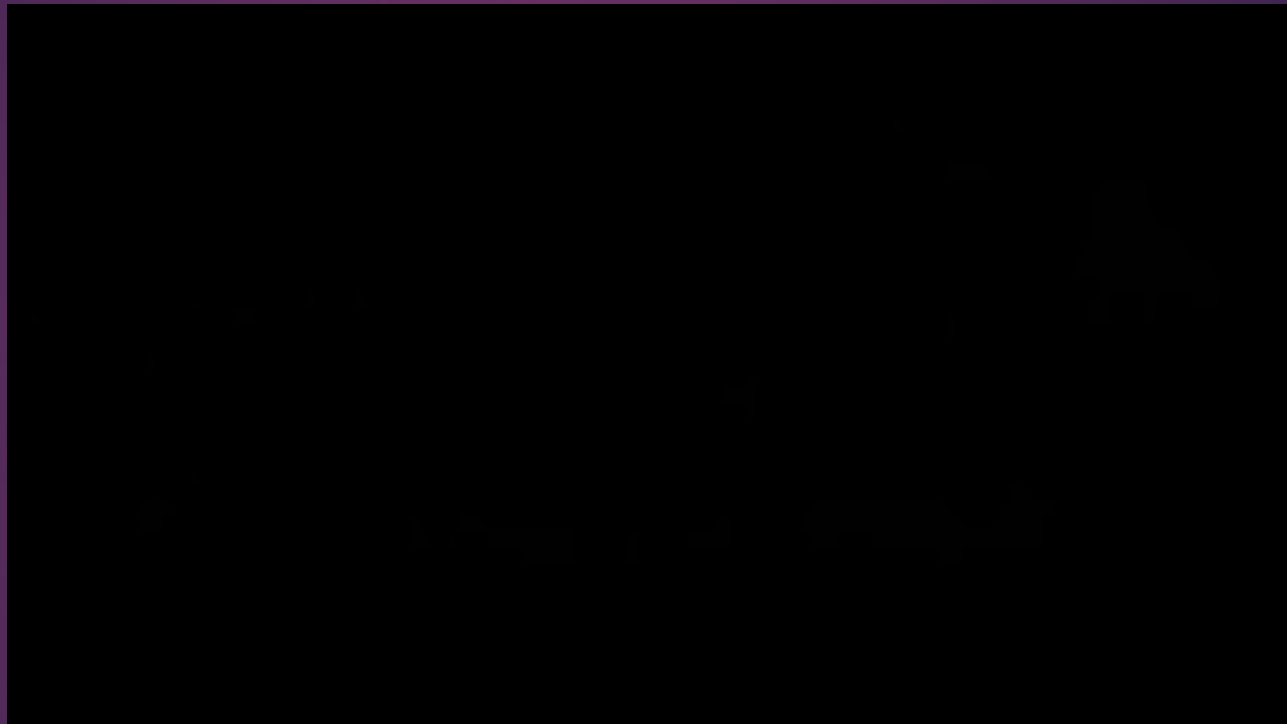


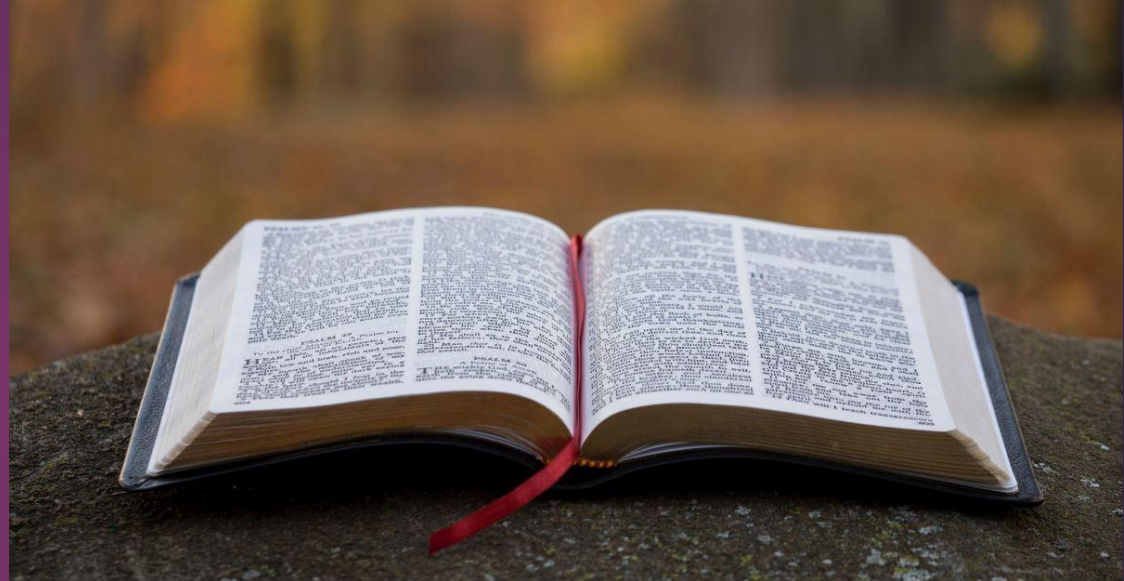
*Welcome to Women's
Bible Study!*

JANUARY 19, 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.



