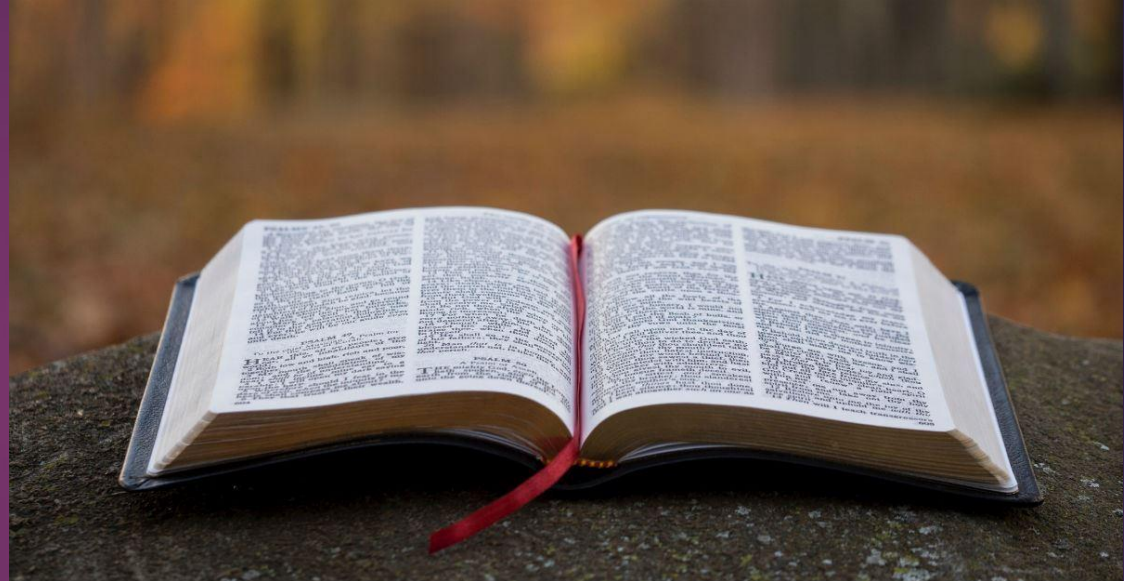


*Welcome to
Women's
Bible Study!*

MAY 11, 2020

Welcome!

Theme: *How to
Study the Bible*

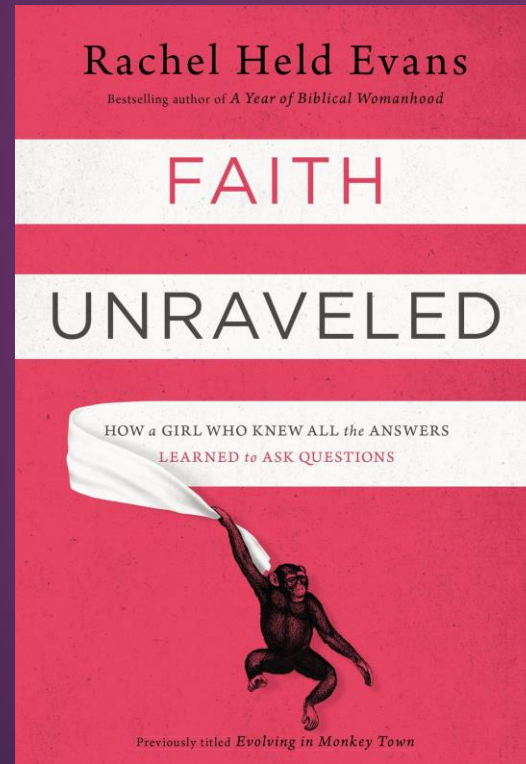
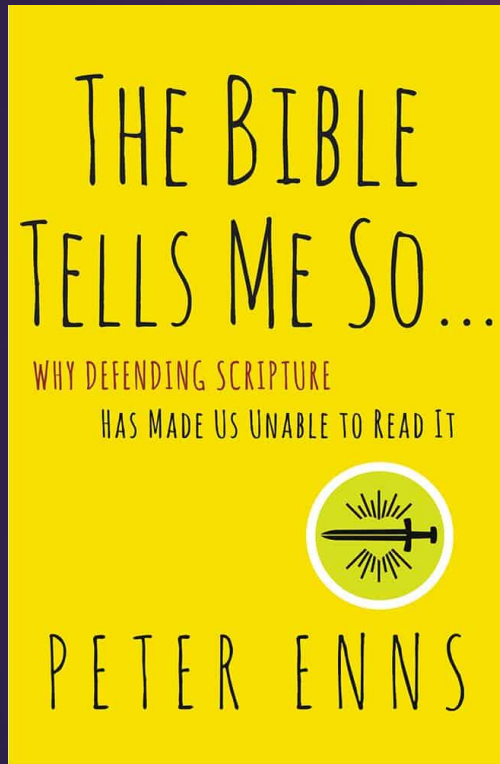


Goal: To grow in the knowledge of the Lord in order to treasure Him more fully and to reflect Him more accurately as we are conformed to His image.



Why should we study the Bible?

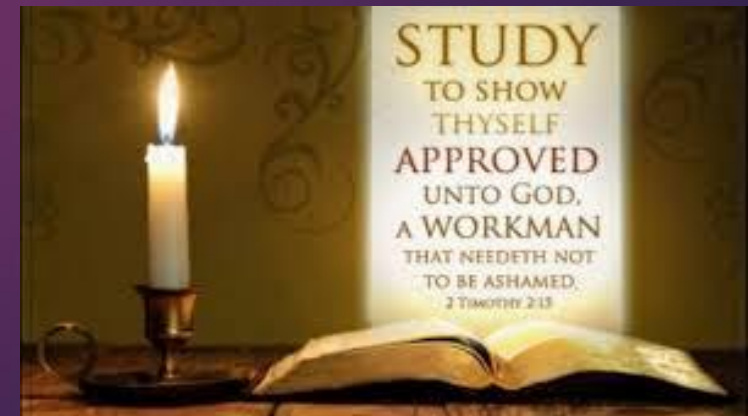
1. To recognize error



Why should we study the Bible?

2. To show ourselves approved

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15)

