



How to Read Biblical Narrative

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More than 40% of the Bible is written in narrative. What unique contribution does this style bring to the Bible? And how should we read it?



While the Bible is one unified story, it cannot all be read in the same way. The How To Read the Bible series walks through each literary style found in the Bible to show how each uniquely contributes to the overall storyline. Each literary style lives by its own rules and structure.

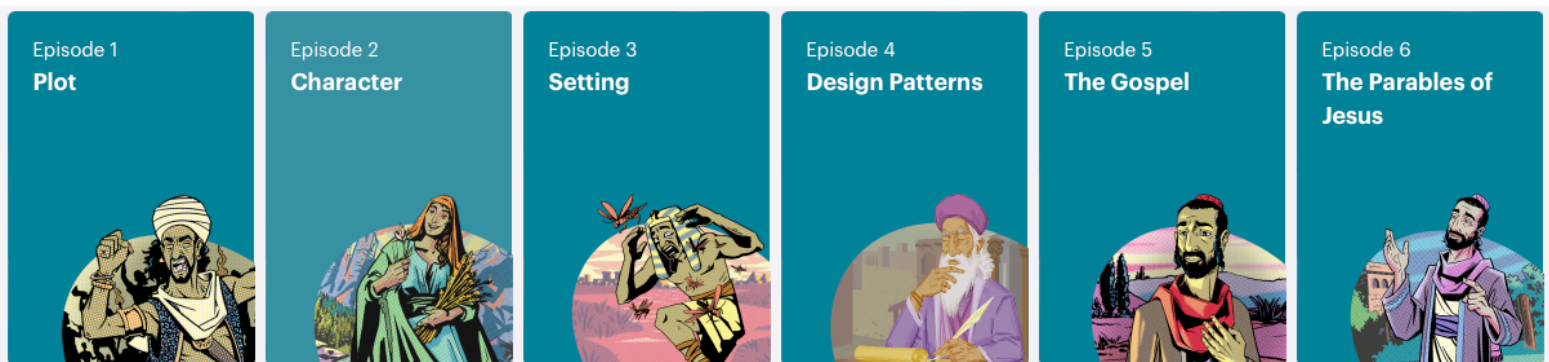
One story, many styles.

The Bible can be broken into several categories of writing. Approximately 43% of the Bible is made up of narrative, from historical narrative to parables. Roughly 33% of the Bible is poetry, including songs, reflective poetry, and the passionate, politically resistant poetry of the prophets. The remaining 24% of the Bible is prose discourse, including laws, sermons, letters, and even one essay.

The Bible is an ancient Jewish collection of sacred literature made up of many different literary styles. Each biblical book uses a combination of all the literary styles to make its unique contribution to the story of the Bible. First, let's take a look at the narrative style of storytelling.

This series should help you understand what the Bible is and the story it tells.

By the end of this series, you will be familiar with every part of the Bible and see how it uses language to communicate who God is, who we are, and the big, redemptive story that we are all living.



Connections between Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 3:1-4:31

Phrase/Word	Acts 2:42-47	Acts 3:1-4:31
"All the people..."	47	3:9, 11, 4:10, 21
"Signs"	43	4:16
Wonder/awe	43	3:10; 4:16
Teaching	42	4:2, 18,
number	47	4:4
Praising God	47	3:8;

*Note Acts 2:42-47 is an "as they went" not just a one time thing that the early church did. They continued these practices throughout the book of Acts and beyond! They experienced the things they did because of the transformation they experienced through the Cycle of Acts 2:42-47.