Review: 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.*



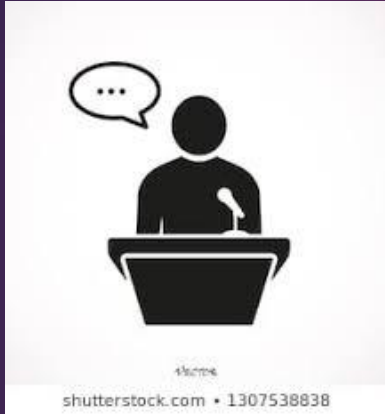
What is a Narrative?

· 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.

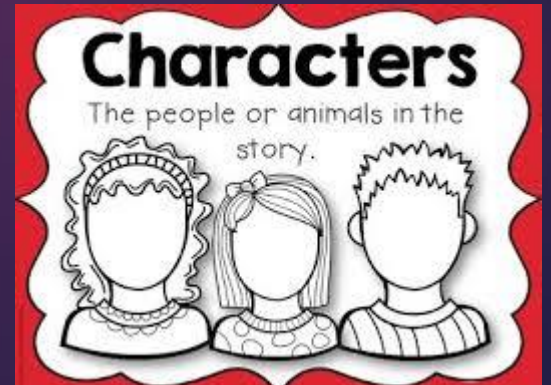
40%

Characteristics of Narratives:

1. *Narrator: The person telling the story*



2. *Characters: The people in the story*



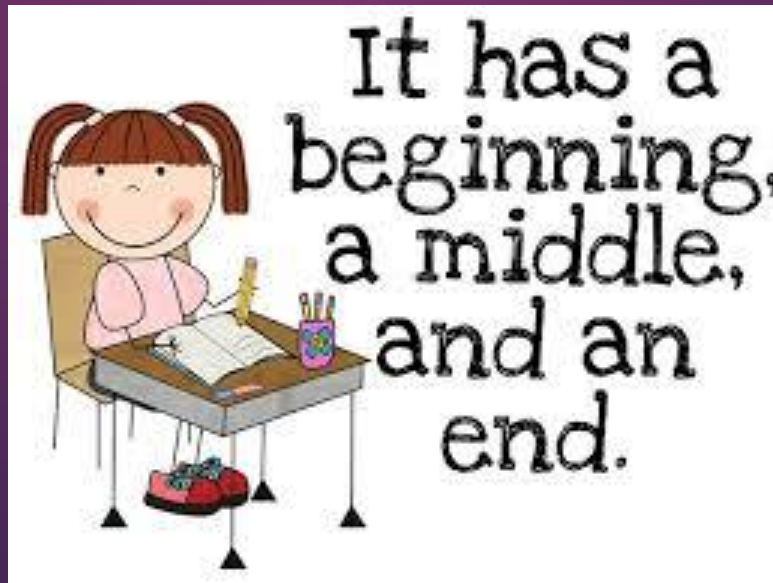
Characteristics of Narratives:

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*

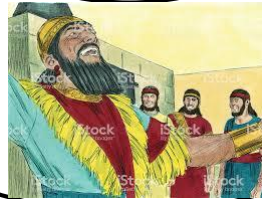


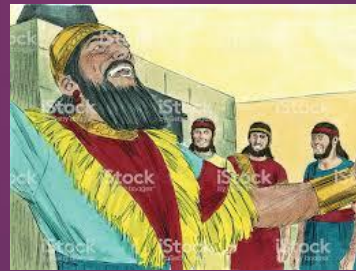
Top



Middle

Bottom





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



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.*



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.