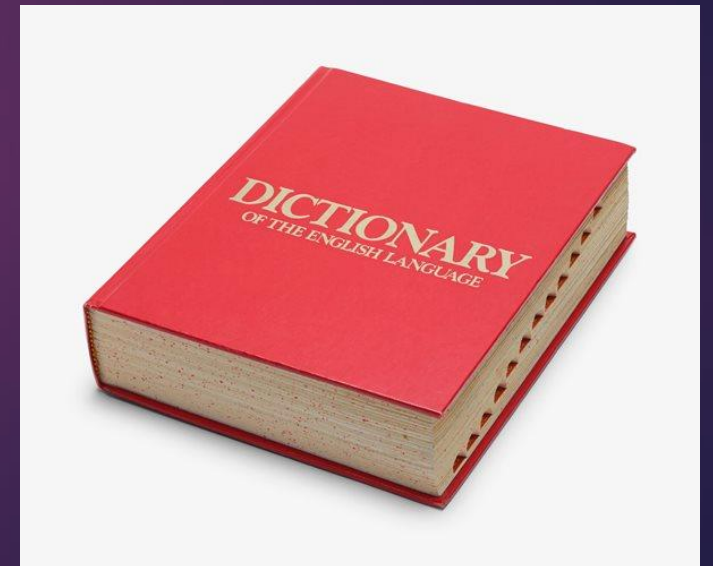


Important Terms

Exegesis: Studying to determine the original meaning of the text

Hermeneutics: The methods used to interpret the text and apply it to today

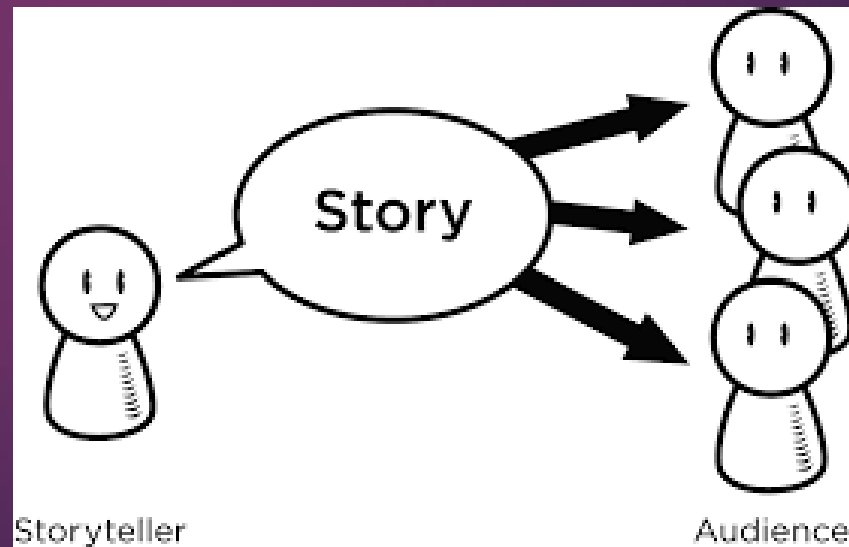
Genre: Style or Type of Literature



Genres of Scripture

1. Narratives-Over 40% of the Bible

-Narratives tell “what happened” and are meant to give understanding and direction for those reading it after the fact.



Genres of Scripture

2. Poetry-Over 30% of the Bible

-Within poetry, there are the Wisdom books and the Prophetic books

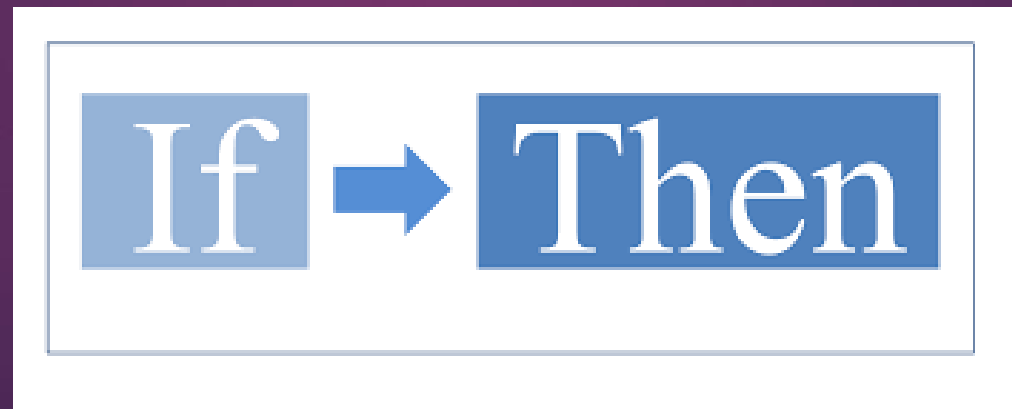
-Poetic books use deep figurative language to capture the emotion and depth within the overall narrative story.



Genres of Scripture

3. Prose/Discourse-About 20% of the Bible

-Speeches, sermons, and letters that use logical flow of thought to persuade the reader to make a choice or act in a certain way. (“If this, then that”)



Reading Cultural Literature

- *When reading the Bible, we are reading cross-culturally!*



Characteristics of Jewish literature

*It often lacks details and is ambiguous.
-Often this ambiguity is intentional-it's not just meant to be read but meditated on pondered and read carefully over time.*



Reading Cultural Literature

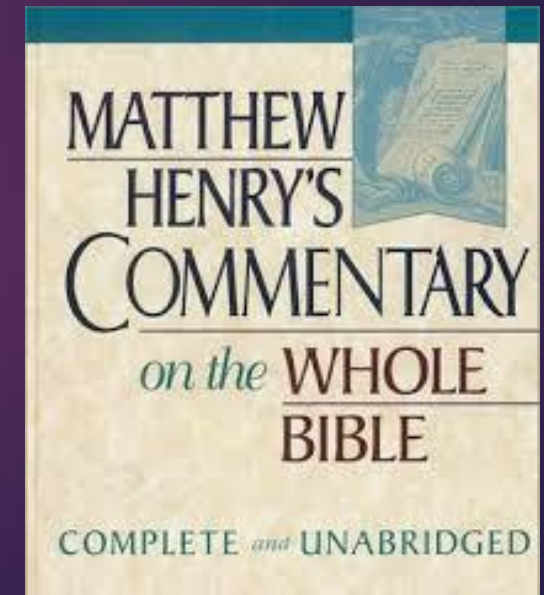
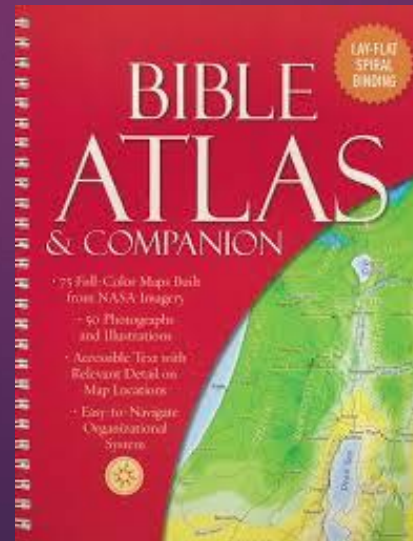
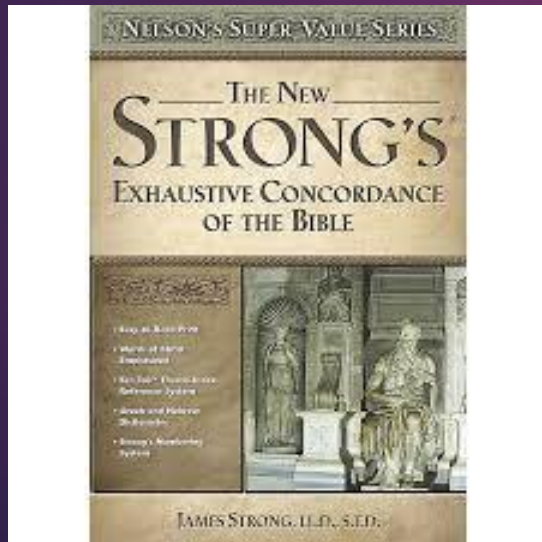
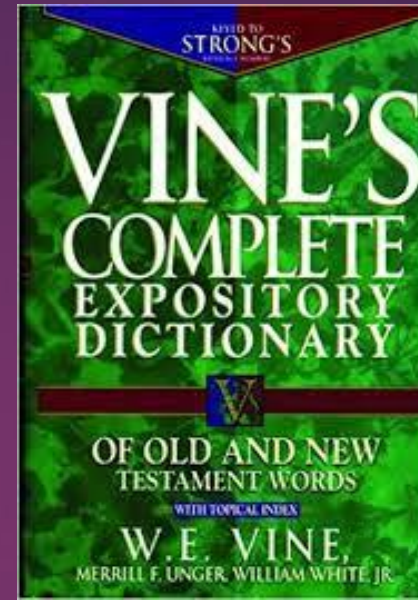
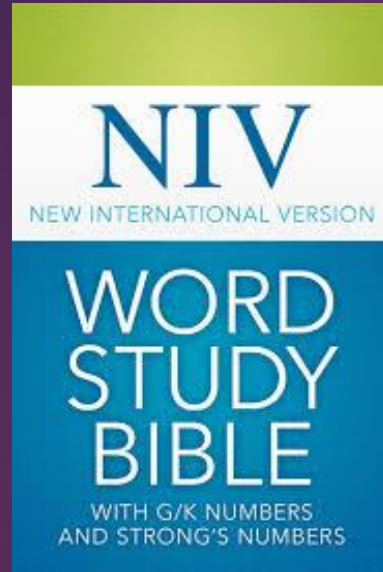
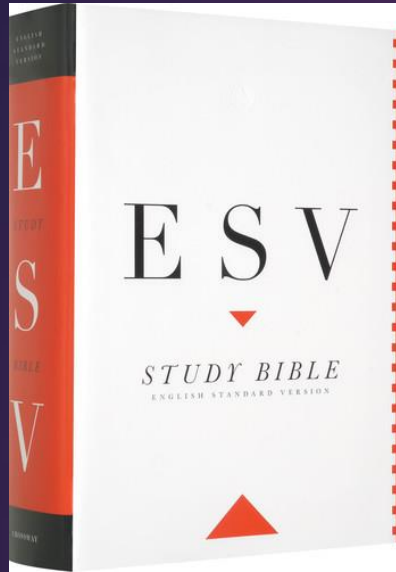


-As we reflect on the story and ask questions as we go, we find that it becomes our story as we see in it answers to our origin, purpose, and eternal destiny.



