

# THEOLOGICAL FORUMS



THEOLOGICAL TRAINING  
AT COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH



# Theological Forum Objectives



**1) INCREASED KNOWLEDGE | We study so that we may know God. (Col 1:10)**

*Theological study increases our understanding of God's Wisdom and inflames our hearts to love Him.*

**2) ENHANCED EXPOSITION | We study so that we may faithfully preach and teach Scripture. (2 Tim 2:2)**

*Theological study supports both exegetical analysis and expository teaching & preaching.*

**3) DEEPENED WORSHIP | We study so that we may worship and obey Christ. (Heb 12:28)**

*Theological study is not an end in itself. It is, first and foremost, a spiritual endeavor.*

**4) GROWING CHRISTLIKENESS | We study so that the church may conform to the image of Christ! (Eph 4:22-24)**

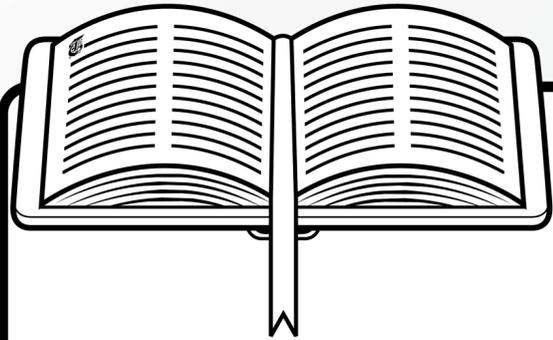
*Theological study, or the revelation of the perfect God, is a gift of grace given by God for our sanctification.*

**What are biblical genres?**

*And why do they matter?*

**Opening Talk**

# The Literary Styles of the Bible



*We recognize*

**The Bible is both Natural and Supernatural**

*God utilized the full scope of human language by human penman to deliver His heavenly message.*

**Simply stated**, the Bible employs literary styles that are familiar to us  
—poetry, narrative, letters, parables, speeches, essays, and songs.

**Though these forms are not unique, the Bible itself is utterly unique.**

**BUT BE CAREFUL!!!**

*The Bible is not just another book—it is the Words of God!*

# Literary Style Distinctions

*Why does this even matter?*

**Here we have a commentary on the various religious sects fighting for power in Iraq. Hagar, representing the Sunni minority in Baghdad, is returning to a neighborhood destroyed by sectarian violence.**

**The real estate agent, a metaphor for the radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr (note the all-black coat) is attempting to lure Hagar into a poorly-protected home, an obvious trap.**

**Helga, who symbolizes the ineffective Nouri al-Maliki regime, stands passively by, unwilling or unable to help Hagar.**

**Do the sects resolve their differences? Of course not, as illustrated by the gathering clouds in the distance.**

\* The author does not agree with the views of the cartoonist. Used for illustration purposes only.

# Literary Style Distinctions

Each Literary genre of the Bible is a unique “Vehicle” that deliver information in different ways.



- **Psalms — Worship.**
- **Narrative — Story.**
- **Letters — Instruction.**
- **Poetry — Expression.**

# Biblical Literary Genres

**Narrative** (historical story)

**Law** (commands and covenant instructions)

**Parable** (teaching stories)

**Poetry** (expressive and symbolic writing)

**Psalms** (songs and prayers)

**Proverbs / Wisdom literature** (wise sayings and reflections)

**Prophetic literature** (messages from God through prophets)

**Apocalyptic literature** (visions about judgment and restoration)

**Letters / Epistles** (instruction and encouragement to churches or individuals)

**Gospels** (theological biographies of Jesus)

**Speeches / Sermons / Discourses** (extended teachings or addresses)

# Dominate Literary Genres of Scripture

43%

**Narrative**



33%

**Poetry**



24%

**Prose Discourse**



# Why did God choose to give us His Word through a variety of literary styles?

*Is the Bible intentional? If so, then why such variety*

- 1. God meets us where we are.**
- 2. God wants us to meet Him as a Person**
- 3. God wants us to enjoy Him through His Word**

# Why Study Biblical Genres?

## *Some Cautions*

- 1. The Bible is Ancient Hebrew Literature**
- 2. Failure to recognize Genre distinctions may lead to reductionistic preaching**

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