

- Look to the rest of Acts to clarify what is normative.
- Look for repeated patterns and themes.

17. Revelation

The word “*revelation*” (*apokalypsis* in Greek) suggests that something once hidden is now being unveiled or openly displayed.

Original context: false religion is forming a partnership with pagan political and economic power to pressure those who claim to follow Christ. Will they compromise with the world to avoid persecution or openly confess Christ and experience trouble?

Revelation is a *prophetic-apocalyptic letter* that uses strange images to bring heavenly perspective and hope to a struggling people. The *main message* of Revelation is *God will win!*

Guidelines for reading Revelation:

- Read Revelation with humility.
- Try to discover the message to the original readers.
- Don't try to discover a strict chronological map of future events.
- Take Revelation seriously, but don't always take it literally.
- Pay close attention when John identifies an image.
- Look to the Old Testament and the historical context of the book when interpreting images and symbols.

18. OT Narrative

Biblical narratives are *theological history*.

The meaning derives primarily from the action of the characters.

Not all of the human characters are “good” models for us.

God is often a central character in the story.

Narrator is a synonym for *author*.

Narrative episodes are usually longer in the OT than the NT.

Literary features of OT narrative: Plot, setting, characters, viewpoint of the narrator, comparison/contrast, and irony.

19. OT Law

Traditional approach: distinguishes between moral, civil, and ceremonial laws (not an appropriate distinction). Rather:

1. Study the law within its narrative context.
2. Interpret the law within its covenant context.
 - a. The Mosaic covenant is associated with the conquest and occupation of the land.
 - b. Blessings for the Mosaic covenant are conditional.
 - c. The Mosaic covenant is no longer a functional covenant.
 - d. The OT law as part of the Mosaic covenant is no longer applicable as law.
 - e. We must interpret the law through the grid of NT teaching.

20. OT Poetry

Elements of OT Poetry:

- Terseness (minimum number of words)
- Structure
 1. Parallelism (synonymous, developmental, illustrative, contrastive, formal)
 2. Acrostics

Figurative Imagery:

1. Analogy (simile, metaphor, indirect analogy, hyperbole, personification)
2. Substitution (effects and causes, representation)
3. Miscellaneous (apostrophe, irony)
4. Wordplays

The function of Psalms: to “give us inspired models of how to talk and sing to God.”

21. OT Prophets

Basic prophetic message:

1. You have broken the covenant; you had better repent!
2. No repentance? Then judgment!
3. Yet, there is hope beyond the judgment for a glorious, future restoration.

Three indictments:

1. Idolatry
2. Social injustice
3. Religious ritualism

22. OT Wisdom Books

Wisdom: that combination of knowledge and character that allows one to live in the real world in a right and godly manner.

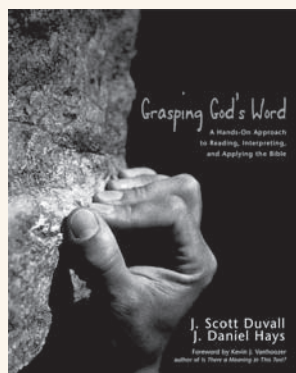
Proverbs: the rational ordered norms of life.

The exceptions to Proverbs:

Job—the suffering of the righteous

Ecclesiastes—the failure of the rational, ordered approach to provide ultimate meaning to life

Song of Songs—the irrationality of romantic love between a husband and wife.



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