Destiny

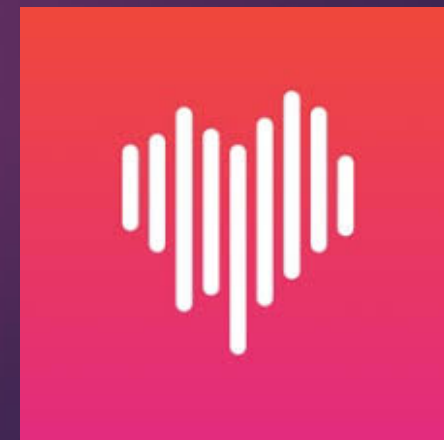
Get a Toolbox!



Get a Toolbox!



Bible α rc



Basic methods and Rules of Interpretation

2. The goal of good interpretation is NOT to find something new or never seen before. Chances are if you see something unique or that you've never heard before, it's likely wrong! The goal is to get the plain meaning of the text.



It's Not New

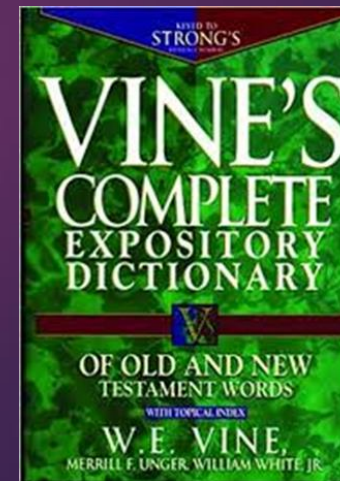


plain



Historical Context:

- *Who is the author? What do we know about him?*
- *Who are the recipients? What do we know about them?*
- *What is going on in history at the time? Where are we in redemptive history overall?*



Literary Context:



- *What can we figure out about the specific situation that the author is trying to address?*
- *One simple question to continually ask as you read a section is: What is the point? What is the author trying to say?*



Epistles:

- *It is a letter written from someone, to someone, at a specific time, for a specific purpose.*



Usual Form:

- *Name of the Writer*
- *Name of the recipient*
- *Greeting*
- *Prayer or Thanksgiving*
- *Body*
- *Final Greeting/Farewell*



Key things to Remember:

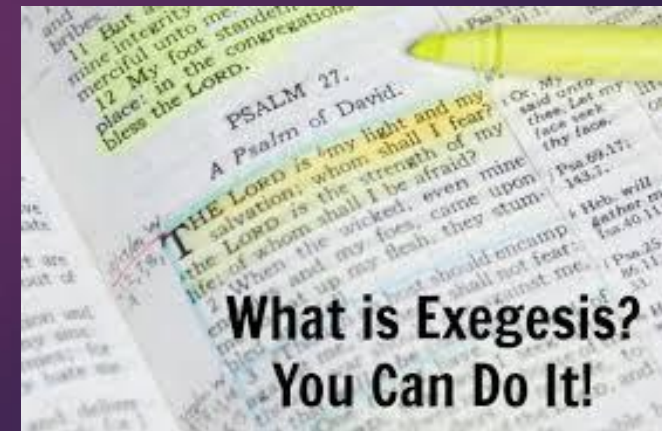
- *There is one key element that all Epistles have in common-They are all occasion documents, meaning they all were written and intended for a specific purpose.*

CONTEXT

MATTERS

Exegesis: Study to determine the original meaning of the text :

- *After you've considered the historical and literary context, it's time to study the passage. Seek to determine what the text meant to the original audience.*



Interpretation

- *Once exegesis is done, we've done about ½ the work. Now that we know what the text meant to them, we want to find out what it means to us.*



Rules for Interpretation

- *Basic rule: A text cannot mean to us what it never could have meant to its author or readers!*
- *Whenever we share similar life situations with the reader, God's Word to us is the same as His Word to them.*



Cultural or Timeless?

- *Always keep in mind the core message of the Bible-the fallenness of man, redemption through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. These things are paramount.*



Informed → Conformed

- *We've determined what the text meant to them, and interpreted what it may mean to us today, but we still aren't done!*



Not
FINISHED
Yet
now

Informed → Conformed

We have been informed of truth, now it needs to conform us more to the image of Christ!



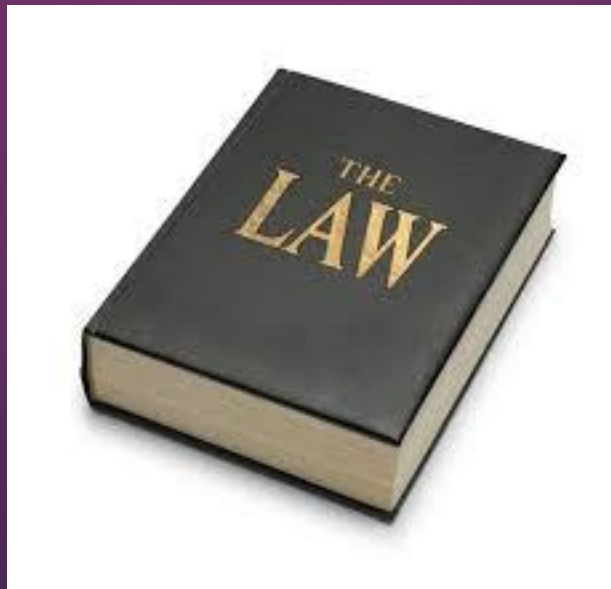
Law and Covenants:

Covenant: An agreement between 2 parties, a binding contract



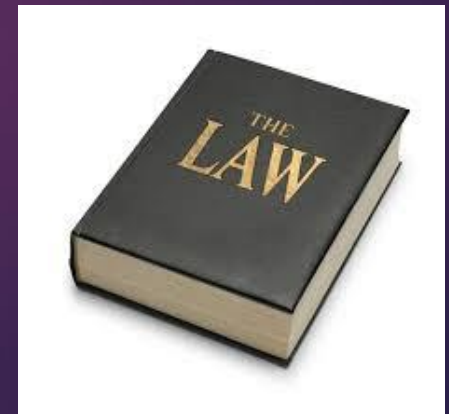
Law and Covenants:

Law: Regulations or terms of that agreement specifically how the people of God were to live under the covenant relationship with God.



When referring to the Law, we can mean:

- 1. The 600+ individual laws*
- 2. The Pentateuch (The first 5 books of the Bible)*
- 3. The entire O.T. system including the law, and the sacrificial system.*



The Bible is primarily an epic narrative story of the redemption of mankind, not a behavior manual!



