



How to Interpret OT Narratives

Vital Life

April 2017

Session One

Operating Assumption

The Bible is God's word

Unique authority

Unique purpose

God speaking to us

So, growing in Biblical interpretation is:

Learning how to _____

Challenges to Proper Interpretation

Atomism/Piecemeal Approach

Premature Personal Application

Unfamiliarity with Story, Characters & Places

What is needed:

The Nature of Story

Elements:

Setting

Characters

Plot

Intro

Conflict

Resolution

(Repeat?)

Conclusion

Moral/Theme/Purpose

Authorial Intent

The Story of Scripture

What is the overall storyline of Scripture?

See Goldsworthy handout

Important Structural Themes for OT Narratives (esp. for Christian readers)

Reading *Christianly*

Seed

Prophet, Priest & King

Deut 18:15-18

Psalm 110:4; Heb 6:20; 9:1-15

Gen 17:6; Deut 17:14-20; 2 Sam 7

Suffering Servant

Covenant Fidelity

Abraham

Exodus

Sinai

Lev 18:5

So, what is the story of Ruth?

The Bible Project (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h1eoBeR4Jk>)

Placing Ruth in Canonical Context

Two Historical Approaches

1. After Proverbs

cf. Ruth 3:11; Prov 31:10

2. Between Judges & 1 Samuel

cf. Ruth 1:1; 4:18-20

HOMEWORK:

Read Ruth in 1 sitting, as many times as you can, preferably aloud.

Seek a sense of the whole.

Consider it as a drama:

Where does Ruth fit in the Biblical storyline?

What markers help us to make sense of its meaning and purpose?