

Session #2

How to Read the Bible
Like a Seminary
Professor

The Power of Story:
Practical Strategies
for
Understanding & Communicating
Biblical Narrative

“The meaning of a biblical narrative is to be found in what the author *willed* to teach his reader by recalling this incident.”

Robert H. Stein

A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible

Interpretive Guidelines for the study of Biblical Narrative

1. An author's meaning is always consistent with the **context**.

Example:

1 Samuel 4:1-11 & Gen 5

Interpretive Guidelines for the study of Biblical Narrative

2. The author gives us **clues** about his meaning via **Narrator** comments.

Example:

Genesis 1...note 1:31

Interpretive Guidelines for the study of Biblical Narrative

3. The author may use **repetition** to make his **point**.

Example:

Words: *Judges 2:10 (3:7, 4:1, 6:1, etc.)*
Patterns (NT: Parables, Miracles)

Interpretive Guidelines for the study of Biblical Narrative

4. Careful attention should be paid to **authoritative** and **contrastive** speakers.

Example:

Mark 4:40...4:41...5:7

Interpretive Guidelines for the study of Biblical Narrative

5. Dialogue or direct discourse often centers on the author's **intended meaning**.

Example:

John 4:42

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6. In NT Narrative, **OT quotations** are significant.

Example:

Matthew 2

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7. Carefully observe literary devices such as **irony** and **satire**.

Example:

Ruth & Matthew 16