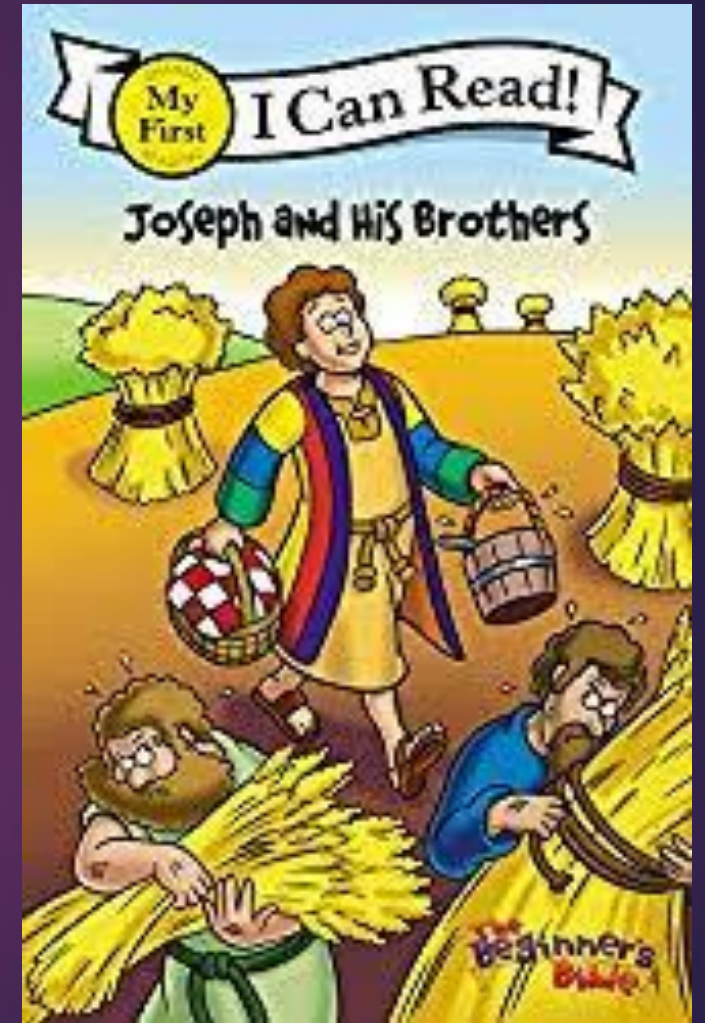


Joseph



Joseph

*Bottom Layer:
Joseph trusts God when
circumstances are not what he
would choose.*



Joseph

*Middle Layer:
God has made a covenant with
Abraham's descendants to be their
God and to make a great nation
from them.*



Joseph

Top Layer:

The progressive story of redemption is unfolding.

The **STORY** *of*
REDEMPTION

Joseph

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

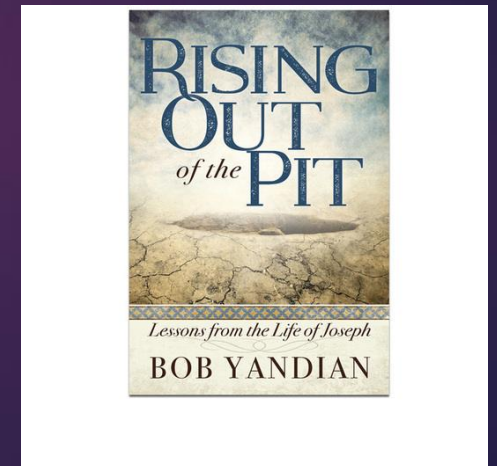


The unfolding story of God, His plan cannot be thwarted, He sovereignly directs history for His purposes in fulfillment of His covenant with Abraham.

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.



New Testament Narratives

New Testament Narratives

allegory



Principles for interpreting a N.T. Narrative:

1. *Narratives do not directly teach a doctrine, but they may illustrate a doctrine taught elsewhere.*
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IT SHOULD NOT HAVE
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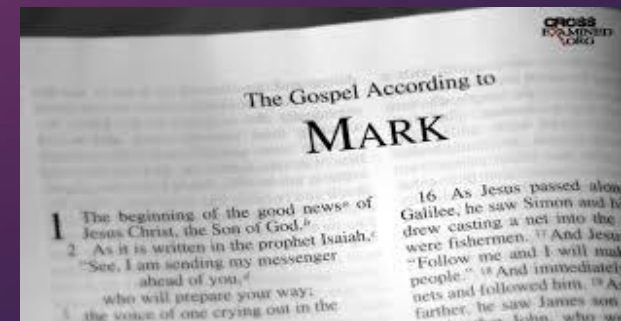
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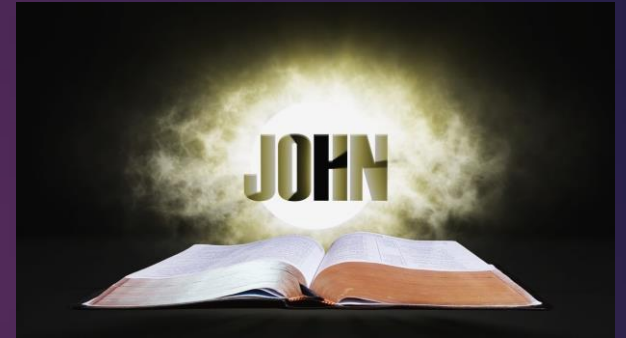
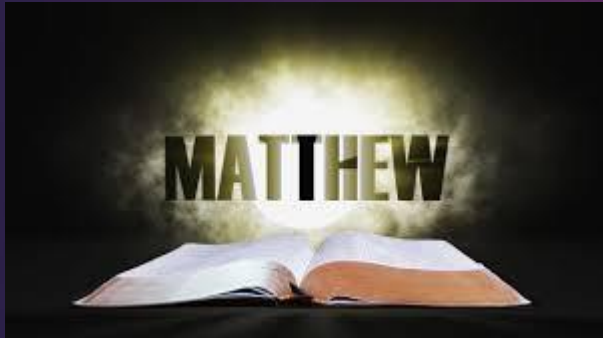


