

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE FOR ALL IT'S WORTH

3 February 2021 | Week 3 | *Biblical Narrative: True Stories with a Point*

REVIEW OF STUDY QUESTIONS: LEVITICUS 16

I. Introduction: Staying on the Line

- 1) What is the goal of hermeneutics?

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. – Rev. 22:18-19

- 2) Expository Reading

II. Biblical Historical Theological Narrative

- 1) Overview
- 2) Three Levels of Biblical Narrative
 1. High Level (Metanarrative)
 2. Middle Level (Covenantal Narrative)
 3. Ground Level (Immediate Narrative)

Biblical Historical Theological Narrative (continued)

3) What Biblical Narratives are NOT:

1. Allegories filled with hidden meanings

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. – Gen. 7:11

2. Primarily moral lessons

o Implicit narrative teaching

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. – Gen. 2:24-25

o Explicit narrative teaching

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ²from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. ³He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. – I Kings 11:1-3

What Biblical Narratives are NOT: (continued)

3. Exhaustive

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
- John 20:30-31*

4. Personalized

III. Old Testament Narrative

Key Features Hebrew Narrative

1) Narrator

But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison - Gen. 39:21

2) Scene & Setting

3) Characters

4) Plot

Setting → Rising action/conflict → Climax → Falling action → Resolution

5) Additional Features

- Foreshadowing
- Repetition

Key Features Hebrew Narrative (continued)

- Dialogue
 - Authorial Commentary
 - Proportion
 - Chiasm
- A. And after **seven days** the waters of the flood came upon the earth. (Gen. 7:10)
- B. And rain fell upon the earth **forty days** and forty nights. (7:12)
- C. And the waters prevailed on the earth **150 days**. (7:24)
- D. **But God remembered Noah** (8:1)
- C. At the end of **150 days** the waters had abated (8:3)
- B. At the end of **forty days** Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷ and sent forth a raven. (8:6)
- A. Then he waited another **seven days** and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore. (8:10)

I SAMUEL 3 (ESV)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

⁴Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

⁶ And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." ¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. ¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³ And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵ Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." ¹⁷ And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹ And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD. ²¹ And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

IV. Gospel Narrative

MARK 11:12-26 (ESV)

And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. ¹²On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

¹⁵And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹⁶And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. ¹⁷And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." ¹⁸And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. ¹⁹And when evening came they^[b] went out of the city.

²⁰As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. ²¹And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." ²²And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. ²³Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. ²⁴Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

GENESIS 22:1-19 (ESV)

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

CASTLETON CORE: WEEK 3

How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth | Study Questions | Genesis 22:1-19

1. Read the text out loud and note (highlight, underline, circle) any observations as you read it. i.e., Are there any repeated words, key themes, or connections you see within the passage?
2. What is the literary & historical context of our passage?
3. Identify key narrative features in this story (i.e. setting, characters, conflict, climax, falling action, resolution)
4. What is the main point of this story? In one sentence
5. What role does this passage play in the broad scope of the biblical storyline (metanarrative)? How does this passage connect to Christ and His gospel?
6. Drawing from the main point of the story, how does this passage challenge or confirm the way you think about God? How does this passage challenge or enforce the way you live?

Suggested Resources for Further Study

Books

DeYoung, K. (2016). *The Biggest Story: how the snake crusher brings us back to the garden*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

ESV study Bible: English Standard Version. (2011). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

Fee, G. D. (1993). *How to read the Bible for all it's worth: A guide to understanding the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Goldsworthy, G. (2012). *Gospel and kingdom*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster Press.

Helm, D. R. (2011). *One to one Bible reading: A simple guide for every Christian*. Kingsford, N.S.W.: Matthias Media.

Roberts, V. (2012). *God's big picture: Tracing the storyline of the Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, InterVarsity Press.

PODCAST RESOURCE

Bible Talk: <https://www.9marks.org/tag/bible-talk/>