

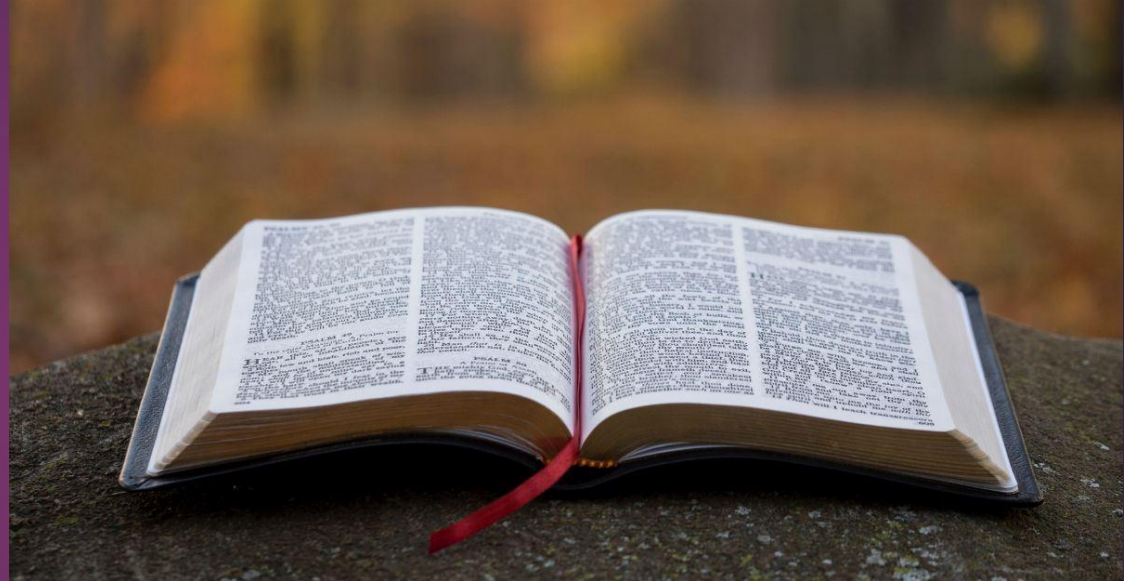
*Welcome to Women's
Bible Study!*

DECEMBER 8, 2019



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.



Review: The Law and The Covenants

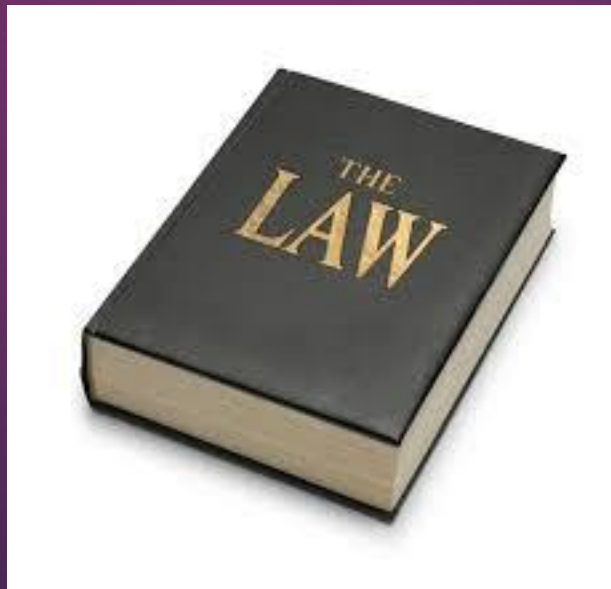
Define Terms:

Covenant: An agreement between 2 parties, a binding contract



Define Terms:

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



1st Covenant: Noahic Covenant

Between: God and every living creature to never cut off all flesh by the flood waters again

Sign: A rainbow

Command: Be fruitful and multiply

Unconditional Covenant



2nd Covenant: Abrahamic Covenant

Between God and Abraham and his descendants to make of him a great nation, to bless him and through him bless all the families of the earth, to give the land to his offspring, to be his God.

Sign: Circumcision

Command: To circumcise every male.

Unconditional Covenant



3rd Covenant: Mosaic Covenant

Between: God and the nation of Israel that they would be His treasured possession, kingdom of priests, a holy nation and set apart from other nations. He would be their God. There were blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience.