Covenants:

1. Noahic Covenant



2. Abrahamic Covenant



3. Mosaic Covenant



The Mosaic Law:

- *The 10 commandments*
- *Laws regarding slavery and justice*
- *Laws regarding separation from the surrounding nations and their idolatrous practices*
- *Feasts/Festivals to call to remembrance God as Creator and His relationship with His people.*





Covenants:

1. *Noahic Covenant*



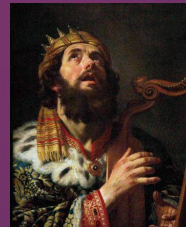
2. *Abrahamic Covenant*



3. *Mosaic Covenant*



4. *Davidic Covenant*

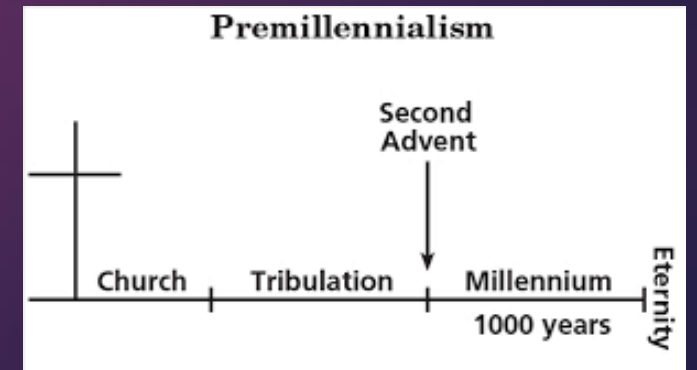


5. *New Covenant*



Dispensationalism

-God operated throughout history in 7 distinct periods of time.



Covenant Theology

-All of the covenants can fit into one of two categories: Covenant of Works or Covenant of Grace.



New Covenant Theology

-All the covenants of the O.T. find their ultimate fulfillment in Christ.



When we read the covenants, we see their ultimate fulfillment in Christ and our union with Him. It is imperative that we understand Jesus as the “representative man” who is the offspring of Abraham and David, the faithful Israelite who kept the Mosaic Law, and the founder of the New Covenant.



Therefore the blessings and promises of all the covenants are found in our union with Christ.



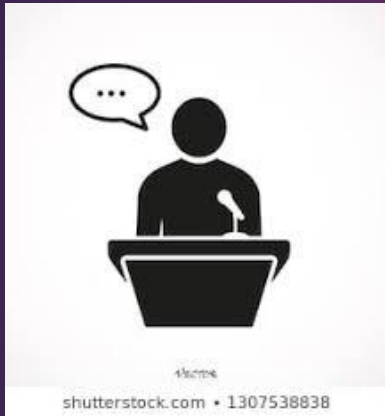
What is a Narrative?

A purposeful story telling historical events of the past that are intended to give meaning and direction to a given people in the present.

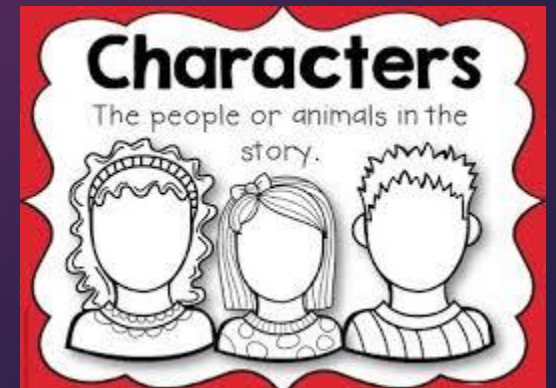


Characteristics of Narratives:

1. *Narrator: The person telling the story*

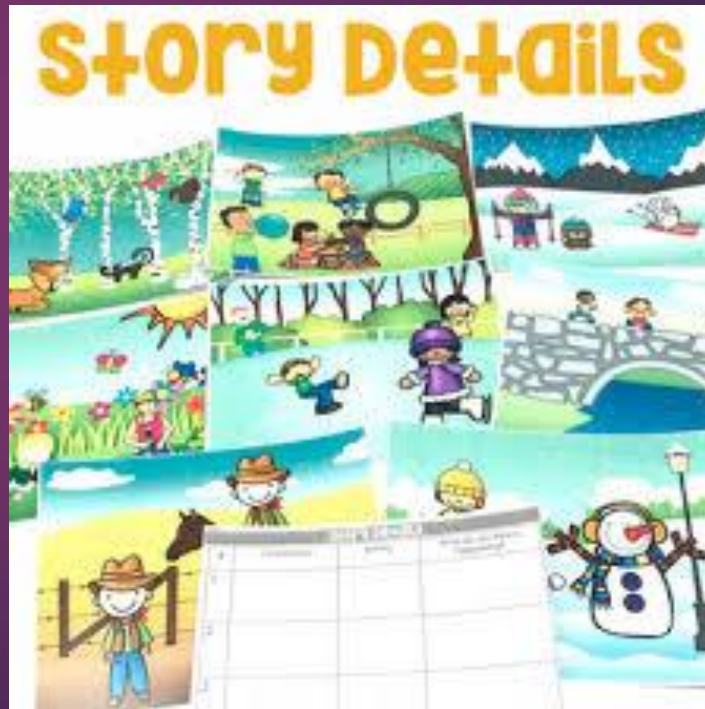


2. *Characters: The people in the story*



Characteristics of Narratives:

3. *The Scene: Hebrew narratives tend to tell stories in scenes which together make up the story.*



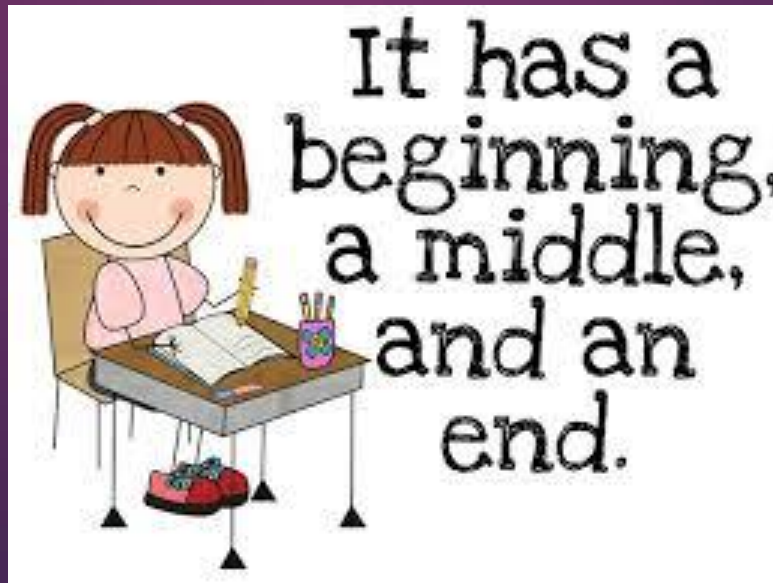
Characteristics of Narratives:

4. *The Dialogue: What is being said. Note: Often the first dialogue of a story is a clue to the plot of the story.*



Characteristics of Narratives:

5. *Plot/Climax/Resolution: Every narrative has a beginning, middle and end usually centered around a conflict until it reaches a climax and then comes to a resolution.*



Three Layers of Narratives

- *Third/Bottom Level: The specific story being told.*



Three Layers of Narratives

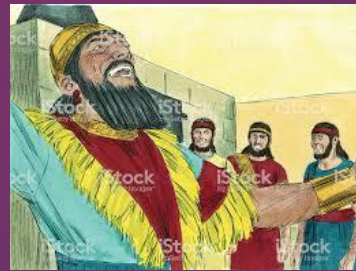
- *Second/Middle Level: The story of God calling a people to Himself and His covenant with the nation of Israel.*



Three Layers of Narratives

- *First/Top Level: The whole universal story of God and His plan of redemption for all mankind*





Ultimately, they must be read in the context of the overall story of redemption.



God is the Hero of all biblical narratives.



Principles for interpreting Narratives:

1. *Narratives do not directly teach a doctrine, but they may illustrate a doctrine taught elsewhere.*
2. *They record what happened, not necessarily what should have happened.*

IT SHOULD NOT HAVE
HAPPENED.

