



× Genre

- + A genre is a form of writing.
- + Each genre has its own rules. That is why we can recognize genres.
- + The rules of a genre are extremely important in rightly interpreting any given text.



× Proverbs

- + Proverb – a pithy (short, compact) saying that reveals a general truth. It is not a universal promise.
- + Proverbs 22:6 is often misapplied.
- + The big problem with Job's friends is they universalized proverbs.
- + The only time they are universal is when they present a timeless truth about God (e.g. Prov 1:7).



- × Prophecy
- × Rules of prophetic genre
 - + Jeremiah 18:7-10. This is the rule for judgment & blessing prophecies (explains why Jonah is not a false prophet).
 - + Language of prophecy is often symbolic or figurative. It is not scientific, but is imagery focused (e.g. the stars fell from heaven, the earth quaked, and the moon turned to blood).
 - + Ex. Isaiah 13:9-11 (read). What is this about? Understand cosmic terminology.
 - + NT use of OT prophecy often takes a lot background study to reveal the hermeneutic.



- × Prophecy (rules continued).
 - + There may be a blending of more than one event in the prophecy (virgin birth in Isaiah 7-9).
 - + The authors of Scripture had a concept of "Corporate Solidarity." This is one key in understanding Christ's relationship to many prophecies (things originally applied to Israel, now applied to Christ).



× Apocalyptic

- + Uses bizarre imagery and symbolism (be careful in interpretation)
- + Not designed to give a detailed road map of the future.
 - × Not every detail is meant to mean something profound. So each vision has one basic idea.
- + General focus of God's plan for the future (eschatological). Stronger eschatology than prophecy.
- + Unique view of history (divides it compartmentally between present evil age and the age to come).



× Apocalyptic vs. Prophecy

- + Prophecy deals with God's activity in history and what He is doing right now. Apocalyptic focuses on God's activity outside of history and beyond it.
- + In prophecy God speaks to prophets directly. In apocalyptic, God usually speaks to people through angels and visions.



✘ Poetry vs. Prose

- + Exodus 14 (prose) and 15 (poetry)
- + The song in chapter 15 recounts the same event, and it uses very fire language even though the army was drowned. So the meaning is literal (God destroyed people), but the words are not to be taken literally.



✘ Hebrew poetry

- + Based on metrical patterns of syllables, accent stressing, and so on.
- + Parallelism (synonymous, synthetic, antithetical, non-parallelism)
 - ✘ Synonymous – The second poetic line repeats the first poetic line with no added meaning.
 - ✘ Synthetic – The second line further elaborates on the first line, further defining or adding additional information.
 - ✘ Antithetical – This is where the second line is in contrast or opposite to the first line (makes point of the first line by showing the opposite).



× Hebrew Poetry (continued).

- + Paronomasia (play on words; ex. Amos 8 – fruit and the end is near).
- + Alliteration
- + Acrostics (each line begins with a successive letter of the alphabet)
- + Assonance (repetition of certain vowel sounds)
- + Figurative Language (simile and metaphor)



× Psalms

- + Lament Psalms – Ps 22
 - × Upset over a circumstance and petition God. Typical parts: 1) address to God; 2) description of distress (often figurative); 3) plea for redemption; 4) statement of confidence in God; 5) confession of sin; 6) vow or pledge; 7) conclusion.
- + Hymns or Praise Psalms (celebrate the joy of worshipping YHWH). Ps 139
 - × 1) Calling on God; 2) call to worship; 3) motivation for worship; 4) conclusion (repeating the call to praise).



× Psalms

- + Thanksgiving Psalms (thanks God for answering a specific prayer) Ps 32.
 - × 1) Invitation to give thanks to God; 2) account of the trouble and deliverance; 3) acknowledges God for saving work; 4) offertory formula for sacrifice ceremony; 5) blessings over participants in the ceremony; 6) exhortation.
- + Wisdom Psalms – Ps 1
 - × 1) Like Proverbs. It contrasts the wise and the fool, the righteous and the wicked.



× Suggestions for interpreting Psalms

- + Note the sub-genre of the psalm, consider the original setting (as best as one can determine).
- + Be aware of figurative language (poetry). These are song poetry and use strong figurative language.
- + Be aware the psalm may give general guidance (proverbs). It is not always universal.



× Historical Narratives

- + True history, but written theologically. This means its content is precisely chosen and ordered to meet the theological goal of the author.
- + Context (individual narrative should be interpreted in light of the whole account).
- + Narrator comments (Mark 7:19)
- + Thematic statements that interpret the entire work (Acts 1:8)
- + Repetition (e.g. Judges, "there was not king and everyone did what was right in his own eyes).