Sign: God's presence at Mt. Sinai,

Command: The Giving of the Law

Conditional Covenant: The blessings of the covenant could be forfeited by disobedience





4th Covenant: Davidic Covenant

Between God and David to establish his house and the throne of his kingdom forever. His steadfast love will not depart from him.

Unconditional Covenant



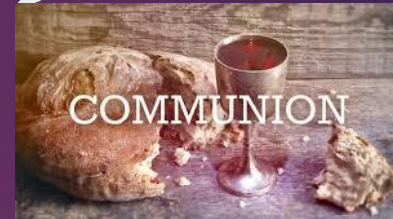
5th Covenant: The New Covenant

Between God and house of Israel and Judah (and ultimately all His redeemed People as confirmed in the New Testament) to give them a new heart, put His law in their hearts, give them a new spirit, remove heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh, put His Spirit within them, so they will walk in His statutes. They will be given the land (kingdom) and He will be their God.



5th Covenant: The New Covenant

Sign: Not specifically mentioned however the Lord's Supper and possibly baptism are part of its inauguration.



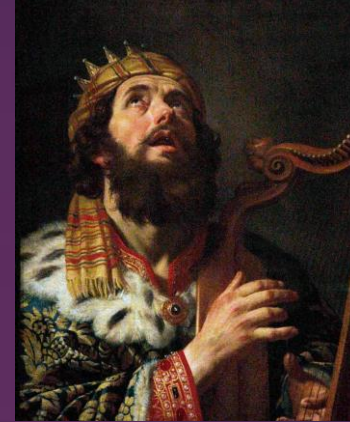
Command: The law of Christ and the call to love God and love our neighbor.

Unconditional Covenant

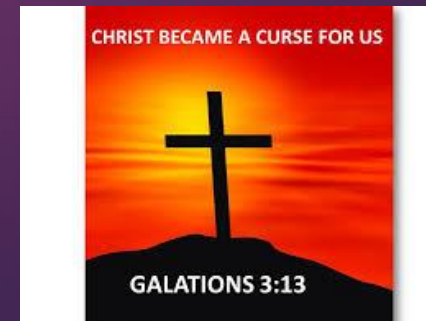


Jesus

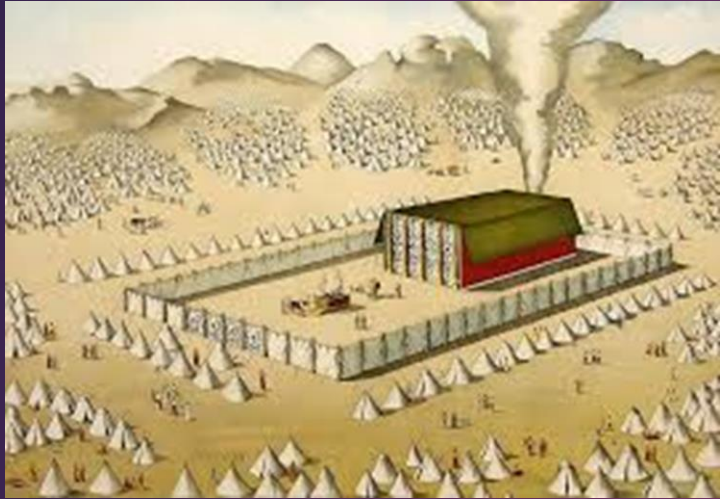
- *Matthew 1: Son of Abraham, Son of David*



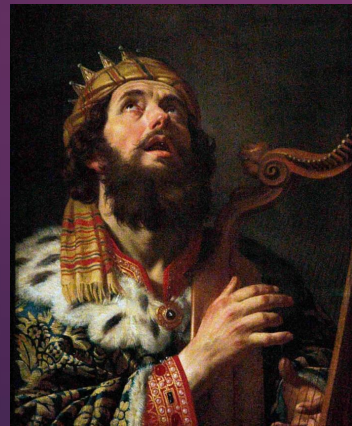
- *Matthew 4: Temptation and Victory of Jesus in the Wilderness and His earthly life*



Jesus



When we read the covenants, we see their ultimate fulfillment in Christ and our union with Him. He is 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 the covenants are found in our union with Christ.



We are still called to walk in covenant faithfulness under the New Covenant but that is found in an intimate relationship with God through the indwelling Spirit as He leads us and we keep in step with Him.



