

- The virgin birth was prophesied.

All right then, the Lord Himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a Child! She will give birth to a Son and will call Him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us'). Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)

- The place of birth was prophesied.

Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; One will come from you to be ruler over Israel for Me. His origin is from antiquity, from eternity. Micah 5:2 (HCSV)

- The empire of birth (Roman) we prophesied. (Daniel 2)

“Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance.³² The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.³⁴ While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.³⁶ “This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.³⁷ Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory;³⁸ in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.³⁹ “After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.⁴⁰ Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.⁴¹ Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.⁴² As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.⁴³ And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.⁴⁴ “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.⁵ This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. “The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.” Daniel 2:331 - 45 (NIV)

- Herod’s massacre of infants was prophesied.

A voice rises from Ramah— mourning and bitter weeping are heard day and night. The voice is Rachel’s; she’s weeping for her children. She will not be comforted, for her children are no more. Jeremiah 31:15 (VOICE)

- The return from their sanctuary (Egypt) was prophesied.

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. Hosea 11:1 (NIV)

- Christ’s death and its purpose was prophesied.

...the Book of Life. That book belongs to the lamb who was slaughtered before the creation of the world. Revelation 13:8 (GW)

2. I NEED TO “SEE TO IT” THAT **GOD CONTROLS ME.**

This very day in King David’s hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11 (CEV)

You call me 'Teacher.' And you call me 'Lord.' And this is right, because that is what I am.¹⁷ If you know these things, great blessings will be yours if you do them. John 13:13, 17 (CEV)

See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. Hebrews 3:12 (NIV)

The God who created and controls the world wants to control and bless me.