



# 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*



# 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





## NARRATIVE

GREAT  
SNAKES!!!

Narrative literature primarily  
makes its point by telling a story.



An impressionistic painting of a landscape. In the foreground, there are dense, colorful patches of foliage in shades of purple, blue, orange, and yellow. A large, dark tree trunk is visible on the right side, with branches extending upwards. The background shows a hazy, light-colored sky or distant landscape. The overall style is soft and painterly, with visible brushstrokes.

## POETRY

Poetry is where normal language is modified to intensify its impact.



## DISCOURSE

Presents a logical sequence of ideas.





# 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



# BIBLIOGRAPHY

***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*

***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*