It all goes back again to our union with Christ! Because we are in Christ and therefore inherit the blessings and promises of the covenants because of who He is and His faithfulness, then we also walk in union with Him being led by His Spirit to His glory.



Old Testament Narratives

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.*
- *Biblical narratives then are those stories recorded at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to tell the ultimate story, God's story of redemption.*



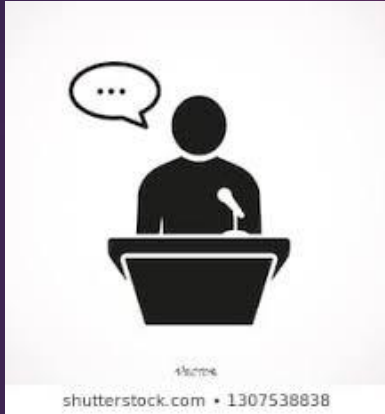
What is a Narrative?

· Over 40% of the Old Testament is narrative: Genesis, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Daniel, Jonah, Haggai. Also there are substantial portions of Exodus, Numbers, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Job with narrative sections.

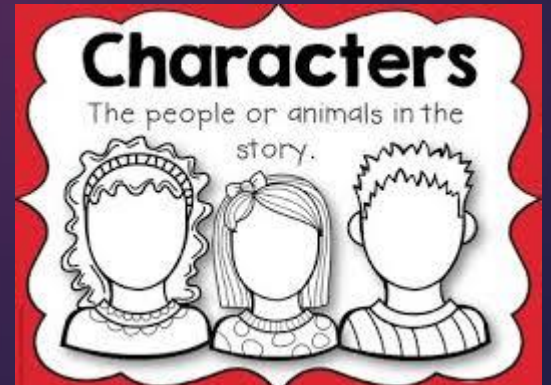
40%

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.*



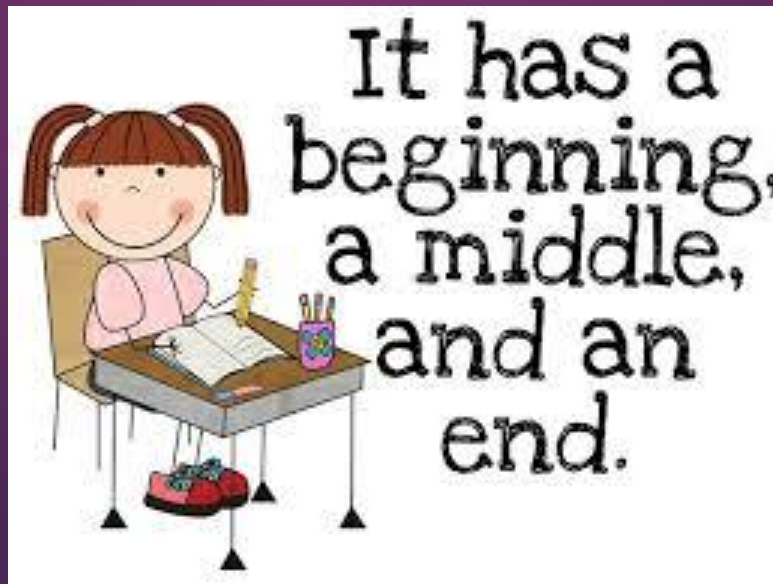
Characteristics of Narratives:

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. In the plot, look for things like repetition, foreshadowing, etc.*



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*



Top



Middle

Bottom



- *God is the ultimate character in the Biblical narrative! The Bible is God's story of Redemption.*



Remember the Bible is a story of progressive revelation so we have to read the whole story to understand all the parts and the parts bring clarity to the whole.

The Bible tells
one unfolding story
of redemption.

So when seeking to understand a narrative, ask: What is the historical context? Where are we in redemptive history? How does this story fit with each of the 3 layers of narratives?

The Bible tells
one unfolding story
of redemption.

Principles for interpreting an O.T. Narrative:

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. Not everyone in a narrative is meant to be a good example for us.*

IT SHOULD NOT HAVE
HAPPENED.

