

Reading the Bible as Literature

Seeing Christ in the
Historical Books
Joshua - 2 Kings



Welcome



For more than 60 years we have been a church that has faithfully preached the Word of God. Come and join us this Sunday. We are located just north of Des Moines, Iowa.

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Vacation Bible School



VBS is just around the corner and we need your help to make this ministry a continued success. VBS will be held Sunday, June 7th through Thursday, June 11th from 6:00-8:30pm. [Click here to volunteer!](#)

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Shine



Check out saylorvillekids.com for updates on our brand new children's ministry that is in the works.

These are exciting times here at Saylorville, especially when it comes to kids.

Will you be apart of it? Fill out a

Welcome

Sunday Services
9:00am & 10:45am
Shine & Adult Modules
5:30pm
Evening Worship Service
6:45pm

515.289.2395
6429 NW 6th Dr.
Des Moines IA 50313
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Why Christians Read Their Bibles Poorly

Posted by webmaster on April 5th, 2009



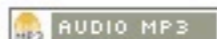
From the module: "How to Study Your Bible"

Speaker: Mark Vance

April 5, 2009

Class 1 of 8

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Why Christians Read Their Bibles Poorly:

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REVIEW

Reading the Bible as Literature

- The Bible is a book of books .
- Different books are meant to be read different ways.
- Good reading isn't primarily about SPEED, PHONICS, or DEFINITION.
Good reading is the skill of being able to adjust how you read to fit the material you are reading.

How to Read Old Testament Law

- What is the Old Testament Law?
- The rules that defined the way in which Israel was to live as God's covenant nation.

The Key to Reading the OT Law
is to know what the Law is and
what the Law is not .

- The OT Law is God's fully inspired word for you. The OT Law is not God's direct command to you.
- The OT Law is part of the Mosaic Covenant, and therefore crucial to understanding Israel's history. The OT Law is not binding on Christians in the new covenant, except where specifically reiterated.
- The OT Law does reveal God's justice, law, and high standards. The OT Law is NOT simply about God's justice – it also reveals the depths of his mercy.

- The OT Law is full of concrete examples of how to behave in a given situation. The OT Law is not comprehensive, covering every possible scenario presented in life.
- The OT Law is given for Israel to demonstrate their unique identity to the Lord and their unique identity among the nations as His people. The OT Law is NOT a means of salvation.
- The OT Law is given to point us toward our need for Christ due to our inability to meet the Laws righteous demands. The OT Law is not meant to define the means by which people were made right or maintained a right standing before the Lord.

How to Read Old Testament Law

- Another help in reading the Law is to use your imagination, placing yourself into the story of the nation of Israel.
- Don't primarily read the Laws to figure out what you are to do , read the Laws asking, what does this teach me about God? Often this will be stated explicitly within the text.

How to Read Old Testament Narrative

- A narrative is a historical story with characters, plot, and plot resolution.
- The Biblical narrative is unique in that it is primarily a story about God .

Narrative Works on 3 Different Levels

- Metanarrative – The Big Picture
- The history of Israel
- The individual narrative
- All three levels point to Christ, but in different ways.

You are reading a Hebrew narrative, not a modern novel.

- The Narrator
- The Scenes
- Characters are central
- Pay attention to dialogue
- Fast paced plots. So when they slow down you start focusing hard!!

How to Read Biblical Narrative

- Narrative tells the story of God in implicit and explicit ways.

Understand How NOT to Read a Biblical Narrative

- A Biblical narrative is not to be read allegorically.
- A Biblical narrative is not to be read moralistically.
- A Biblical narrative is not a random collection of isolated stories. It is a deliberately arranged grouping of stories designed to reveal God.

How to Read a Biblical Narrative

- The key to understanding the Old Testament is understanding the Biblical Covenants.
- Abrahamic Covenant: The most important verses in the OT are Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 13:14-17, and Genesis 17:1-8.
- These promises are unconditional.

Mosaic Covenant - Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 7, Deut 28-30, Lev 26

- National – to Israel as a whole.
- It is concerned with blessing and cursing.
- The blessing and cursing is conditioned upon Israel's faith and obedience to God.
- The Mosaic Covenant is built upon the Abrahamic Covenant.

Job	Genesis	Creation
	Exodus	Patriarchs
	Leviticus	Exodus
	Numbers	
	Deuteronomy	Conquest
	Joshua	
	Judges	Judges
	Ruth	
Psalms	1 Samuel	Kingdom
	2 Samuel	
Prov, Ecc, SS	1 Kings	Exile
	2 Kings	
The prophetic Books: Pre-exilic, Exilic, Post-Exilic	1 Chronicles	Return
	2 Chronicles	
	Esther	
	Nehemiah	
	Ezra	
		Silence

Joshua

- Israel's conquest of the Land of Canaan, which God promised to Abraham's descendants.
 - Cross into the Land (1-5)
 - Take the Land (6-12)
 - Divide the Land (13-21)
 - Serve the Lord in the Land (22-24)

Judges

- The shocking downward cycle of Israel's sin in the period of time before Israel had a king.
- The Roots of Israel's Sin (1-3:6)
- The Downward Spiral of Israel's Sin and the Judges (3:7 – 16)
- The Depths of Israel's Sin (17-21)

Ruth

- The sovereign, redeeming love of God pictured in the kinsman redeemer. Written particularly to show the line of David the King of Israel.
- Intro: Naomi's Grief
- Scene 1: Naomi returns to Bethlehem with Ruth
- Scene 2: Ruth gleans in Boaz's field
- Scene 3: Ruth at the threshing floor, asks Boaz to marry her
- Scene 4: Boaz arranges redemption at the gate
- Conclusion Naomi's blessing and extended blessing