

Bible Seminar: Understanding the Bible – Skill No. 6: Learn the Genre

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”
2 Timothy 2:15*

Review:

- Skill No. 1: Learn to See
- Skill No. 2: Learn to Read
- Skill No. 3: Learn the Context
- Skill No. 4: Learn the Background
- Skill No. 5: Learn the Story



Skill No. 6: Learn the Genre

- **What Are Genres?** *A style or type or form of literature.*
 - **History:** Story form of literature, involving plot, setting, and characters.
 - *Genesis; Exodus 1-19; Numbers; Joshua; Judges; Ruth; 1-2 Samuel; 1-2 Kings; 1-2 Chronicles; Ezra; Nehemiah, Esther, Jonah; Acts*
 - **Law:** Legal form of literature, involving commands and rules.
 - *Exodus 19-40; Leviticus; Deuteronomy*
 - **Poetry:** Poetic form of literature, involving figurative language, repetition, and other poetic devices.
 - *Psalms; Song of Solomon; Lamentations*
 - **Prophecy:** Declarative form of literature, involving prediction, exhortation, admonition, and often symbolism.
 - *Isaiah, Jeremiah; Ezekiel; Daniel; Hosea; Joel; Amos; Obadiah; Jonah; Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah; Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi*

- **Letters:** Situational form of literature, involving specific content for specific audiences.
 - *Romans, 1-2 Corinthians; Galatians; Ephesians; Philippians; Colossians; 1-2 Thessalonians; 1-2 Timothy; Titus; Philemon; Hebrews; James; 1-2 Peter; 1-3 John; Jude*
- **Wisdom:** Proverbial form of literature, involving wise sayings, poetic reflection, and practical inquiry.
 - *Job; Proverbs; Ecclesiastes*
- **Gospel:** Eyewitness form of literature, involving historical narrative and parabolic stories.
 - Matthew; Mark; Luke; John
- **Apocalypse:** Symbolic form of literature; involving extensive figurative language.
 - Daniel 7-12; Revelation



- **Why Learn Genres?**
 - **Informs How to Apply Skill No. 1:**
What Should I Look For?
 - **Informs How to Apply Skill No. 2:** How
Should I Read This?
 - **Informs How to Apply Skill No. 3:** How
Are These Words Used?
 - **Informs How to Apply Skill No. 4:**
Why Was This Written?
 - **Informs How to Apply Skill No. 5:**
How Does This Fit in the Story?