Principles for interpreting an O.T. Narrative:

3. We are not told at the end of the story whether what happened was good or bad.



4. Narratives are selective and incomplete-they do not answer all our theological questions.



Principles for interpreting an O.T. Narrative:

5. God is the Hero of all biblical narratives.



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



Dangers and Pitfalls

- 1. Old Testament Narratives are not allegories or stories with hidden meanings.*



Dangers and Pitfalls

1. *Old Testament Narratives are not allegories or stories with hidden meanings. The only time you can confidently draw a comparison is when a New Testament author clearly does.*



Dangers and Pitfalls

2. Narratives are not intended to directly teach moral lessons.



Dangers and Pitfalls

3. *Narratives are meant to be understood in the historical context in which they were written. We cannot read them out of their context! And ultimately, they must be read in the top layer context of the overall story of redemption.*



Workshop

Joseph

1. *Context? Where are we in redemptive history? What covenants have been made? What is going on in the story?*

Covenant with Abraham: We've seen God's protection of this family, God has stated the covenant will go to Isaac, then to Jacob. Now we come to Jacob's family where this story is told.



Joseph

2. *Who is the Narrator? Speakers?*

Narrator: Moses, God as He directs Moses what to record, Speakers: Various characters in the story



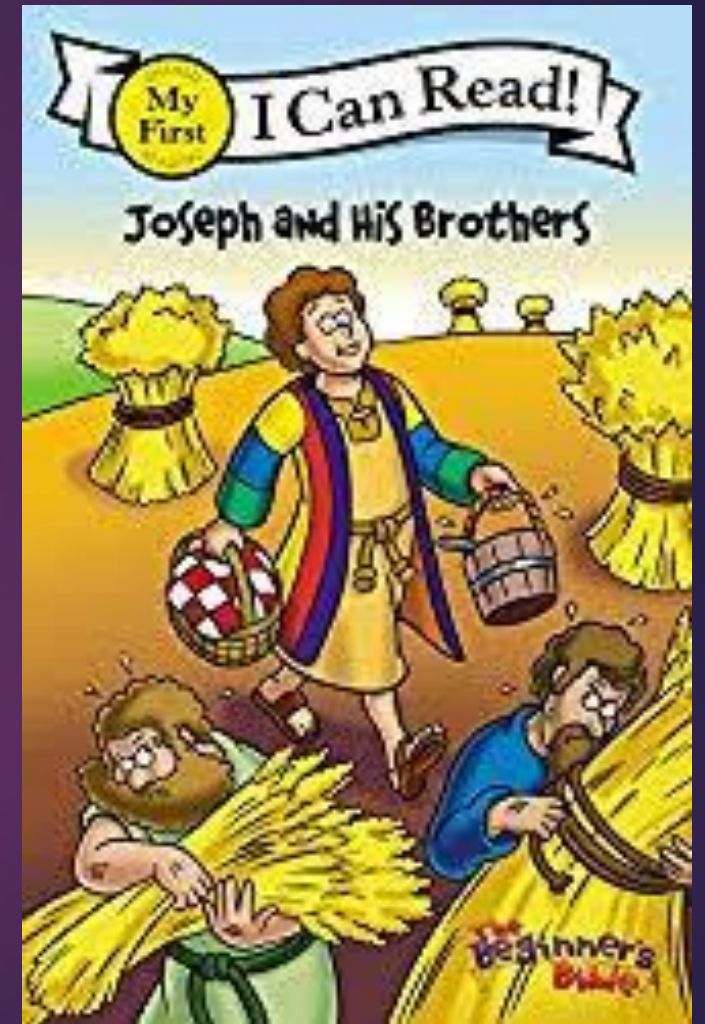
Joseph

3. *What is the plot? Summarize the story*



Joseph

*Bottom Layer:
Joseph trusts God when
circumstances are not what he
would choose. He is faithful to God
even in adversity (Potiphar's
wife) and this is set in contrast
with Judah and Tamar (Genesis
38). God saves Joseph and his
family from famine by
sovereignly sending Joseph to
Egypt.*



Joseph

*Middle Layer:
God has made a covenant with
Abraham's descendants to be their
God and to make a great nation
from them. This is a continuation
of the story of the covenant
faithfulness and God sends Joseph
ahead to Egypt, gives him favor,
interpretation of dreams, and
ultimately saves Jacob from
famine.*



Joseph

Top Layer:

The progressive story of redemption is unfolding. In God's faithfulness to Abraham's descendants is His faithfulness to fulfill His plan of redemption to all mankind. In Joseph the blessing to Abraham to be a blessing to the nations is seen in the provision for Egypt and the surrounding nations during the famine. Pharaoh recognizes there is none like the Joseph or his God. (God is the hero of the story-what man intended for evil, God orchestrated for good for Joseph, Israel, and the story of redemption. We also see the unfolding story of God and we learn how the Israelites ended up in Egypt which sets the stage for the Exodus.