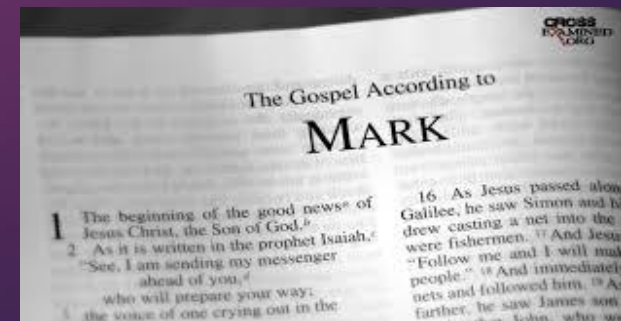
Dangers and Pitfalls

Narratives are not allegories or stories with hidden meanings. Narratives were written to show the progress of God's history of redemption.



The Gospels

- *The Gospels are not books by Jesus, rather they are books about Jesus.*
 - *There are 4 gospels, each with specific intent, audience, and purpose.*
- *They are not biographies rather they are more like “memoirs of the apostles.”*



Final thoughts on the Gospels

- We cannot properly interpret the Gospels without a clear understanding of the concept of the kingdom of God in the ministry of Jesus.



Acts

- *At the basic level, Acts is the continuation of God's story of redemption that began in the Old Testament and found its climax in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*



Acts

- *Throughout Acts, we see the continual and unstoppable movement forward of the gospel. Opposition is either defeated, converted, or used to propel the gospel. At every point, the Holy Spirit plays the leading role.*



Parables

The point of a parable is to call forth a response by the hearer. The problem was not with understanding but with letting the parables alter their behavior. They failed to see or hear in a way that led to obedience.



Biblical wisdom is rooted in the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. Biblical wisdom has nothing to do with IQ, -it's a matter of orientation to God and His ways.

Only when “wisdom” leads to submission to God does it achieve its purpose.



Proverbs

- *A collection of advisory statements that present a sharp contrast between choosing a life of wisdom and a life of folly.*
- *Proverbs are not promises or guarantees, rather they present general truths regarding wise living.*



Job

- *A carefully structured dialogue between Job and his well-meaning friends regarding suffering. It's not just a story about suffering but about God's sovereignty over suffering and the way the innocent who suffer can still glorify God.*



Ecclesiastes

• A wisdom monologue by Solomon. The point seems to be that even though the only certainty is death, we should still live life, fleeting as it is, as a gift from God.



Song of Songs

- *A lengthy love song to show God's design for romance in the marital union .*



Closing Thoughts on Biblical Wisdom

Wisdom is not how much we know. It's not our great "understanding." Wisdom is seen in how we orient ourselves to God.



Psalms

• A collection of inspired Hebrew used in ancient Israel for prayer, worship, and praise.



Who wrote them?

- David wrote almost half-73*
- Moses wrote 1 (Psalm 90)*
- Solomon wrote 2 (Psalm 72, 127)*
- Sons of Asaph and Korah*



When were they written?

- They were written over hundreds of years but after the Israelites returned from exile in Babylon and rebuilt the temple, the psalms were gathered into a formal collection.*



When were they written?

- The formal hymnal is arranged in 5 books: (1) Psalms 1-41; (2) Psalms 42-72; (3) Psalms 73-89; (4) Psalms 90-106; (5) Psalms 107-150.*



Purpose

• The Psalms contain words spoken to God or express truth about God in song.



Things to Remember

- Remember to read it as poetry, not a system of doctrine.*



Keys to interpretation

- A key question to ask when reading a psalm is, “What type of Psalm is this?”*



Types of Psalms

Laments:

· Express deep trust in God yet help a person express struggles, suffering or disappointments.



Types of Psalms

Thanksgiving Psalms:

• Express joy and thanksgiving to God and help express thoughts and feelings of gratitude.

Give **THANKS** to the
Lord, for he is good;

his **LOVE**
endures
forever.

-Psalm 107:1

PsalmsQuotes.com

Types of Psalms

Psalms of Praise:

· Express praise to God for who He is as Creator, Protector, and Lord. They help a person sing praise to God.



Praise

Types of Psalms

Salvation History Psalms:

• These review the history of God's saving work among His people, especially His deliverance from Egypt.



Types of Psalms

Psalms of Celebration

· These are liturgies meant to point the people to covenantal renewal (Psalm 50, 81) or those which praise God for His covenantal promises to David's line.



Types of Psalms

Wisdom Psalms

- Psalms praising the merits of wisdom.*



Types of Psalms

Psalms of Trust

· Focus on God's goodness and care and the truth that He can be trusted even in times of despair.



What about Imprecatory Psalms?

• The Psalms incorporate the full range of human emotions, even extreme emotion. Imprecatory psalms communicate anger to God at others. They are almost always found in laments and help us harness our anger and express it to God.



Purpose of Psalms

1. They serve as a guide to worship.



Purpose of Psalms

2. They show us how we can relate honestly to God.



Purpose of Psalms

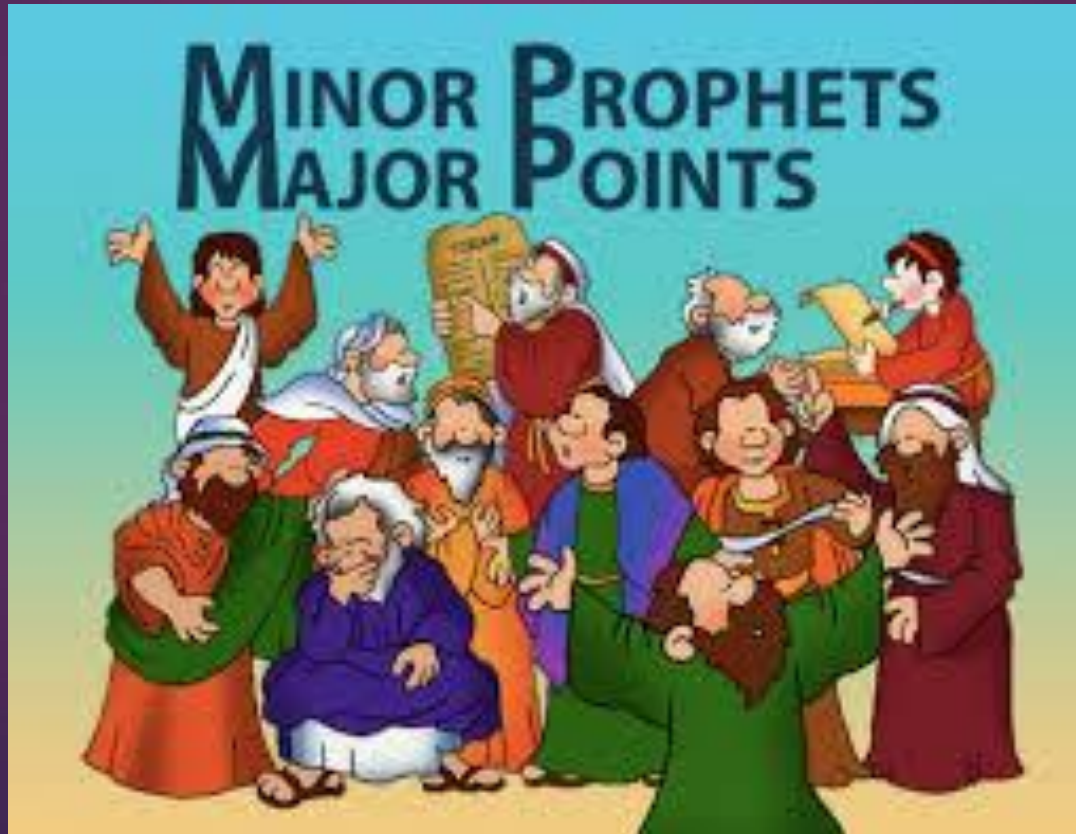
3. They allow us to commune with God and show us that a cry to God for help isn't a lack of trust in His faithfulness but rather an affirmation of it.



