

LESSON THIRTEEN. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE - HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION:

- 1) TODAY WE WILL BEGIN OUR STUDY OF UNDERSTANDING GENRES BY LOOKING AT *HISTORICAL NARRATIVE*

THINGS WE WILL LOOK AT IN THIS LESSON:

- 1) REVIEW
- 2) UNDERSTANDING HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
- 3) SEPARATE THE ENDURING FROM THE TEMPORARY
- 4) DISCERN THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

PART 1 – REVIEW:

1. FILL IN THE ADJACENT CHART.

| Scripture | A | Middle Word | B |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Matthew 7:24 | Doers of the Word | Like | wise builder |
| Matthew 11:16 | This generation | Like | children |
| Matthew 13:31 | Kingdom of heaven | Like | mustard seed |
| Matthew 13:44 | Kingdom of heaven | Like | treasure |

2. COMPLETE THIS CHART BY STATING—IN ONE SENTENCE—THE ONE BIG LESSON OF EACH PARABLE.

| Parable | Scripture | The one big lesson of the parable |
|----------------------|------------------|--|
| The hidden treasure | Matthew 13:44 | The kingdom is worth sacrificing all we have |
| The mustard seed | Matthew 13:31–32 | The kingdom's small beginning will grow to produce great results |
| The lost coin | Luke 15:8–10 | God treasures all people and is not willing that any should be lost |
| The persistent widow | Luke 18:1–8 | If humans respond to persistence, how much more will God respond to faithful prayer. |

PART 2 – UNDERSTANDING HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

Q 1) WHAT TWO GREAT CHALLENGES ARE THERE WHEN IT COMES TO UNDERSTANDING HISTORICAL NARRATIVE?

A)

EXAMPLE 1) ACTION CONDEMNED BY OTHER BIBLICAL TEACHING...

Numbers 22 does not tell us the sin in Balaam's heart...However, if we look at 2 Peter 2:15 and Jude 1:11, we are given more insight into it...

EXAMPLE 2) ACTION, PROMISE, OR COMMAND CONFIRMED AND REPEATED IN SCRIPTURE...

DESCRIPTIVE PATTERNS:

1. Joshua's command to destroy the Canaanites...
2. Hosea was asked to marry an adulterous wife...
3. David numbered his people and suffered God's wrath...

NORMATIVE PATTERNS:

1. Elijah prayed for a sick boy, and God healed him...
2. The Israelites lifted up their hands in praise and prayer...
3. The Lord's Supper...

EXAMPLE 3) ACTION OR COMMAND AS A CULTURAL PRACTICE OF THE BIBLICAL PERSON...

1. Rachel's generation believed that a mandrake plant assured that a woman would conceive a baby...
2. Ruth asked Boaz to show he would marry her by throwing a corner of his outer robe over her...

PART 4 – DISCERN THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE:

Q 5) WHAT GOAL DO ALL TRUE INTERPRETERS OF THE BIBLE BEGIN WITH?

Q 6) WHAT CAN WE SAY ABOUT A PERSON WHO USES ALLEGORY TO INTERPRET THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Q 7) WHAT ARE THE SEVEN PARTS IN THE PLOT?

Q 8) WHAT THREE QUESTIONS SHOULD WE LEARN TO ANSWER ABOUT A MAIN CHARACTER?

PART 5 – WRAPPING UP:

1. THE BROADER CONTEXT TO CLARIFY THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE...

Sometimes a small story is part of a bigger story.

2. THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE AND THE BIG STORY OF REDEMPTION...

Every story in the Bible is part of the story of salvation.

Q 9) WHAT SIX THEMES SUMMARIZE THE STORY OF SALVATION?
