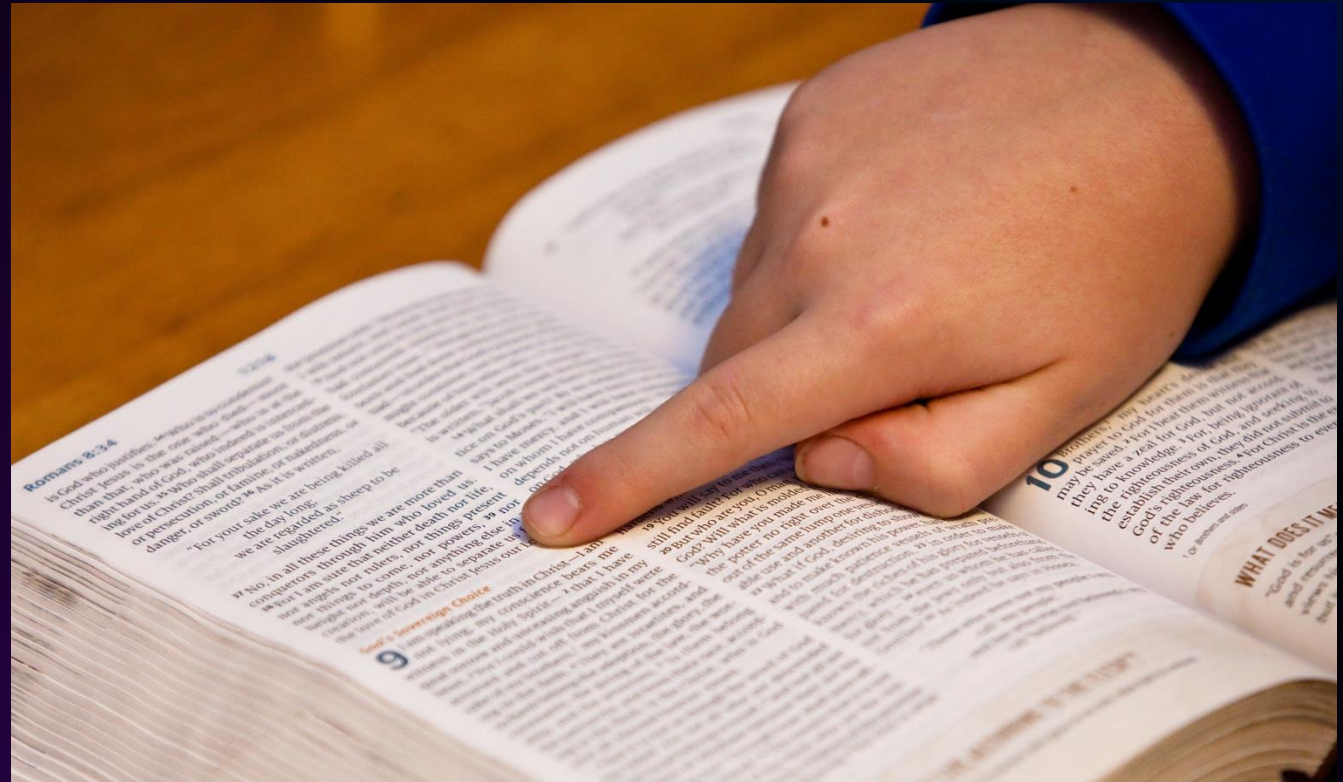


# BIBLE STUDY METHODS

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## *Lesson 10: Literary Types in the Bible*

*TFT: Tim Oakleaf*



# TODAY'S AGENDA

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- **Housekeeping**
- **Review: The Audience Counts**
- **Intro: Reading the Newspaper?**
- **Lesson 10: The Literary Types in the Bible**
- **Takeaways**
- **A Look Ahead**

# HOUSEKEEPING

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1. Handout Class Notes
2. Get Headcount
3. Bathrooms
4. Exit Plan



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# LESSON 9 REVIEW: YOUR TAKEAWAY?

*THE AUDIENCE COUNTS!*  
*WHO NEEDED TO KNOW?*  
*WRITING?*

ALWAYS HAS A PURPOSE!  
*LONG DISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS?*  
REQUIRE EFFORT!