The Gospels

- The Gospels were not written by Jesus Himself.
- They do include collections of His teachings, but they are not books by Jesus, rather they are books about Jesus. As a result we have to keep in mind the author's intention for why he recorded the narrative like he did.
- There are 4 gospels, each with specific intent, audience, and purpose.



The Gospels



All are written to tell:

a. Who Jesus was and what He did

b. The story of Jesus for different communities and lived in a very different environment.

The Gospels

- They are not biographies rather they are more like “memoirs of the apostles.” (Justin Martyr)
- As such, we need to consider the context of the narrative itself **AND** the context of the people these events were recorded for.



Four Accounts

- *Matthew: Written towards a Jewish audience and we see many quotes of fulfilled prophecy*
- *Mark: Highlights Jesus's Messiahship, Son of Man and the fulfilment of Isaiah as the Suffering Servant*
- *Luke: Written to a primarily Gentile audience and as a more orderly account*
- *John: Highlights the deity and authority of Jesus with many "I am" statements*

Four Accounts

- *When reading an account, it's wise to compare the same story in the various gospels. But the goal is not to "fill in the gaps" from one story to another. They are distinct and different for a reason and those distinctions are what make the 4 accounts unique*



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.
(HTRB p.150)



Final thoughts on the Gospels

- *The basic theological framework of the entire New Testament is eschatological.*
- *Jesus ushered in the beginning of the end, but the final end is yet to come.*



Final thoughts on the Gospels

- *Many of the signs associated with Jesus are testifying to the inbreaking of that kingdom.*



The Temptation of Jesus

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?*



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 (Gospels).*



Acts

- *Acts also has the 3 layers of narrative*



Acts

- *Throughout Acts, we see the continual and unstoppable movement forward of the gospel.*



Acts

- *Unless Scripture explicitly tells us to do something, what is narrated shouldn't be read as the required way we should function in all cases.*



Choosing the 7

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?



Workshop

Workshop

1. Context?
2. Narrator/Speakers?
3. Plot?

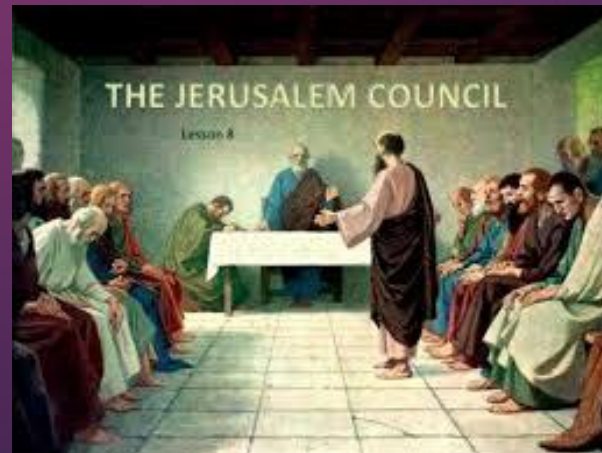
Bottom Layer:

Middle Layer:

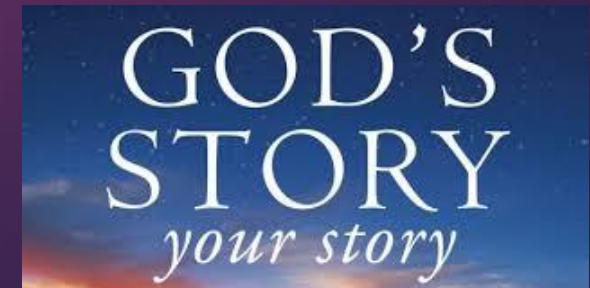
Top Layer:

*What can we take
from the story?*

*What would be bad
Bible study?*



In conclusion, New Testament Narratives tell the climax and usher in the fulfilment that all the Old Testament narratives were driving towards. The individual stories make up the unfolding drama of THE story of God's plan of redemption. 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.



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: Parables and Wisdom Literature
Date: February 16

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



Homework:

- *Read “How to Read the Bible”-Chapter 8 &12:
Parables and Wisdom books*



Scripture Memory: Luke 1:68-70

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

~Luke 24:27



Wrap Up

