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## **Old Testament - Narrative**

What is the goal of reading Old Testament narrative?

Why do you think God chose narrative (story) to communicate theological truth to us for the majority of the Old Testament? What are the advantages or disadvantages?

### **Reading Narrative**

*Observe:* Ask yourself why the details mentioned in the narrative are mentioned to help determine the theological meaning of the text. How does one episode in the story relate to the larger story?

*Practice:* Joshua 2 and 7

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### **Literary Features of Narrative**

1. Plot – the organizing structure that ties narrative together
2. Setting – establishes the historical context of the narrative
3. Characters – the individuals involved in the narrative
4. Viewpoint of the narrator (author)
5. Comparison/Contrast
6. Irony – allows the narrator to sneak up on the readers to make a strong point by making the opposite, or drastically different, assumed meaning.

### **Making the Interpretive Journey with Joshua 2 and 7**

Step 1: Grasp the text in their town. What did the text mean to the biblical audience?

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Step 2: Measure the width of the river to cross. What are the differences between the biblical audience and us?

Step 3: Cross the principlizing bridge. What is the theological principle in this text?

Step 4: Consult the biblical map. How does our principle fit with the rest of the Bible? Does the New Testament teaching modify or qualify this principle, and if so, how?

Step 5: Grasp the text in our town. How should individual Christians today live out this modified theological people?

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**Reflection For the Week:**

*Practice:* Take the five step Interpretive Journey with 1 Samuel 3:1-21

**Preparation For Next Week:**

*Read:* <https://redeemedmind.com/2020/08/28/power-of-the-law-romans-7/>

**Resources For Going Further:**

Duvall, J. Scott and J. Daniel Hays. *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Kostenberger, Andreas J. and Richard D. Patterson. *Invitation To Biblical Interpretation: Exploring the Hermeneutical Triad of History, Literature, and Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2011.

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. *Is There Meaning in This Text?: The Bible, The Reader, and the Morality or Literary Knowledge*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.