*FORMULA FOR DISCOVERING THE PURPOSE?*

(U) CONTENT -> (E) CONTEXT->  
(D) AUDIENCE-> (D) PURPOSE



# INTRO: READING SECTIONS OF THE NEWSPAPER

*WHICH SECTION DO YOU READ FIRST AND WHY?*

*WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF THAT SECTION?*

*WHICH SECTION DO YOU READ NEXT?*

*DO YOU APPROACH EACH SECTION WITH THE SAME EXPECTATIONS OR MINDSET?*

*WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE BIBLE?*



# ◦ LESSON 10 LITERARY “GENRE”

## *Definition?*

“a distinctive class or category of literary composition”

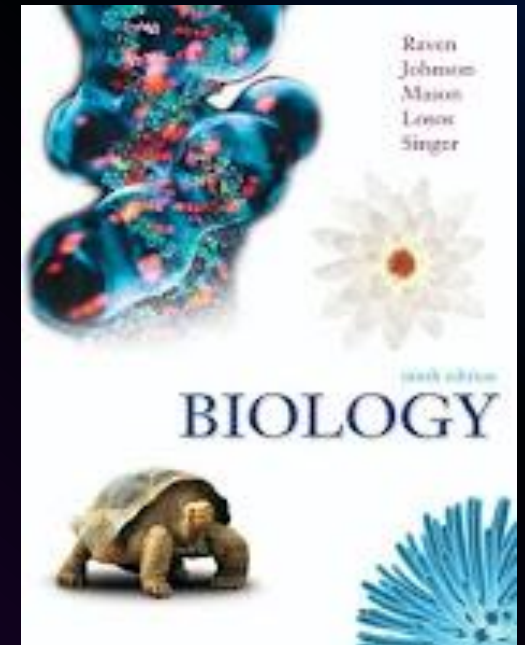
## *Examples?*

Mystery, Science Fiction, Poetry, History...

## *Are they interpreted the same way?*

No. You would not interpret as factual something you read in a comic book! You would not interpret a Biology text as though it was science fiction...

