

Basic Training in the Bible

Andrew Stepp | Session 2: Genesis, Pt. 2

Why can Scripture be so difficult to understand?

- The Nature of the Reader

- The Nature of Scripture

Why does this class exist?

What should you expect?

What do I expect from you?

What is my hope for this class?

Principles for Interpreting Narratives

Outline of Genesis:

1. Primeval History

2. Patriarchal History

The Plot and Subplots of Genesis:

The Major Plot: God is intervening in the history of human fallenness by choosing a man and his family.

God = _____

Five Sub plots:

1. The God who covenants with people
 - a. Noah (9:8-17)

 - b. Abraham (12:2-7)

2. The Divine Conflict between God and Satan; Adam/Eve & the Serpent; Godly seed & the Ungodly

3. God's choice of the weaker to bear his promise.
 - a. God regularly bypasses the firstborn. (Cain, Ishmael, Esau, Reuben)
 - b. The godly seed is regularly born from barren women (Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel).
Can you name any other famous barren women in the Bible?
 - c. The chosen ones are not chosen because of their own goodness; their flaws are faithfully narrated.
 - d. God does not choose them because of their character.
 - e. What makes them "godly seed" is that in the end they trusted God and his promise.

4. Judah – From Zero to Hero
 - a. Ch. 38 – Dude, really??? Weakness and sinfulness on full display.
 - b. 43-44 – He's willing to give himself for his brother Benjamin.
 - c. 49:8-12 – Jacob's Blessing: "the scepter will not depart from Judah" (David and Jesus!)

5. The Introduction of Israel's enemies!
 - a. "Oh those dirty Hammites!!" (10:6-18)
 - b. "Moabites and Ammonites have been gross since they were conceived!" (19:30-38)
 - c. Esau → Edomites (25:23) – (Herod the Great!)
 - d. Ishmael (12 tribes as well!)

This Week's Readings:

Option 1:

Genesis 27-50 → 5 Days x 5 chapters (-1)

Option 2: Five Shorter Readings:

- Genesis 27-28 – Jacob and Esau, Pt. 1
- Chapters 29-31- Jacob and Laban
- 32-33 – Jacob and Esau, Pt. 2
- 34, 35, 37, 38 – A few mostly terrible stories
- 42-45 – Joseph forgives his brothers