# HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

CLASSES

- What is the Bible?
- The Story of the Bible
- The Context of the Bible
- How to Read Literarily

#### **READING LITERARILY**

We read **literally** by learning to read **literarily**. The correct meaning of the text is what the *author intended* to communicate.

Read the Bible for a Change

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## MAJOR TYPES OF LITERATURE

1. Narrative - 44%

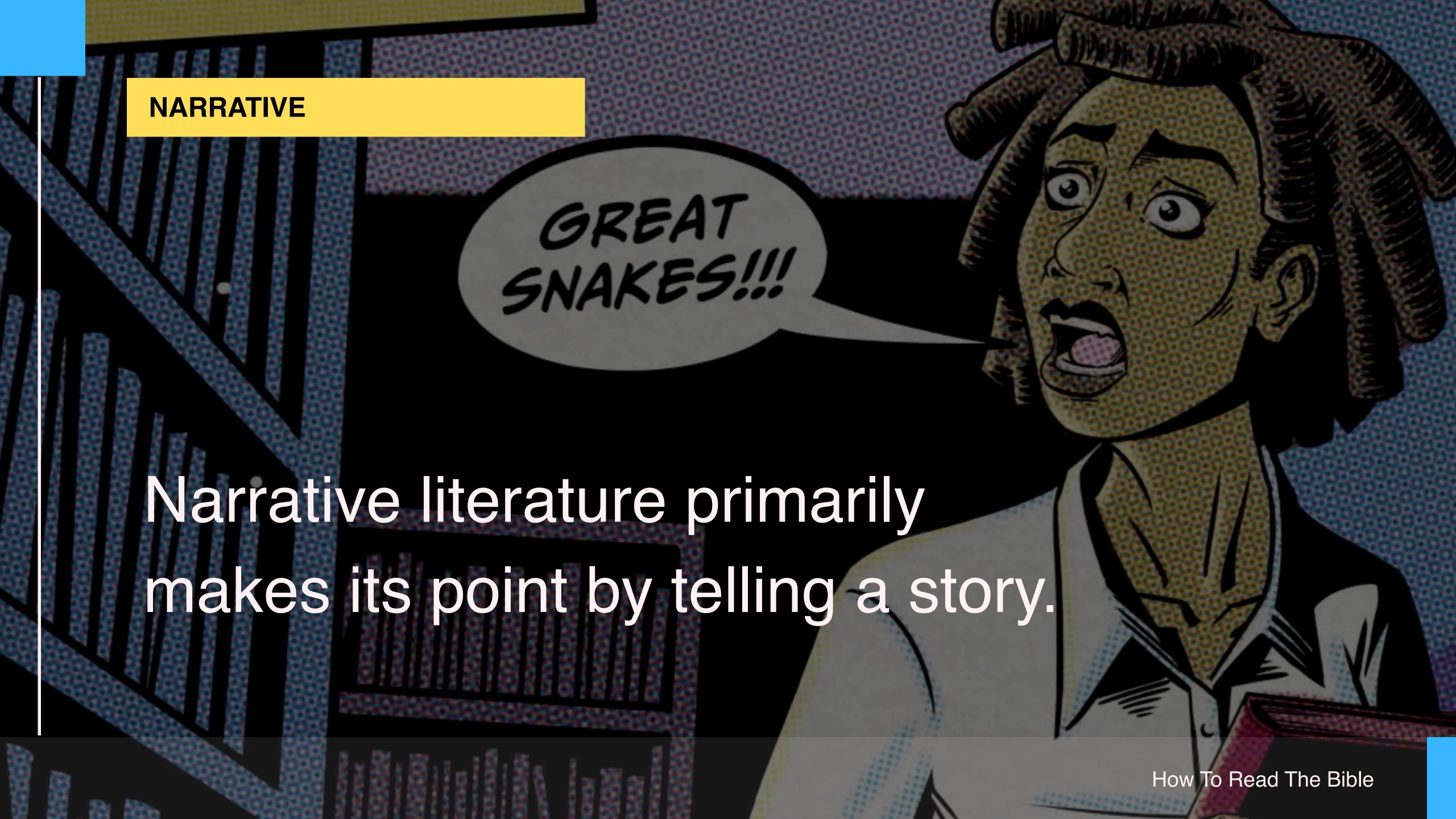
makes its point primarily by telling a story

