BIBLE GENRE GUIDE

Below you will find a list of how each book of the bible generally falls into a particular literary genre. It's important to understand that some books have several styles and genres within them. Because of this, we must not let the proposed genre of a book be the only tool we use to find meaning in the text, but hopefully, this breakdown will help you determine which bible reading discussion guide to use.



Old Testament Narrative & Law

This genre is comprised of the historical accounts of the writers of the Old Testament including the divine law and the factual retellings of real events.

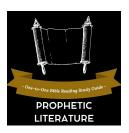
<u>The OT Narratives Include:</u> Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther



Wisdom Literature & Poetry

This genre is Scripture written in verse that is generally full of symbolic language, metaphors, word pictures, and expressions of feeling.

<u>The Wisdom Literature & Poetry Include:</u> Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations.



Prophetic Literature

This is Scripture that recounts visions or specific messages from God to His people and the world at large. This is woven throughout the Bible but is mostly represented in the books below.

<u>The Prophetic Writings Include:</u> Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel (Ch. 1-6), Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi



The Gospels & Acts

This genre is comprised of the historical accounts of the life & ministry of Jesus Christ and factual retellings of real events that took place in the early days of the Christian church.

The Gospels & Acts Include: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts



The Epistles

The epistles are apostolic letters written to various local churches in the early days of Christianity which were circulated as Holy Scripture.

<u>The Epistles Include:</u> Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, & Jude



Apocalyptic Literature

This is Scripture that describes what the end times will be like. This genre uses symbolic language and numbers, word pictures, and images. There are bits of apocalyptic writing in several books, but the list of books below are mostly characterized by this genre.

Apocalyptic Literature Include: Daniel (Ch. 7-12), and Revelation