

Core Seminars—How to Study the Bible

Class 6: Histories & Narratives



“And the LORD said to Moses, “Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”
(Exodus 34.27)

I. What are Biblical Genres?

- How To Study the Bible Schedule**
- I. Section One: First Things
 - a. What is the Bible & is it Reliable?
 - b. The Inductive Study Method
 - II. Section Two: Anatomy of the Bible
 - a. Studying the Old and New Testaments
 - b. Genres I: Narratives and Histories
 - c. Genres II: Poetic and Wisdom Writings
 - d. Genre III: Gospels/Epistles & Prophetic/Apocalyptic Literature
 - III. Section III: Interpretive Tools
 - a. Purpose and Context
 - b. Structure and Parallels
 - c. Linking Words
 - d. Repetition
 - e. Using Commentaries & Other Resource
 - f. Studying Difficult Passages and Familiar passages

Biblical Genres	
Genre	Book
Historical/Law Narrative	Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah
Wisdom	Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes
Poetry	Psalms, Song of Solomon, Lamentations
Prophecy	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
Apocalyptic	Daniel, Revelation of John
Gospel	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts
Epistle	Romans, I and II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I and II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I and II Peter, I, II and III John, Jude

II. Studying Histories and Narratives

- A. Reflect on the reality of these events.
- B. Recognize that not everything recorded in a history should be understood as historical.
- C. Remember that not everything in a history or narrative should be emulated or affirmed.
- D. Not everything in a history or narrative is explained.

E. All histories and narratives are incomplete; and yet, fully reliable.

F. Histories and narratives often illustrate, but do not directly teach, doctrine.

G. The meaning of the text is likely linked to what it says about God.

Scriptures referred to during the class:

Exodus 15:11
Mathew 27:32-40, 50-53, 28:1-10
2 Samuel 12:1-6
Mathew 14:6-11
Judges 14:5-6, 8-9
Mathew 3:13-17