*Though maybe some of it is these days!*



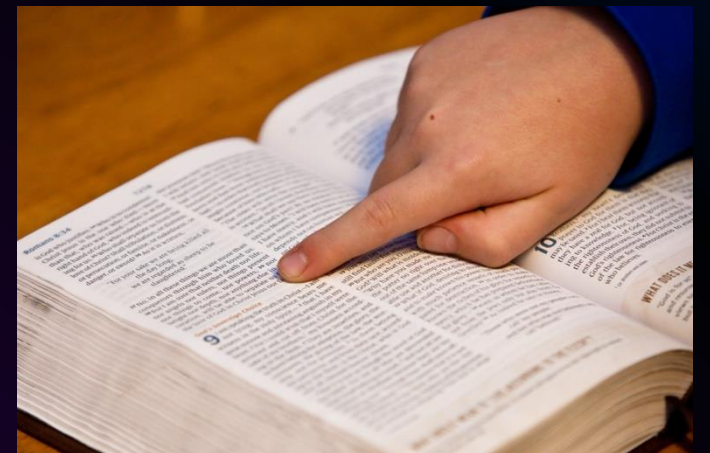


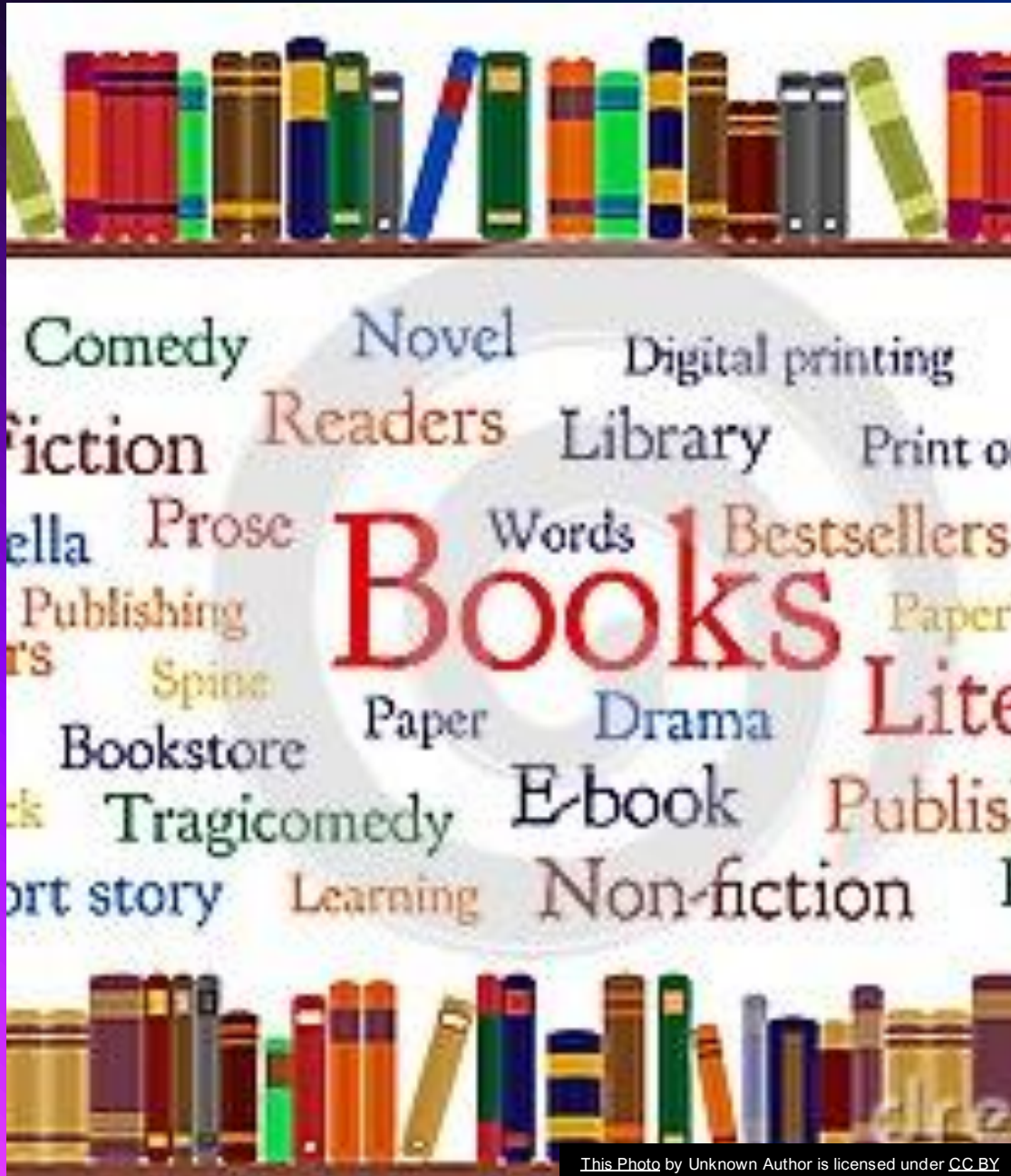
# LESSON 10 LITERARY TYPES

*Would you approach a poem by Robert Frost the same way you would a Tom Clancy novel?*

Of course not. The literary type is associated with the purpose for which it was written. To not recognize the genre is to invite confusion and misinterpretation.

Every serious Bible student needs to realize that God used a variety of literary types (genre or styles) to create His word, the Bible. It is a love letter, but it uses many literary genres with which to get its message across.





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# WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF LITERATURE IN THE BIBLE?

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<b>Parables</b>	<b>(Fiction)</b>
<b>Epistles</b>	<b>(Letters)</b>
<b>Narratives</b>	<b>(Stories)</b>
<b>Poetry</b>	<b>(Verse)</b>
<b>Wisdom</b>	<b>(Instruction)</b>
<b>Prophecy</b>	<b>(Future Events)</b>



# WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND WITH THE PARABLES (FICTION)

Interpreting details can be tricky... *Enough is just right!*

*Liberty not License!* Keep the Main Thing the main thing!



# WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND WITH THE EPISTLES (LETTERS)



**Instructive or prophetic.**

**Address unique issues.**

**Check cross references for clarifying or parallel passages.**

**This is where a good concordance can be helpful.**

**Often more can be found in other epistles.**

**You find something about diligence in Galatians 6:9, James 1:12, 2 Peter 1:10, 2 Timothy 2:15, Philippians 3:14, Colossians 3:23, 2 Corinthians 8:22, Hebrews 6:10-12, among others.**

# WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND WITH THE NARRATIVES (STORIES)

**Examples?** Genesis, Joshua, The Gospels, Acts, among others.

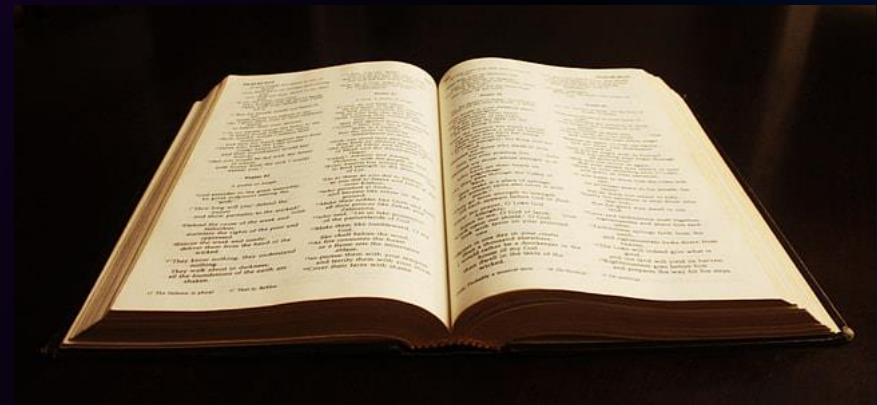
*Not just historical accounts.*

Address unique time frames and  
theological messages.

Matthew is about the life and  
teachings of Jesus. ***Is that all we can get out of Matthew?***

Provides hope to the believing Jew as to the coming kingdom.

***Anything else?***





# WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND WITH POETRY (VERSE)

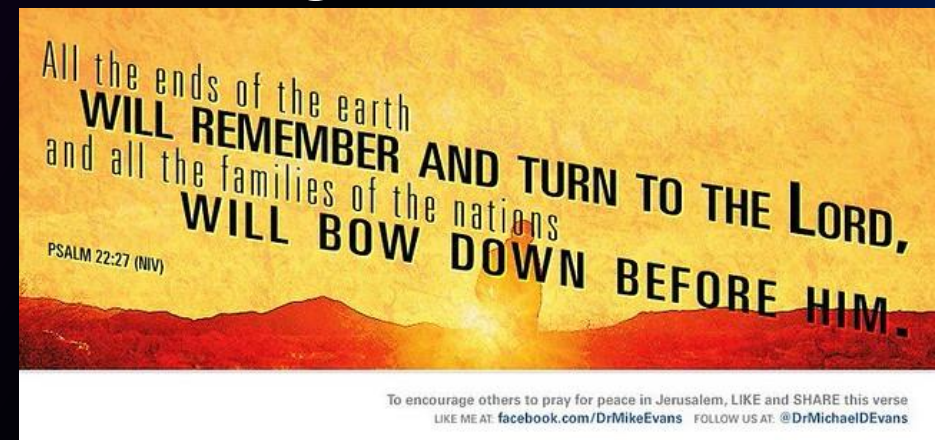
Expresses emotion, praise, lament, supplications, hope, doubt, fear, trust, and other reactions to actual life experiences.

Relatable to what any of us might also experience.

To be spoken or sung. *Examples?* Psalms and Song of Solomon.

Promises should be interpreted considering our eternal existence and not necessarily in one's temporal life.

*Psalm 22:27. When is this?*  
(And *Philippians 2:10+11*)



# WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND WITH WISDOM (INSTRUCTION)



Includes advice, consequences to choices, and descriptions of the human experience.

**Examples?** Primarily Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

Observations using comparison and contrast.

Not always universally applicable, sometimes general guidelines.

Looking at diligence again, we find “The hand of the diligent makes rich”. **Always?**

No. God’s sovereignty applies individually.

# WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND WITH PROPHECY (FUTURE EVENTS)

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Key point: Future from the time of composition! *Why?*

**Some have been fulfilled already but was future when written.**

Use symbols extensively. For examples, Daniel and Revelation.

**Always remember: 1. Symbols refer to something that is literal.**

**2. Symbols are explained in the book or other parts of the Bible. For example, “Lamb” in Revelation is also in Isaiah.**





# WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND WITH PROPHECY (FUTURE EVENTS)

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Not applying these methods can make one susceptible to exaggeration and speculative interpretations that produce errors.

Symbols need to be investigated with careful precision and with respect for the author's purpose in using them.