Prophetic Literature

- More books of the Bible would be considered “prophetic” than any other.*

4



12

Introduction

• They were written between 760 B.C. (Amos) and 460 B.C. (Malachi)

AMOS



Introduction

- *The primary function of prophets was to speak for God.*



Role of Prophet

1. Covenant enforcement mediators



Role of Prophet

→ God announced the enforcement of His law (blessings or curses) through the prophets. These are always corporate, referring to the nation as a whole.



Role of Prophet

2. The prophet's message was not their own, but God's. They were God's representatives.



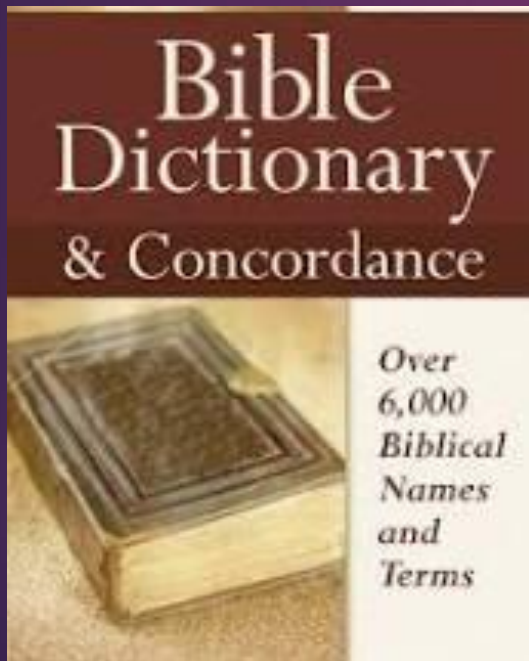
Role of Prophet

3. Their messages were not original but restated the original Mosaic covenant blessings and curses in their generation.



How to study the Prophetic Books

1. Get help! Use Bible dictionaries, commentaries, etc.



How to study the Prophetic Books

2. Learn the context. In order to understand the prophetic books, we need to understand Israel's history!



How to study the Prophetic Books

3. Remember the prophets were also poets.



Forms of the Prophetic Messages

1. The Lawsuit

-God is portrayed as the plaintiff, attorney, and judge in a case against the defendant, Israel



Forms of the Prophetic Messages

2. The Woe

-Predictions of imminent doom



woe

Forms of the Prophetic Messages

3. The Promise

-Promise of future restoration and blessing



Forms of the Prophetic Messages

4. Enactments

-The prophet is called to use symbolic actions to reinforce the message.



Forms of the Prophetic Messages

5. *The Messenger Speech (Jeremiah 35:17-19)*
-This form is the most common of all and is recognized by the wording, "says the Lord."



Thus saith
the LORD...

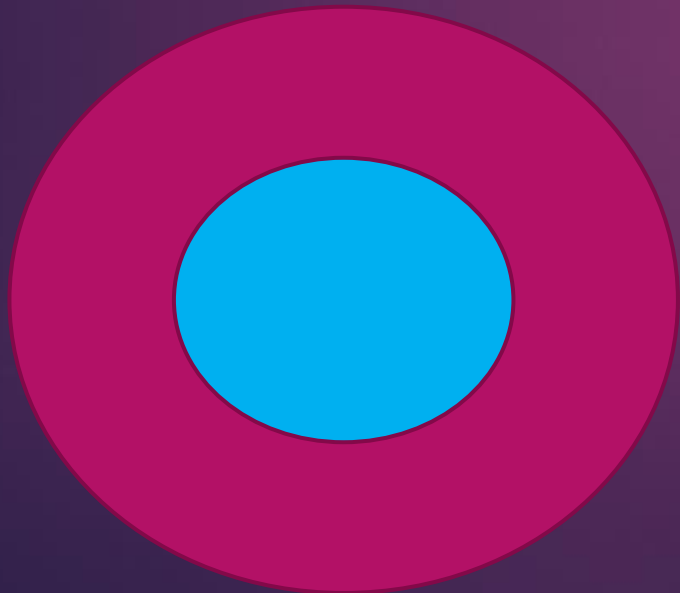
Keys to Interpreting Prophetic Books

1. Like other genres, once we determine what it meant to them, we can then determine what it means to us.



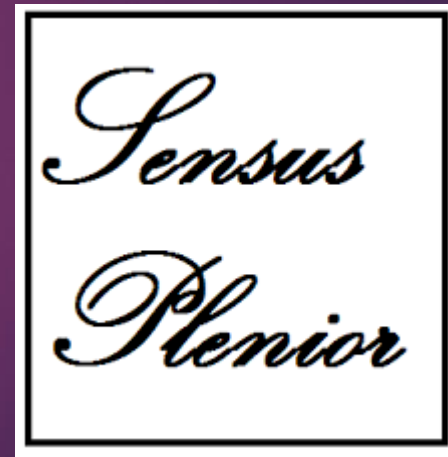
Keys to Interpreting Prophetic Books

2. Keep in mind that most of the “future” predictions for them are now “past” for us. Yet, some of the prophecies which had a “near future” for them were also set against the bigger backdrop of the greater eschatological future.



Keys to Interpreting Prophetic Books

3. Consider how the N.T. may bring in a “second meaning” inspired by the Holy Spirit.



Revelation

- *It is the only written record of Christian prophecy (after the time of Christ) that we have and in it the author cites the O.T. over 250 times.*



- *It is the culmination of the whole Biblical prophetic tradition and is the final fulfilment of God's eternal redemptive plan.*

How to study Revelation

- *Start with exegesis-what did it mean to the original author and audience?*

Exegesis

Exegesis means to bring out the meaning of a text as it was intended by the original author.

How to study Revelation

- *Approach it with humility and less dogmatic viewpoints*



How to study Revelation

- *Keep it mind it has 3 literary types*

APOCALYPSE

PROPHECY

The Epistles



Apocalypse

- *It is concerned with coming judgment and salvation and is written at a time of intense persecution.*
- *Prophets are told to **speak** what they saw or heard. John is told to **write** what he saw.*
- *It is filled with visions, dreams, and images of fantasy. (Beast with 7 heads, etc)*

Prophecy

- *While apocalyptic, Revelation is also prophetic. It is meant to be a word for the church at the time. It calls forth God's Word to their present situation.*



Epistle

- *All the characteristics of a 1st century circular letter are also present. So basic rules for how to interpret a letter need to be considered.*



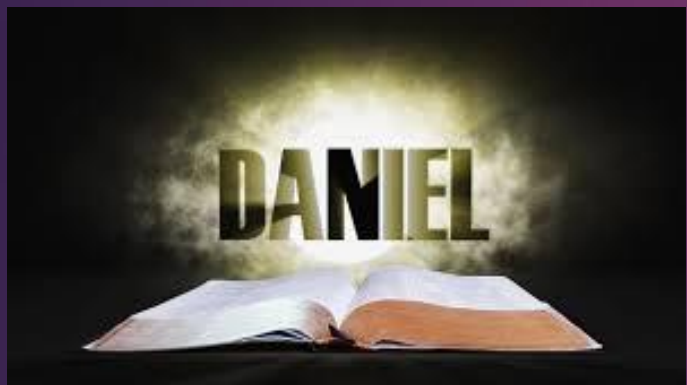
Keys to interpreting Revelation

• *The primary meaning is what John intended it to mean and how his readers would have understood it.*



Keys to interpreting Revelation

• Be careful in your interpretation not to bring in Scripture that the original reader may not have known (such as Matthew or Thessalonians, etc).



