

Reformed University Fellowship Bible Survey Conference

Session 1: The Nature of the Bible

- I. Spiritual literature.
 - A. The word of God (2 Timothy 3:16).
 - B. The source of life (Psalm 119:50; John 6:68).
 - C. The gospel of Christ.
 - D. Embedded in a specific cultural/historical context.

- II. Types of biblical literature.
 - A. Narrative – tells a story.
 - B. Discourse – instructs.
 - C. Poetic – paints a picture.

- III. Literary genres.
 - A. History.
 - 1. Purpose is to tell the story of redemption.
 - 2. Not intended to be a consistent narrative of all events.
 - B. Law.
 - 1. “Torah” may better be translated “teaching”.
 - 2. Not a Roman/western type legal code.
 - 3. Contains both principles and cases.
 - 4. Civil, ceremonial, moral.
 - C. Poetry.
 - parallelism, images
 - D. Prophecy.
 - 1. Primary message: God has already won the heavenly battle.
 - 2. Use of symbols and poetry.
 - 3. Fulfilment.
 - E. Parables.
 - 1. Told to make 1 point.
 - 2. Secondary points may be evident, but beware of over-allegorizing.
 - F. Epistles.
 - purpose is to instruct; teach doctrine and ethics
 - G. Apocalyptic.
 - presents earthly events as manifestations of heavenly warfare
 - H. Gospel.
 - 1. Neither history nor biography nor sermon, but contains elements of all.
 - 2. Purpose is to herald the news of salvation in Christ.

- IV. Purpose of the Bible.
 - A. Reveal God to people.
 - B. Save God’s people.

- V. Themes of the Bible.
 - A. Creation.
 - B. Fall.
 - C. Redemption.
 - D. Seed.
 - E. Covenant.
 - F. People of God.
 - G. Priesthood
 - H. Kingdom of God.
 - I. Word: prophecy, preaching, witness
 - J. Faith.

- VI. Images in the Bible.
 - A. Light/dark.
 - B. Sun, moon, stars.
 - C. Clouds, thunder, lightning.
 - D. Rock.
 - E. Gold, gems.
 - F. Trees, vines.
 - G. Thorns.
 - H. Animals: lion, sheep, serpent, etc.
 - I. Sea/land.
 - J. Angels.
 - K. Bread.
 - L. Water.
 - M. Wine.