

# Hermeneutics

## Session 3

### Biblical Genres: Historical Narrative

# Biblical Genres

- Historical Narrative
- Gospels
- Epistles
- Wisdom Literature
- Poetry
- Parable
- Prophecy
- Apocalypse

# Historical Narrative

- Biblical Philosophy of History
  - History is not random; it has a purpose
  - History is divinely planned and guided
  - Salvation history has a plan, timeline, and goal
  - The historian comes to the task with a mindset and assumptions
  - Historians' assumptions control which events are included and how they are interpreted

# Historical Narrative

- In the Biblical genre of Historical Narrative, God is the communicator of salvation history
- The historical record of Scripture shows selection of events necessary to tell the development of the salvation story
- God is the architect of history:
  - Ephesians 1:7-12

# Interpretive Principles

- Historical Narrative is approached differently than other genres, such as poetry
- Historical Narrative account of the defeat of Sisera (Judges 4:12-21)
- Poetic account of the same event (Judges 5)
- The genre shows that Christianity is founded upon real events in actual history

# Interpretive Principles

- Assume that the events are true, including miracles
- Where parallel historical passages of the same event exist in Scripture, read those also
- Think about why this historical detail is there
  - Why is it at this point in the timeline?
  - Why are these details written, and not others?
  - What does this event tell us about the relationship between God and His people?

# Interpretive Principles

- Find out when the event happened on the salvation timeline
  - A study Bible can give facts about:
    - The year that an event happened
    - Who a prophet ministered to (Israel or Judah)
    - May include visual timelines