

## Bible Study Methods

### Genres

While all of the steps we have learned so far are helpful and useful for studying all parts of Scripture, in order to get the most out of your study you need to understand what genre and sub-genre you are in.

**How do you read wisdom literature and epistles differently?**

**How do narratives and poetry communicate truth differently?**

**Tips for reading narrative:**



- Remember that narrative accounts in the Bible are not simply telling you what happened.
- They record the events themselves but also include the theological interpretation of those events as well.
- Examples:
  - Genesis 25:29-34
  - Exodus 14:21, 27
- Also look for sub-genres in narrative like:
  - Poetry

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<sup>1</sup> A painting by René Magritte with the words "Ceci n'est pas une pipe" underneath which translates "This is not a pipe."

- Parable

**Tips for reading poetry:**

- Look for parallelism.
- In an epistle the author will often just tell you the point in a few words, but in poetry it often takes several lines or verses to communicate the truth being taught.

**Tips for reading prophecy or apocalyptic literature:**

- Look to see how and if the prophecy was fulfilled in the New Testament.
  - In the life of Jesus
  - In the ministry of the apostles
- Don't get so focused on finding what current events match up with prophecy that you lose focus on what is more important.
  - Revelation has much more to say about God than it does about us.
- It is more important to understand what these passages teach us about God than nailing down the details of exactly how they will unfold.