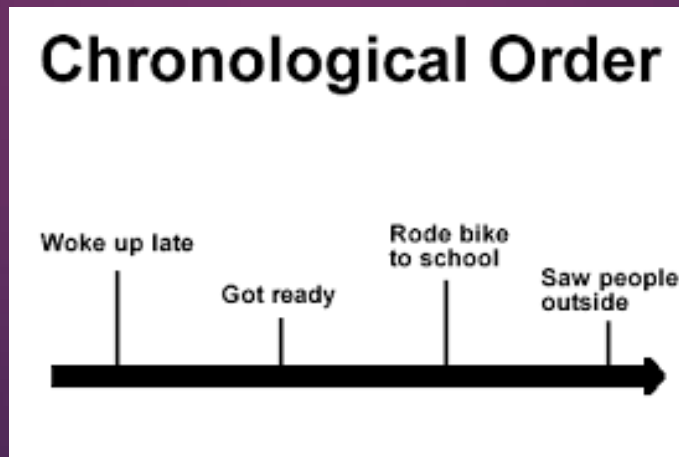
Keys to interpreting Revelation

- When John explains an image, those can be held firmly, otherwise view the visions as a whole and do not try to find meaning in all the details.*



Keys to interpreting Revelation

*• Revelation (and apocalypses in general) are **not** meant to be detailed chronological accounts but are presenting God as in control of history and the church.*



Keys to interpreting Revelation

· Be aware of the distinction between tribulation/distress vs. wrath. It is clear throughout Revelation that the church will not endure God's wrath, but they will indeed suffer at the hands of their enemies until that time.

Tribulation

WRATH

Outline

· *Chapters 1-3
set the stage
and introduce
the main
characters*

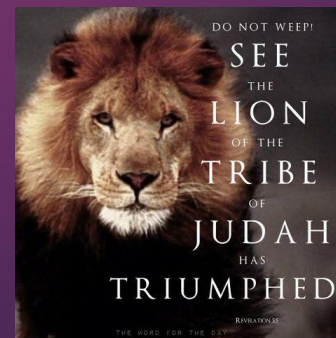


Outline

· Chapters 4-5 further set the stage with a vision of the heavenly throne room bursting forth in praise and worship of the God who reigns in majesty. A scroll is presented, and a key question is asked, “Who is worthy to open it?” The Lion who is also the Lamb and who has redeemed mankind through His suffering is declared worthy.



Who is
worthy?



Outline

· *Chapters 6-7 begin the drama. 3 times in the book (6-7, 8-11, 15-16) visions are presented in sets of 7.*

*“How long
until You
judge...”*

*“Who can
withstand the
coming wrath
of the Lamb?”*

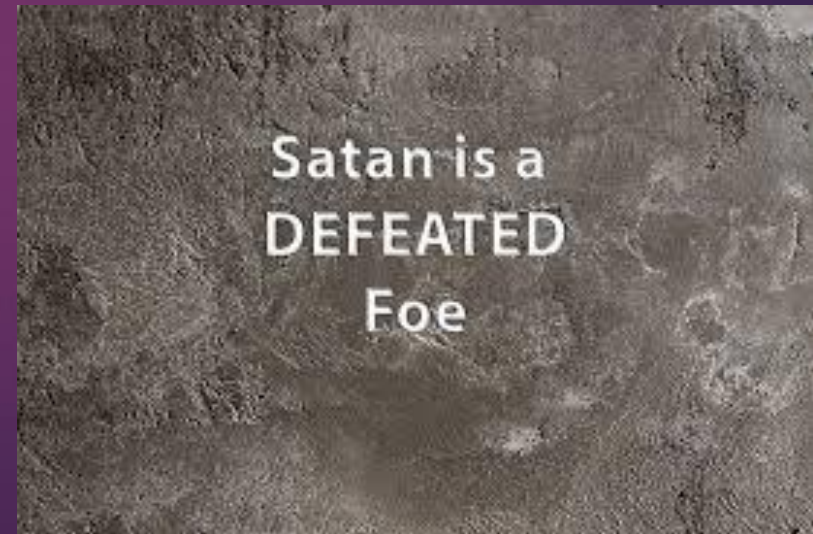
Outline

- *Chapters 8-11 we see God's judgment and wrath being poured out and 2 witnesses*



Outline

· *Chapter 12 tells of 2 visions where Satan attempts to destroy Christ but is defeated instead.*



Outline

· Chapters 13-14 focus on the distinction between those who follow the beast and those who are sealed by God and endure.



THOSE WHO
ENDURE UNTO
THE END
WILL BE SAVED

Outline

· Chapters 15-18 finish the wrath of God and bring final judgment on “Babylon.”

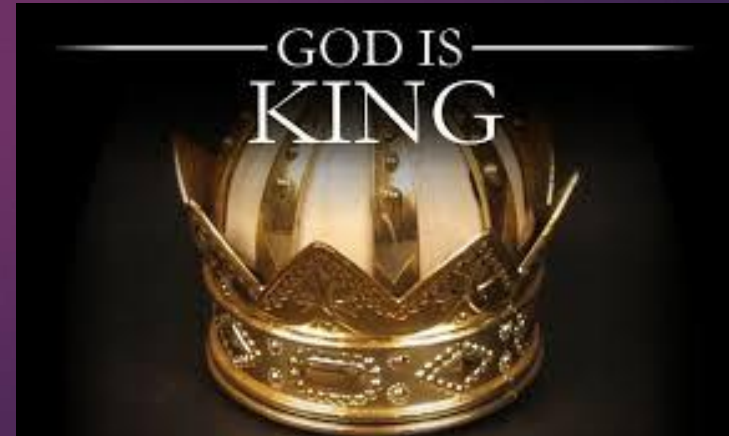


Outline

• *Chapters 19-22 are the climactic conclusion of the unfolding drama of God in the return of Christ, the marriage supper of the Lamb, and the revealing of the city of God, where God dwells with His people forever.*



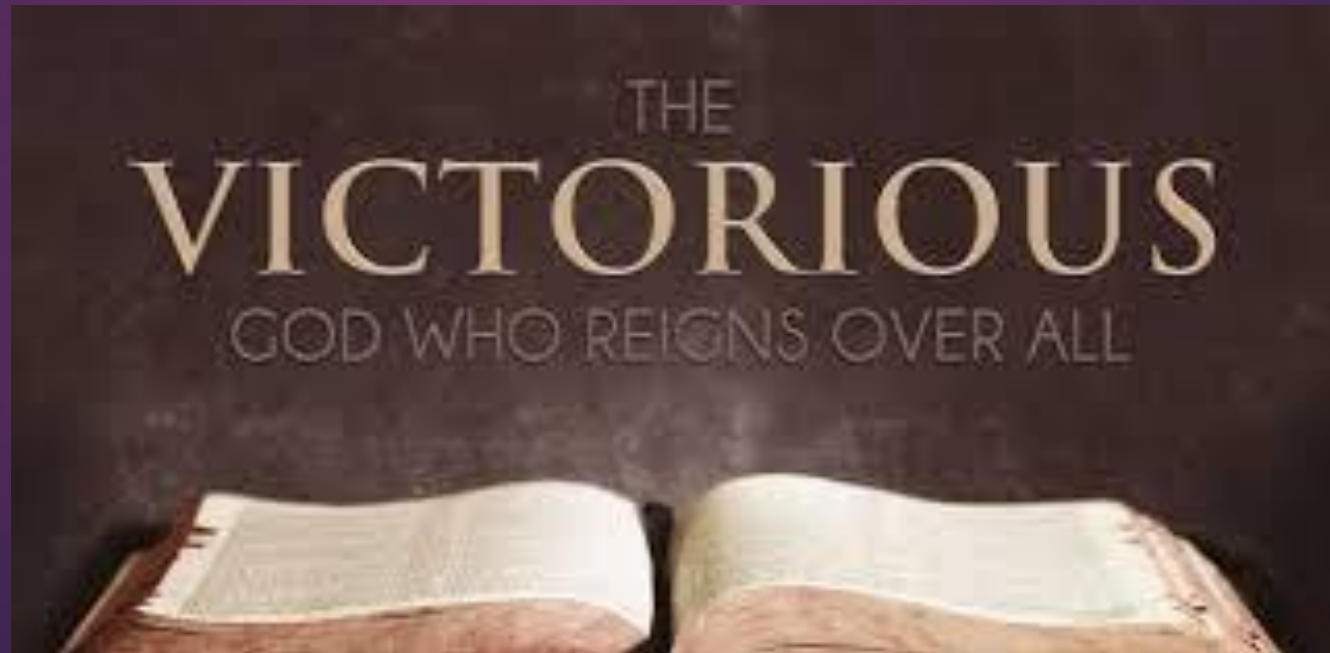
→ *The Bible opens with God as Creator and closes with God as King and the consummation of all things.*



→ For the original reader under persecution from Rome, this would have been a word of encouragement that God would ultimately triumph over their enemies and it was also an exhortation for them to persevere and have endurance even in suffering.



