## Genres of Scripture

A Look at How God Communicates

## Help in Developing:

▶ A STRATEGY!!!

#### What is in the Bible?

God communicating

God communicating well

God communicating Himself

#### **How Does God Communicate?**

Diverse Personalities

- Diverse Styles
  - Prophecy
  - Historical Narrative
  - Epistle
  - Poetry

#### Does the Genre Matter?

Understanding HOW God communicates helps us to better orient ourselves with the overall message

### Where do I start?

- Context
  - Setting
  - Background
  - Author and audience

#### Where do I start?

- Purpose
  - Why is this story in the Bible?
  - How does it fit into the larger theme of Scripture?

### Where do I start?

- Style
  - How will understanding the writing style help me understand the message?

## **OT Prophets**

#### A Conversation:

- God to prophet
- God to the people
- Prophet to God
- Prophet to the people

## Helpful Hints

Group and summarize each conversation.

Connect the smaller conversations.

Connect the message of the book with the larger general theme of Scripture.

## Prophecy of Habakkuk

- Style
  - Conversation between God and Habakkuk
- Context
  - Approaching judgment of Judah
  - Habakkuk wrestle, embrace

#### The Conversation

- Chapter 1 Habakkuk struggles to reconcile God's character with God's judgment.
- Chapter 2 God speaks.
- Chapter 3 Habakkuk embraces God in faith.

#### The Overall Picture

The theme – Just shall live by faith.

God communicating Himself to you

## Historical Narrative



#### The Book of Ruth

- Context The days when judges ruled
- Identify the major characters
- Group each scene
- Assemble the scenes into complete picture

#### The Overall Picture

The immediate theme

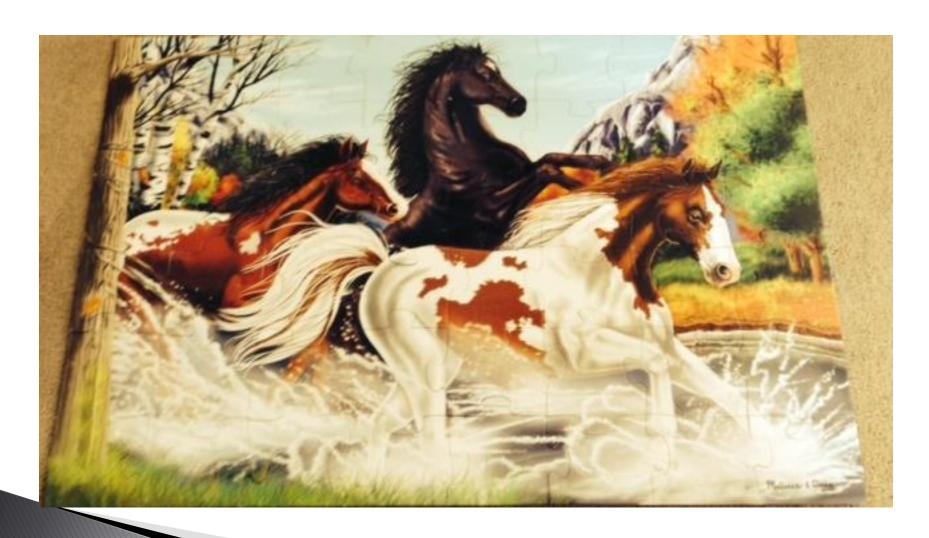
Redemptive History

The larger theme

# **Epistles**



## How do we get here?



## Assembling the Puzzle

- Context
  - Identify author and audience
- Organize the pieces
  - Transition words are usually very important
- Assemble the picture

## II John - Love and Truth

- Piece 1 The bond of love through truth
- Piece 2 True love is continuing in truth
- Piece 3 Walk of love is threatened by deceivers who do not walk in truth
- Full picture We fulfill the commandment to love by habitually walking in truth and fellowshipping those who walk in truth.

## **Poetry**

One Man's Experience

▶ Full Range of Emotion

Orientation, Disorientation, Reorientation