For example: *Why a lamb?*

And: *Why the rock?*

*John 1:29, Ephesians 2:20*



# CONCLUSION

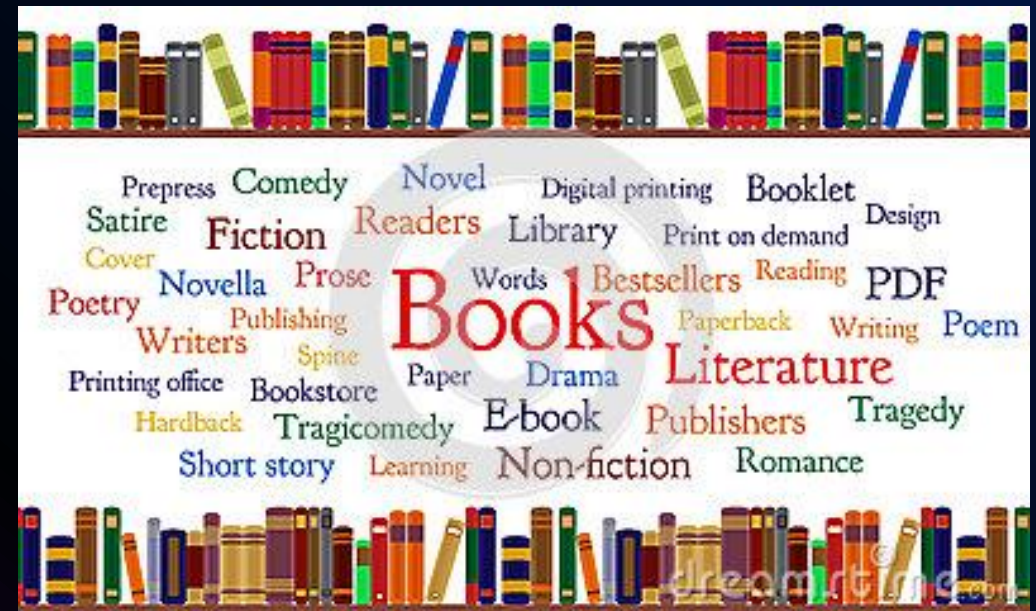
**Key Questions as a general approach to the literature in the Scriptures:**

- 1. Descriptive or Prescriptive?**
- 2. Command or Promise?**
- 3. Circumstantial or Universal?**
- 4. Conditional or Unconditional?**



# TAKE AWAYS

- Parable?
- Epistle?
- Narrative?
- Poetry?
- Wisdom?
- Prophecy?





# ONE NEW RESOURCE

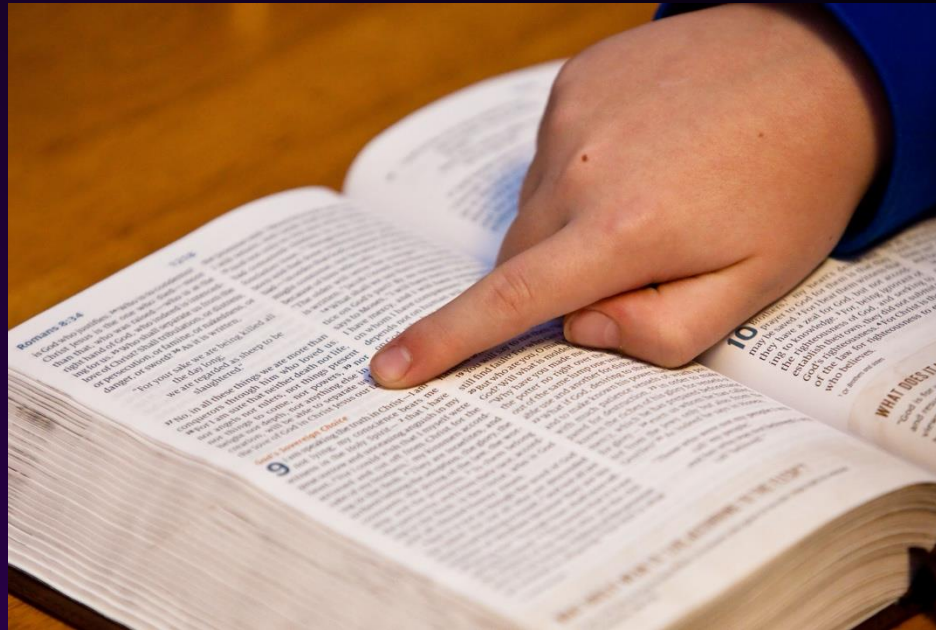
*Living by the Book* by Howard G. & William D.  
Hendricks



# NEXT WEEK: JOE IS BACK!

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## *Lesson 11: Determining the Intended Application*





***SEE YOU NEXT  
TIME!***

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