

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE FOR ALL ITS WORTH

CHAPTER 5 – OLD TESTAMENT
NARRATIVES:
THEIR PROPER USE

OT NARRATIVE

- Over 40% of the OT is narrative
- 75% of Scripture is the OT
- This means that 30%+ of the Bible is OT narrative

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 - The promises and calling to Israel is OUR historical promise and calling

THE NATURE OF NARRATIVES

- Narratives consist of 3 parts:
 - Characters
 - Plot
 - Plot Resolution

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- There is a protagonist, antagonist(s), and agonists (the one involved in the battle).

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- The plot resolution is called *redemption*.

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- The first level are the individual stories.

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 - These are stories which would have had meaning to the hearer without needing to be explained.

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 - We must not infer God's morality, but rather understand each story as another piece of the puzzle.

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 - Knowledge of the 10 Commandments is needed.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HEBREW NARRATIVE



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- The Narrator
- The Scene
- The Characters
- Dialogue
- Plot
- Structure

CHARACTERISTICS OF HEBREW NARRATIVE

- Structure

- For the Hearers, not the reader
- Repetition (Key Words, Resuming, Patterns)
- Inclusion (“circling back”, foreshadowing)
 - Chiasm – A B C B A

CHARACTERISTICS OF HEBREW NARRATIVE

- Chiasm

- Matthew 6:24

- No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

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 - God
 - Even when God is not specifically stated, He is always assumed to be directing the play.

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- These are about God and His redemptive plan, which includes us, but is about God, not us.

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- Decontextualizing – Reading the bible without context is not learning, it is abusing.
- Selectivity – Using it for our purposes rather than seeing God's redemptive story.

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- **Personalizing** – The self-centered nature of reading Scripture. Seeking application rather than understanding God.

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- False Appropriation – Reading our culture into theirs and vice-versa (David and Jonathan)

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- Redefinition – Stealing promises. God will heal their land (2 Chron 7:14-15). Doesn't mean our land. Our citizenship is in heaven.

PURPOSE OF NARRATIVES



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- “They are precious to us because they so vividly demonstrate God’s involvement in the world and illustrate His principles and calling.”

NARRATIVE IN ACTION – GENESIS 39

- The Narrator
- The Scene
- The Characters
- Dialogue
- Plot
- Structure

HOMework

- Read Acts 6:1-7 and 8:5-25
- Use the tools of exegesis and study of narratives to understand the meaning and purpose of the passages.