

Narratives

Narratives ***are not*** epistles

3 levels of narrative

Bible's plot line- metanarrative

Constituting God's people- OT and NT

Individual stories- big and small- Joseph story

Narratives

How do narratives teach?

Nature of Narrative

History- not fiction

Interpreted history

Selectivity- like press

Point of View

Occasion and Purpose- Compare Kings and Chronicles

Theological/prophetic history

Value judgments

“Stability was at last brought to Israel by the vigorous Omri, whose seizure of the throne we have noted. Though his reign was brief, he was able to establish a dynasty that held power to the third generation, and to initiate a policy that restored to Israel a measure of strength and prosperity.”
Bright, p. 240.

Cp. 1 Kgs 16:25 **Omri** did **evil** in the sight of the LORD, and acted more wickedly than all who *were* before him.

Omniscience- knows all points of view

Morality

Carefully crafted literature

How Narratives communicate-

Must look for the story

But also look at how the story is told

Features of narrative

Subtle

Succinct

Movie tricks

foreshadowing
characters
scenery
change of perspective
background music

How to read narratives

Movie critics

Point out features

Look for narrator

Point of view of narrator

Narrative insertions

Structural features

1. Setting-
 - A. physical- physical characteristics, place
 - B. symbolic- place names, reference to theological concepts
 - C. temporal- time frame, place in history
 - D. cultural- historical, cultural context
2. Characterization- protagonist, antagonist- few physical descriptions
 - A. known by direct description
 - B. Other character's response
 - C. Own words and thoughts
 - D. self-characterizations
 - E. actions
 - F. moral context- they murder and we are supposed to know it is wrong.
3. Plot- quest, conflict
 - A. physical conflict
 - B. character conflict- 2 personalities, ie Jacob and Laban
 - C. moral conflict- struggling between doing right and wrong
4. Scene- usually 2 or 3 characters
5. Climax- resolution?
6. Point of View-
7. Dialogue- important tool of narrator
 - A. Often summarizes
 - B. clue to character
 - C. clue to significance
8. Repetition- key words- Chesed in Ruth
9. Patterns- Gen 1-11
 - A. Grace, Rebellion, Judgment, New Grace- no new grace in Babel story
10. Comparison, Contrast and Analogy- Ruth and Orpah, Boaz and kinsman

11. Ambiguity and Omission- Rebekkah does not die,
12. Narrated time-
13. Jumps in space-
14. Interruptions-
15. Structural symmetry-

Elijah at the cave 1 Kgs 19:9ff.

1. Setting of the cave and the word came
 2. LORD's question- What are you doing here
 3. Answer- I have been zealous
 4. Then the LORD said
 5. Wind- not in the wind
 6. Earthquake- not in the earthquake
 7. Fire- not in the fire
 8. Sound of silence
1. Setting at the cave and a voice came
 2. Question- what are you doing here
 3. Answer- I have been zealous
 4. Then the LORD said
 5. Anoint Hazael
 6. Anoint Jehu
 7. Anoint Elisha
 8. 7000 have not bowed the knee

The downfall of Solomon- 1 Kgs 1-11

- A. prophet intervenes in the royal succession- 1:1-2:12
 - B. Solomon eliminates threats to his security- 2:13-46
 - C. The early promise of his reign- 3:1-15
 - D. Solomon uses his gift for the people- 3:16-4:34
 - E. Preparation for building the temple- 5:1-18
 - F. Solomon builds the temple- 6:1-37
 - G. Solomon Builds rival buildings- 7:1-12
 - F. Solomon furnishes the temple- 7:13-51
 - E. Solomon dedicates the temple, warned by God- 8:1-9:9
 - D. Solomon uses his gifts for himself- 9:10-10:29
 - C. Tragic failure of Solomon's reign- 11:1-13
 - B. The LORD raises up threats to Solomon's reign- 11:14-25
- A Prophet determines royal succession 11:26-43

16. Intertextual allusions
17. Repetition and cross textual allusions-
18. Theological implications

God is the hero of Biblical Narratives

Principles of interpretation

Read carefully looking at details and ask why they are there- look at the fish

Read a few times and listen to your emotions- guts

Rejoice with the good

Be angry with the evil

If you interact in this way, you get it

Look for Narrators clues

Parsimony- simplest explanation is the best

Line out verbs- divide into scenes, note interruptions

Highlight Dialogue

Divide into Scenes

Storyboarding