

- **Word Meanings**
 - The correct interpretation of Scripture is the meaning required by the normal meaning of the words in the context in which they occur.
 - **Nature of Words**
 - **Words have a range of meanings** (hand, shalom) Jesus promises “peace”
 - **Each meaning of a word forms part of a distinct semantic field or domain** (hand=domain of “parts of the human body”---hand2=domain of “ways to show appreciation in a public setting” so hand2 is closer in meaning to ovation than it is to hand1. Synonyms)
 - **Word meanings do not remain fixed, they change over time** (KJV “conversation” 2 Cor 1:12; Gal 1:13; Eph 2:3 Phil 1:27) What were the common uses of the word at the time the book was written?
 - **Words have connotative and denotative meanings**
 - Connotative (figurative-you dirty dog) Phil 3:2
 - Denotative (Explicit meaning=dog=animal with four legs, etc.)
Matt 15:21-28
 - **Word Study**
 - Select a word that requires some detailed analysis
 - Determine the range of meaning for that word when it was used by the author (lexicons, TWOT, Bible dictionary, Bible Encyclopedia)---synchronic analysis) diachronic-range of meaning over the words history
 - Select the meaning that best fits the context
- **Review Results of Word Study Project- Spiritual**

- **Interpreting Old Testament Narratives** (descriptive terms)
 - Reports
 - Anecdote-report that details an event or experience in the life of a person (more private biography than public history) 1 Kings 19:19-21
 - Battle Report-details a military clash between opposing forces and its outcome
 - Numbers 21:21-24-defeat of the Amorites
 - Judges 3:26-30-defeat of the Moabites
 - Joshua 7:2-5-defeat of the city of Ai
 - Construction Report-recounts the construction of important buildings or objects.
 - Exodus 36:8-37:16-building of the Tabernacle in the wilderness
 - 1 Kings 6-7-building of the temple in Jerusalem
 - Dream report-recounts an individual's experience of a dream (told in first or third-person)
 - Gen 37:5-11-Joseph
 - Epiphany Report-reports an experience in which God or the Angel of the LORD appears to someone, often to convey a message.
 - Gen 12:7; 17:1-21; 18:1-33-Abraham
 - Historical Stories-reports written with more literary elaboration than an ordinary report.
 - 1 Sam 11:1-11-Saul's emergence as king
 - A History-a lengthy document that focuses on a particular subject or historical era.
 - The book of Kings, the book of Chronicles
 - Court history of David-2 Sam 9-20
 - Memoir is a sub-set of history-reporting incidents in an individual's life to portray the history, not of the writer, but of the era in which he or she lived. Perhaps Ezra 7:27-9:15
 - Reports-Principles of Interpretation
 - Focus should fall on the subject and how it contributes to the themes of the larger context
 - Reports tend to stress factual matters. Accept the fact that there may not be devotional content. (some exceptions-Gen 28)
 - Reports make their points indirectly. What is this text trying to say? What subtle signals has the writer woven into the account to convey the message? Few interpretive clues may be found in some reports compared to histories or historical stories.

- Histories are made up of a series of individual voices (reports) which combine to sound common themes. See what is shared in common. (Kings evaluates the Israelite monarchy as a spiritual disaster...Chronicles seeks to highlight its positive spiritual contribution, namely, its establishment of proper temple worship.)
- Heroic Narrative-Series of episodes that focus on the life and exploits of a hero. Such stories spring from...the desire to embody accepted norms of behavior or representative struggles in the story of a character whose experience is typical of people in general. (Ryken) For instance, the life of Moses (Exodus-Deut)
 - Epics-Cosmic Epics (Gen 1-11); Ancestral Epics (Abraham-Isaac, Jacob)
- Prophet Story-recounts events in the life of a prophet, particularly those that demonstrate virtues worthy of emulation. Elijah, Elisha, Daniel, etc. (perseverance in the face of royal political pressure---a standard by which to gauge religious apostasy. Daniel-trust in God's sovereign protection of his people. Jonah is another example.
- Heroic Narratives and Prophet Stories-Principles of Interpretation
 - While the primary motive is seeking what we may learn about God, in these texts we focus interpretation on the life of the main character (individual, nation, family) How does the hero's life model a relationship with God and with other people?
 - What values does this given hero represent?---Abraham-man of faith
 - Find larger themes involved also-God's redemptive character, God's sovereignty, conquest, rest, religious apostasy, rejection of God, covenant loyalty, etc.
 - Application should focus on analogous situations between Israel and the Church. Is the point that God eliminates infertility (to keep the patriarchal line alive) thus he will bless his children with children always as they ask? Or is the analogy reminding us of God's firm commitment to carry out his plan of salvation today in Christ by the Spirit through his church?
- Comedy-not like today! A "happy" ending sometimes brought about through dramatic reversal.
 - Esther
 - Joseph*** (Gen 37-50)
- Comedy-Principles of Interpretation
 - Consider plot-HOW does tragedy turn to triumph? (note crisis, turning point, and climax) Not just the person...where is God in all of this?

- Give attention to character development.
 - Esther (4,7) from reluctant intermediary to bold, courageous leader. Haman (3,6) maybe moves backwards? From supreme self-confidence to self-pity? Perhaps not but at least read what's there.
 - Continually discern what role God plays in the story. Are various acts shown to be acts of hidden divine providence?
 - What is the comedy's main theme?
 - Application follows from the comedy's main theme(s). What does this mean and how is this theme applied today?
 - Farewell Speech-an address in first-person voice reportedly given by someone shortly before his or her death.
 - Moses
 - Joshua
 - Farewell Speech-Principles of interpretation
 - Determine what makes the occasion of the speech historically pivotal.
 - Given the historical setting, attempt to summarize the speaker's main point in one brief sentence.
 - What does this given speech contribute to the themes of the larger context? For instance, how does Samuel's speech in 1 Sam 12 develop the themes of the book of 1 Sam?
 - Look for application from the speech's momentous historical setting and its main point. What contemporary situation closely compares to the biblical one where we might apply the speaker's main point to that given situation?
 - Some genres embedded in OT narratives
 - Popular Proverb
 - Riddles, Fables, and Parables
 - Songs
 - Lists
 - Embedded Genres-Principles of interpretation
 - It is not an independent context without a larger context
 - Find what this component contributes to the message of the whole
 - Define the main point of the embedded genre read by itself---define the main idea of the surrounding context---analyze the relationship between the two---Hannah's song in Samuel
- **Working on the Joseph narrative for next week (Genesis 37-50)**