

# Genres of the Bible

Prayer for the aid of the Holy Spirit is the most important principle for understanding the Bible. It is also helpful to recognize different genres because, for example, one shouldn't try to read poetry the same way narrative is read. It aids reading comprehension when the reader knows an approach that fits the genre.

Genre	Percent	Books	Tips for Interpretation
Historical Narrative; Includes stories	_____	Gen, ¾ Ex, ¾ Num, 12% of Duet. Joshua – Esther. 5% of Is, ½ of Dan, 80% of Gospels, Acts	Easy understanding even for children because _____ is usually obvious when read _____ at face value. However, things can be missed/misunderstood if the reader lacks knowledge of _____, culture and _____ background. <b>Note:</b> Knowing the narratives is important for catching meanings in the poetry and prophecy sections of Scripture. Names of _____ and _____ in Israel's history are often used as metaphors in the poetry of the prophets and as symbols in Daniel and Revelation.
_____	28%	<u>Wisdom literature:</u> Job, Ps, Eccl, Song of S. <u>Prophets:</u> Isaiah to Malachi (95% of Is, not Daniel).	Much of the _____ of Scripture is Hebrew <i>parallelism</i> . Knowing one line will give meaning similar to the previous line aids the reader in understanding. Knowing the <i>imagery</i> of _____, similes and _____ is essential for clear comprehension. <b>Note:</b> Examples are needed.
Compostion: Instruction, letters (Law & Epistles)	_____	¼ Ex, All Lev, ¼ Num, 88% of Duet. <u>Pauline Epistles:</u> Romans to Hebrews. <u>Gen. Epistles:</u> James to Jude	It's important to read every verse in its _____. That includes the surrounding verses, the whole chapter & _____, other writings by the same writer and other Bible writers. <i>Word studies</i> and <i>historical background</i> are also important for understanding, as well as _____ Scripture with Scripture. When enough comparing is done, Scripture _____ itself. <b>Note:</b> Contextual reading can actually be difficult to do, especially in Paul's epistles. It's easy to just _____ one is reading in context, but this is how most doctrinal error arises. Without realizing it, verses are given meaning outside of the context.
Apocalyptic Prophecy	_____	½ of _____ Revelation	Uncoding symbolism is one major key for interpreting this type of prophecy. People and places (ex. Jezebel, Mt. Zion) and strange animals (7 headed dragon, lion with wings) are symbolic.
_____	_____	In the Gospels	These are largely _____ stories with much that's true to life from the customs of Jesus' day. Each one focuses on _____ main point, some with some supporting figurative details. Jesus explained some of them to his disciples, which also helps us. <b>Note:</b> Parables are _____ allegories where every detail means something. Don't over interpret them. They are not meant to be read literally. Just look for the key _____.
_____	2%	_____	These _____ sayings are usually isolated without much context. _____ try to read it like a narrative. _____ contemplating a proverb is often essential for seeing deeply. <b>Note:</b> Since these are on life's lessons, there isn't usually danger of making grave errors in interpretation that would result in false doctrine. Enjoy the pearls of wisdom while asking God to help you see and apply these to your life.