



GCI
60 SECOND
SERMON

Genres of Books of the Bible

Historical Narrative

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Scripture that tells the story of people who actually lived and events that actually happened.

When reading this genre:

- Consider the historical context of God's people.
- Reflect on spiritual impact of the events.
- Remember that these events are facts, not myths.

Some books in this genre:

Exodus, Joshua, Ruth, Acts

Sub-genre: The Gospels

Historical narrative scriptures that include eyewitness testimonials about Jesus' life.

The four gospels in the Bible are: Matthew, Luke, Mark and John.

Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the "synoptic gospels" because they include many of the same events.

POETRY

Scripture that is written in vivid figurative language.

When reading this genre:

- Reflect on the symbolism, metaphors, and word pictures.
- Consider the emotion evoked by the text.

Some books in this genre:

Psalms, Song of Solomon, Lamentations

Poetry

Wisdom Literature

WISDOM LITERATURE

Scripture that covers practical topics giving general guidelines for life.

When reading this genre:

- Remember these sayings are principles, not promises,
- Consider the moral and ethical tenet being presented.

Some books in this genre:

Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes

PROPHECY

Scripture that reveals God's word to his covenant people, sharing predictions of future events and warnings of coming judgment.

When reading this genre:

- Remember the filter of reading prophecy is not "when?" but "who?" The focal point of Bible prophecy is this: Who is Jesus Christ and what has he done for human salvation?

Books dedicated totally to prophecy are separated into major and minor categories; not due to the level of their importance but due to their length.

Major Prophets include Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel.

Minor Prophets include Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

Sub-genre: Apocalyptic Literature

Prophetic scripture that describes what the end times will be like.

Old Testament apocalyptic literature can be found in:

- Parts of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Zechariah and Daniel

New Testament apocalyptic literature can be found in:

- Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation

PROPHECY

The
Epistles

THE EPISTLES

Scripture that was originally written as a letter to a particular group of people.

When reading this genre:

- Remember these are "occasioned texts." The circumstances around which they are written are important for understanding their meaning.

Some books in this genre:

Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, James, 1-2 Peter

THE LAW

Scripture that expresses God's will concerning government, priestly duties, and social responsibilities.

When reading this genre:

- Remember that Jesus is the embodiment of the law, and our relationship to the law is transformed through Christ. Our spiritual connection with God is based on a personal relationship with Christ, not on obedience to an impersonal list of rules. Living faith can be to Jesus Christ only, because salvation is through him. Christians are called to live a holy life in obedience to Christ.

Some books in this genre:

Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

THE LAW

