



EXPLORING BIBLICAL GENRES: HOW THEY SHAPE OUR STUDY AND UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURES (NARRATIVE, EPISTLE, AND POETRY)

Abstract: God gave His perfect, infallible revelation—the Bible—as a human book, utilizing human language. As such, the Giver of language delivered His Revelation through a full range of linguistic tools and literary genres. In His wisdom and sovereignty, God chose to communicate utilizing this variety, and all students of His revealed Word must read and interpret the biblical text with an awareness of the literary genres employed by the divinely inspired human authors.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand how God delivered His Word through a variety of literary genres, and how an awareness of these genres enhances hermenutic skills to faithfully read and interpret the biblical text.
- Learn methods of interpreting and proclaiming three genres of the biblical text—narrative, epistles, and poetry.
- Apply hermenutic principles gleaned from genre awareness to preaching and teaching in a way that is relevant to the contemporary church and culture.

What is the Bible?

The Doctrine of Scripture



Topic
Theological Bucket

Forum Schedule

8:00		Welcome
8:15		Presentation: Narrative (Presenter)
8:30		Narrative Discussion - (Moderator-Led)
9:00		Presentation: Epistle (Presenter)
9:15		Epistles Discussion - (Moderator-Led)
9:45		Presentation: Poetry (Presenter)
10:00		Poetry Discussion - (Moderator-Led)
10:30		Reflections for Church Application
10:45		Closing Prayer Time

Forum Date: Saturday, Sept 13th | 8-11AM

Discussion Questions

- In what ways can we marvel at the wisdom of God in utilizing a variety of genres to reveal His Word?
- How might we fail to interpret accurately if we do not recognize the nuances of genres in the biblical text? Likewise, beyond accurate, how can genre awareness enhance our preaching and teaching?
- How does the storyline (story graph) of Old Testament narratives typically function? What is a chiasm, and how is it utilized in OT narratives like Daniel 2? How can the “big idea” of an OT narrative be discovered through the relationship between the story’s climax and resolution?
- What are the characteristics of N.T. epistles? What are their key interpretive principles? Explain the indicitive and imperative structure found in many Pauline letters and discuss its implications for teaching/preaching?
- What are the unique characteristics of Hebrew poetry that may be unfamiliar to modern readers? How can we avoid mere moralism and maintain a Christ-centered trajectory in the preaching and teaching of Proverbs?

Presenter

Moderator

Pre-Forum Study Resources

6-Week Individual Study

Release Date: August 1, 2025

Primary Forum Reading | **Preaching and the Literary Forms of the Bible** 135pgs. - Thomas Long (Note: author is not an inerrantist, but helpful on topic.)

Book | <https://a.co/d/6umiyo1>; or <https://tinyurl.com/4uuw7a2p>

- Audio Lecture | **The Bible's Genres** (RGC) 46min- Eric Larson
Audio | <https://tinyurl.com/yc4f7zf9>
Handout | <https://tinyurl.com/2tbfus6p>
- Video | **Why are Literary Genres Important When Studying the Bible?** 13min. - Dr. Robert Plummer
<https://youtu.be/PiHJT7eK-9k>
- Video Lecture | **Preaching from the Old Testament: Particularly Narratives** 50min. - John Woodhouse
<https://youtu.be/-E4nIAHnB5Q>
- Video Lecture | **Preaching OT Narratives** - Nigel Styles
<https://youtu.be/Oser5G7rmfg>
- Video/Book | **How the Proverbs Point Us to Jesus** - Jon Akin
Video | https://youtu.be/cPUe_ilcia0; **Book** | <https://a.co/d/1RaejbV>

Post-Forum Assignment

Utilizing the provided resource, **outline the text and develop a visual story graph of Mark 2:1–12 or Exodus 13:17–14:31**. Meet with a chosen forum participant to discuss your conclusions and the big idea of the text based on your story graph and outline. **Complete by: Sept. 30, 2025**