

**Helps for Good Bible Reading: Reading the Bible as Literature  
Seeing Christ in the Historical Books (Joshua – 2 Kings)  
May 17, 2009**

Review:

Section 1: Helps for Good Bible Reading: Reading the Bible as Literature

1. The Bible is a book of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ books are meant to be read \_\_\_\_\_ ways.
3. Good reading isn't primarily about SPEED, PHONICS, or WORD DEFINITION. Good reading is the skill of being able to adjust \_\_\_\_\_ you read to fit the material you are reading.

How to Read the Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_(10)

1. What is the Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. What is the OT Law? - The rules that defined the way in which Israel was to live as God's covenant \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Key to Rightly Reading the OT Law is to know what the Law \_\_\_\_\_ and what the Law is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. The OT Law is God's fully inspired word \_\_\_\_\_ you. The OT Law is not God's direct command \_\_\_\_\_ you.
  - b. The OT Law is part of the \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant, and therefore crucial to understanding Israel's history. The OT Law is not binding on Christians in the \_\_\_\_\_ covenant, except where specifically reiterated.
  - c. The OT Law does reveal God's \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and high \_\_\_\_\_. The OT Law is NOT simply about God's justice – it also reveals the depths of his \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. The OT Law is full of concrete examples of how to behave in a given situation. The OT Law is not \_\_\_\_\_, covering every possible scenario presented in life.
  - e. The OT Law is given for Israel to demonstrate their unique \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord and their unique identity among the nations as His people. The OT Law is NOT a means of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - f. The OT Law is given to point us toward our need for Christ due to our \_\_\_\_\_ to meet the Law's 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.
3. Another help in reading the Law is to use your \_\_\_\_\_, placing yourself into the story of the nation of Israel.
4. Don't primarily read the Laws to figure out what you are to \_\_\_\_\_, read the Laws asking, what does this teach me about \_\_\_\_\_? Often this will be stated explicitly within the text.

## How to Read Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is \_\_\_\_\_?
  - a. A narrative is a historical story with characters, plot, and plot resolution.
  - b. The Biblical narrative is unique in that it is primarily a story about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. The Biblical narrative works on three different levels:
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_ – The Big Picture
    - ii. The history of \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. The individual \_\_\_\_\_
    - iv. All three levels point to Christ, but in \_\_\_\_\_ ways.
  
2. Keys to Good Reading of Biblical Narrative
  - a. You are reading a Hebrew narrative, not a \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. The \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. The \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. \_\_\_\_\_ are central and are defined by their actions. You must pay attention to what they
    - iv. Pay attention to \_\_\_\_\_ – particularly long speeches that repeat the events.
    - v. Fast paced plots. So when they \_\_\_\_\_ you start focusing hard!!
  - b. Narrative tells the story of God in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ways.
  - c. Understand how \_\_\_\_\_ to read a Biblical narrative.
    - i. A Biblical narrative is not to be read \_\_\_\_\_.
    - ii. A Biblical narrative is not to be read \_\_\_\_\_.
    - iii. A Biblical narrative is not a \_\_\_\_\_ collection of isolated stories. It is a deliberately arranged grouping of stories designed to reveal God.
  - d. The key to understanding the Old Testament is understanding the Biblical \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_: The most important verses in the OT are Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 13:14-17, and Genesis 17:1-8.
      1. God will bless Abraham - Gen 12:2, 22:17
      2. Abraham will mediate God's blessing to others (all nations) – Genesis 12:2-3; 18:18; 22:18
      3. He will also mediate God's curse – Gen 12:3
      4. Abraham's name will be great – Gen 12:2
      5. He will become a great nation – Gen 12:2
      6. God will give to him and to his descendants the land of Canaan – Gen 12:7; 13:14-17; 15:7-21; 17:8

7. Abraham will have innumerable descendants – Gen 13:16; 15:4-7; 17:4-7, 15-21; 17:8
8. This covenant will be established with Abraham’s descendants – Gen 17:7, 19, 21
9. God will be the God of Abraham and his descendants, and they will be his people – Gen. 17:7-8
10. These promises are \_\_\_\_\_.

- e. \_\_\_\_\_ – Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 7, Deut 28-30, Lev 26
- i. \_\_\_\_\_ – to Israel as a whole.
  - ii. It is concerned with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iii. The blessing and cursing is \_\_\_\_\_ upon Israel’s faith and obedience to God.
  - iv. The Mosaic Covenant is \_\_\_\_\_ the Abrahamic Covenant.

**Seeing Christ in the Historical Books (Joshua – 2 Kings)**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Israel's conquest of the Land of Canaan, which God promised to Abraham's descendants.
  - b. Outline
    - i. \_\_\_\_\_ into the Land (1-5)
    - ii. \_\_\_\_\_ the Land (6-12)
    - iii. \_\_\_\_\_ the Land (13-21)
    - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord in the Land (22-24)
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The shocking downward cycle of Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ in the period of time before Israel had a \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. Key Passage: Judges 2:11-23
    - ii. Downward Spiral: sin, slavery, supplication, salvation
    - iii. Preparation for a King – Judges 21:25
  - b. Outline
    - i. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel's Sin (1-3:6)
    - ii. The \_\_\_\_\_ Spiral of Israel's Sin and the Judges (3:7 – 16)
    - iii. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel's Sin (17-21)
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The sovereign, redeeming love of God pictured in the \_\_\_\_\_ . Written particularly to show the line of David the King of Israel.
  - b. A Story in 4 Scenes
    - i. Intro: Naomi's \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. Scene 1: Naomi \_\_\_\_\_ to Bethlehem with Ruth
    - iii. Scene 2: Ruth \_\_\_\_\_ in Boaz's field
    - iv. Scene 3: Ruth at the \_\_\_\_\_ , asks Boaz to marry her
    - v. Scene 4: Boaz arranges \_\_\_\_\_ at the gate
    - vi. Conclusion Naomi's \_\_\_\_\_ and extended blessing

New Reading Assignment: Habakkuk – OT Prophet (5) – What is happening? Don't look at commentaries or helps yet. Just read it repeatedly this week.