

B. Interpreting Apocalyptic Literature

- Understand background
 - Looking and longing
 - Understand genre
 - Multiple genres
 - “Unveil”
 - Symbolic language
 - Understand the purpose
 - To help churches face persecution
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How To Study the Bible Schedule

Class 1: The Inductive Study Method Pt 1

Class 2: The Inductive Study Method Pt 2

Class 3: Studying the Old and New Testaments

Class 4: The Bible’s Genres

Class 5: Using Commentaries & Other Bible Study Tools

Class 6: Studying Difficult Passages and Familiar Passages

Class 7: Workshop - Putting It All Together

Further Questions?

Feel free to email me at eric@rgcvt.org

Core Seminars—How to Study the Bible

Class 4: The Bible’s Genres

“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (Luke 24:44)

I. What are Biblical Genres?

Means of categorizing books by style, structure, form tone context and literary technique

Biblical Genres	
Genre	Book
Historical/Law Narrative	Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I and II Samuel, I and II Kings, I and II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah
Wisdom	Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes
Poetry	Psalms, Song of Solomon, Lamentations
Prophecy	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
Apocalyptic	Daniel, Revelation of John
Gospel	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts
Epistle	Romans, I and II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I and II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I and II Peter, I, II and III John, Jude

II. Studying Histories & Narratives

- A. The Bible primarily deals with three historical events:
 1. The Exodus from Egypt
 2. The Exile in Babylon
 3. The death and resurrection of Jesus and the Inauguration of the Church

III. Wisdom and Poetic Writings

- A. What is wisdom literature?
 1. Proverbial vs Speculative Wisdom

- B. What is poetic literature?
 1. Figurative
 2. Often written in couplets
 3. Rhythmical
 - a) Synonymous parallelism
 - b) Antithetic parallelism
 - c) Synthetic parallelism

IV. The Gospels and Acts

- A. Genre: Biography vs Legitimization
- B. Chronology
- C. Harmony

V. The Epistles

- A. Structured in three parts: Opening, Body, Closing

- B. Studying Epistles:
 1. We often have one side of the conversation
 2. Balancing original and modern audience
 3. Indicative/Imperative pattern

VI. Prophetic and Apocalyptic Literature

- A. Interpreting the prophets
 1. Discern the immediate context –structure and flow
 2. Discern the central message (judgment, salvation, or something else).
 3. Study the balance between forth-telling and foretelling
 4. Determine what kind of language is being used (Poetic? Disputation? Narrative?) Literary forms are often crucial in determining the author's meaning and intent.
 5. Place these texts in their overall place in redemptive-history. In doing this, be careful not to make wrong associations between Israel and your nation or church.
 6. Try not to impose your theological system on the text (whether dispensational, covenantal, etc.).
 7. Be alert for certain reoccurring and sweeping themes, especially those that bear on the relationships between the testaments (e.g. temple, marriage and spiritual adultery, new birth, etc).
 8. Consider how the New Testament authors employ your passage, or at least your book.