2. Poetry - 33%

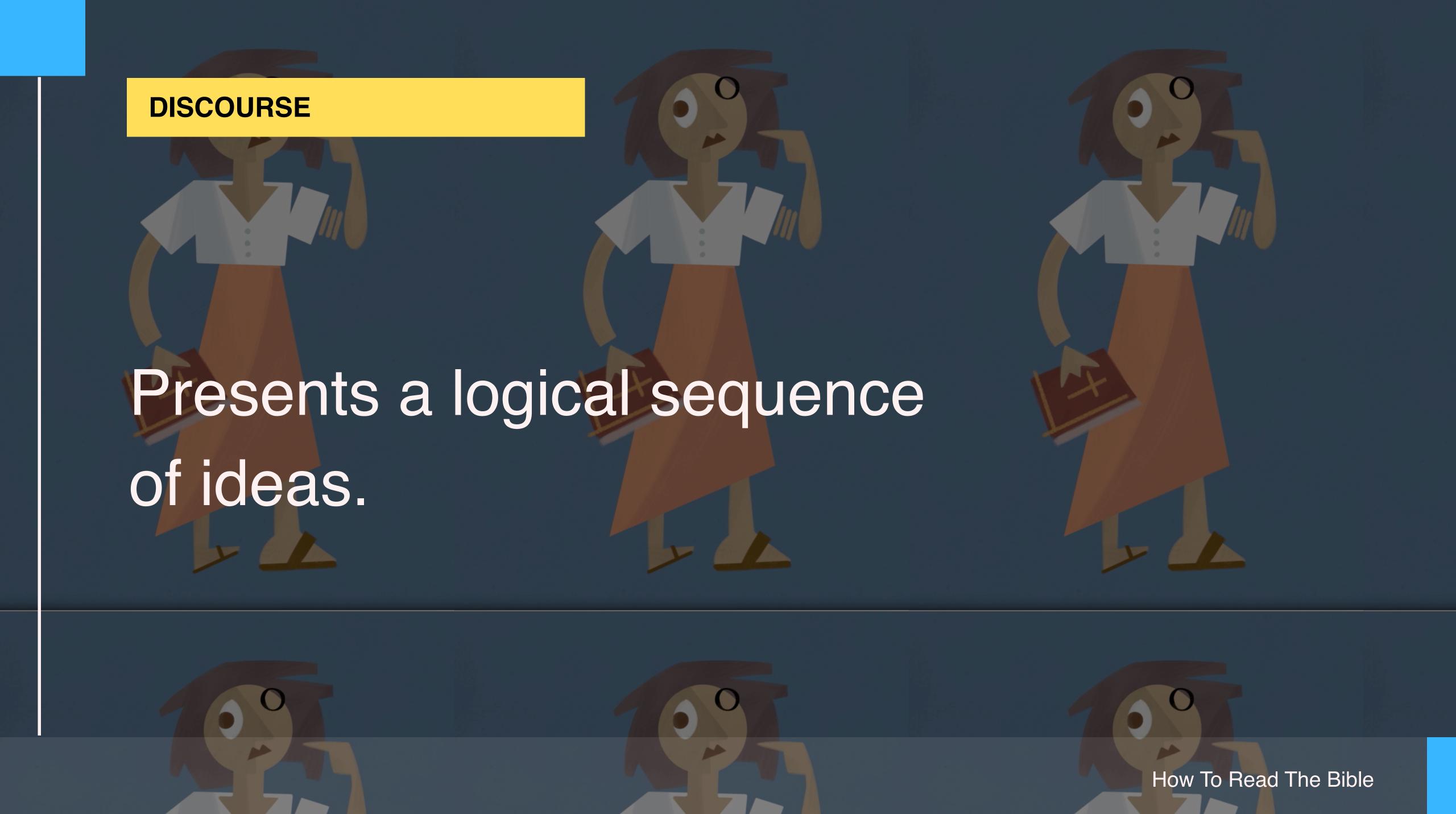
normal language is modified to intensify its impact

3. Discourse - 23%

presents a logical sequence of ideas



# **POETRY** Poetry is where normal language is modified to intensify its impact. How To Read The Bible



#### **GENRES**

Apocalyptic - highly symbolic, concerning end of the world events

Epistle - letters written to early church(es) or individuals

Gospel - the story of the earthly life and ministry of Jesus

**Prophecy** - writing in which the author speaks on behalf of God

**Psalms** - poetic songs

**Story** - records an event or series of events that have take place

Wisdom - offers insights on how to live



TYPE	GENRE	EXAMPLE
Narrative	Apocalyptic Epistle Gospel Prophecy Psalm Story Wisdom	Daneil 8 Acts 15:23-28 Matthew Haggai Psalm 105 Ester Job 1-2
Poetry	Apocalyptic Epistle Gospel Prophecy Psalm Story Wisdom	Rev 19-18 Rom 11:33-36 Lk 1:68-79 Isaiah 5 Psalms Judges 5 Proverbs
Discourse	Apocalyptic Epistle Gospel Prophecy Psalm Story Wisdom	Zechariah 8 1 These Matt 24-25 Isa 40-66 Deut 32 Gal 1:13-2:21 Ecc

#### **READING LITERARILY**

### Simple practicals to read literarily:

- Understand what type of literature you are reading and pay attention to when the type changes (ie. a poem in the middle of a narrative)
- Understand how the type and genre (should) affect your hermeneutic
- Invest in good study Bible
- Discuss what you are reading/understanding in community with others

#### Getting the Most from the Bible - Steve Kinnard

Beginner: an excellent overview to become a better Bible student

#### Read the Bible for a Change - Ray Lubeck

Beginner: a great book helping learn how to properly interpret the Bible

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

How to Read the Bible for all its Worth - Fee & Stuart

Intermediate: a must read for every serious Bible student

How to Read the Bible Book by Book - Fee & Stuart

Intermediate: a companion volume going through each book of the Bible

Reading the Gospels Wisely - Jonathan Pennington

Advanced: an academic volume on gospel hermeneutics