This word to them is the same to us and is the primary message of Revelation: Suffering, persecution and even death will come for God's people. Yet the end is written, and the victory of God and His people is assured.



Pattern for Reading the Bible



1. *Start by reading it (in multiple translations!) several times.*

2. *Ask questions! What is the historical context? What is the literary context? Where does this story/book fit in redemptive history? What genre is it? What do I need to keep in mind with that genre? (Consult this study and How to Read the Bible for all its Worth)*





Pattern for Reading the Bible

3. *Work on Exegesis. Study the text and find out: What did the mean to the original author and reader? Use those tools! Dictionary, atlas, concordance, etc.*

4. *Work on Interpretation: What then does it mean to me? (Remember-it cannot mean something new to you that it didn't mean to them!)*



Pattern for Reading the Bible



5. *Application: Taking into account a fair interpretation of what it means for us today, what are implications I can draw for my own life? What do I learn about God? Myself? Is there sin I need to confess? Wrong beliefs I need to alter? (This may vary from person to person!)*

→ Move from Informed to Conformed. Don't just gather the information but allow it to conform you more into the image of Christ.



Summary

The Bible is a book like none other! It's a collection of 66 "books" written in 3 languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek) by over 40 authors over a time span of around 1500 years.



ה	ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ל	מ
heth	zayin	cheth	tet	yod	kaph	lamed	mem
נ	ס	ע	פ	צ	ק	ר	ש
nun	samekh	ayin	pe	tsade	qaph	resh	shin
ת							
theth							

Αα	Ββ	Γγ	Δδ	Εε
alpha	beta	gamma	delta	epsilon
Ζζ	Ηη	Θθ	Ιι	Κκ
zeta	eta	theta	iota	kappa
Λλ	Μμ	Νν	Ξξ	Οο
lambda	mu	nu	xi	omicron
Ππ	Ρρ	Σσ	Ττ	Υυ
pi	rho	sigma	tau	upsilon



Summary

At the simplest level, it is the history and story of ancient Israel. Yet in it, is the larger story of God's revelation of Himself to mankind.

Within the pages of Israel's story, we find our own story.



Summary

Questions of man's origin, purpose, death, life, pain, and struggle play out in the unfolding drama. Hovering over each page is the Spirit of God as He uses history and human authors to reveal Himself in one continuous story across time, space, and cultures.



Destiny

STORIES

History

Poetry

Psalms



PARABLES



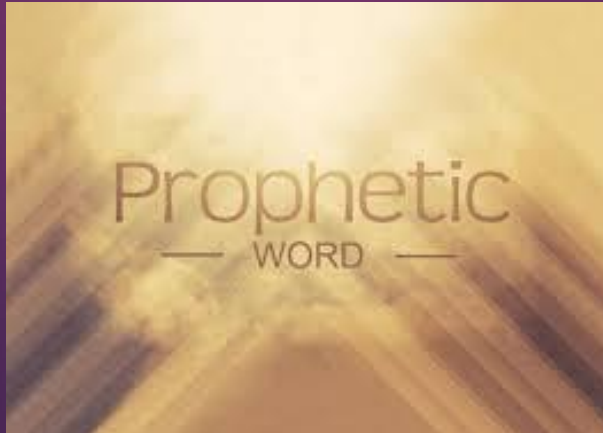
Wisdom



The Epistles



Prophetic
— WORD —



REVELATION



And in the midst of that story, it speaks to all aspects of our story-why we are here, where our value comes from, how we are to relate to one another, and is our lamp unto our feet for each step we take.



What a treasure we have right in front of us! It is indeed God's Word to us. May we never see reading the Word as something we "have" to do, but rather something we GET to do!



This year the goal was to give you some practical tools in how to approach this amazing book. May you see these tools as mining equipment to mine the depths of the Word and find the greatest treasure, the revealing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!



“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17



Discussion

- 1. What stands out to you from this year? What are 1-2 specific things you want to take from our time together?*
- 2. In what ways does reflecting on the vast scope of God's Word motivate you to know it better?*
- 3. Any last comments or thoughts?*
- 4. Ideas for next year?*

Wrap Up

Goal: To grow in the knowledge of the Lord in order to treasure Him more fully and to reflect Him more accurately as we are conformed to His image.

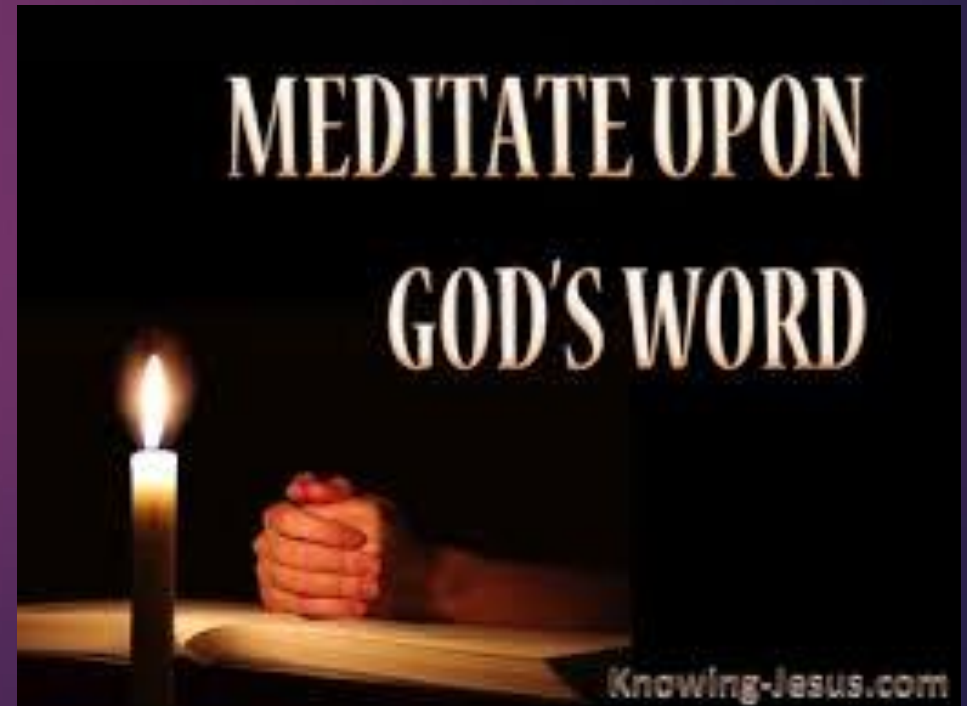


This year:

That we would also learn some tools and methods on how to study so we can rightly handle the word of truth.



Challenge: Take time this summer to use 1 or 2 new tools to read a book of Scripture. Review the genre and tips for studying it and then dive in!



Closing Scripture

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”