Top



Middle

Bottom



Joseph

What can we take from the story of Joseph going to Egypt?

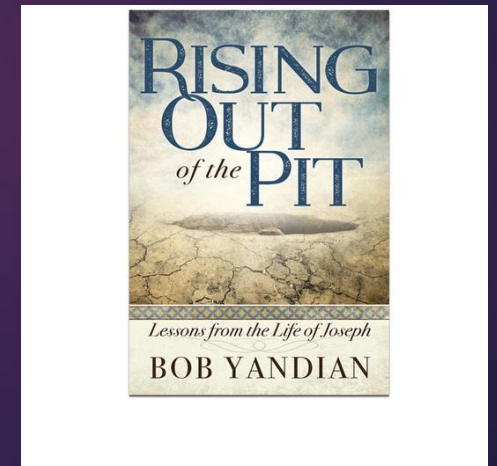


The unfolding story of God, His plan cannot be thwarted, He sovereignly directs history for His purposes in fulfillment of His covenant with Abraham.

Joseph

What would be bad Bible study or interpretation?

The danger of parental favoritism (moralizing the story), God will give us dreams to predict our future (personalizing the story), when we are in the pits of life, God is sovereign over those pits and He will work out those pits for our good (allegorizing the story), etc.



1. *Context?*
 2. *Narrator/Speakers?*
 3. *Plot?*
- Bottom Layer:*
Middle Layer:
Top Layer:
*What can we take
from the story?*
*What would be bad
Bible study?*



Top



Middle

Bottom



Top



Middle

Bottom



Top

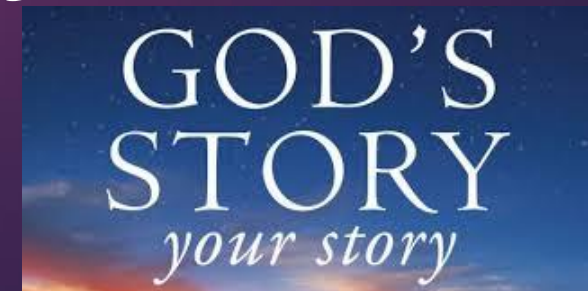


Middle

Bottom



In conclusion, Old Testament Narratives are the individual stories that make up the unfolding drama of THE story of God's plan of redemption. When we read the Bible as one story then these individual stories find their meaning and interpretation in the context of that overarching story. That story is the greatest story ever told and studying it should cause us to worship and glorify the Author of the Story and give thanks for our place in His story of redemption.



This Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, realize that in His birth, we see the Author of the story entering the story itself in the fullness of time. His birth, death, resurrection (and return) are the climax of the story and the center point around which the entire story revolves.



Thoughts? Discussion?

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.



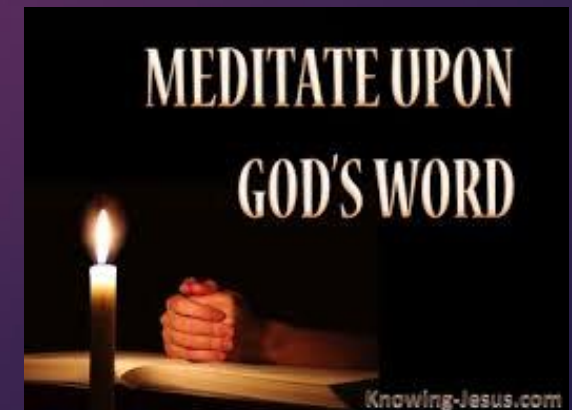
This year:

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



Next month: New Testament Narratives
Date: January 19

Challenge: Spend time daily this month looking at Old Testament Narratives and consider how they fit into the overall story of Redemption.



Homework:

- *Read “How to Read the Bible”-Chapter 6-7: Acts and the Gospel Narratives*



Scripture Memory: Luke 1:68-70

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,

~Luke 1:68-70



Wrap Up

