

We believe discipleship is a direction
not a destination.



Living by The Book
Learn to Read & Study the Bible

Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- ~~INTRODUCTION~~

- ~~Week 1 Introduction and Overview (CH 1-4)~~

- OBSERVATION

- ~~Week 2 Observation (CH 5-7)~~
- ~~Week 3 Ten Strategies To Reading 1-5 (CH 8-12)~~
- ~~Week 4 Ten Strategies To Reading 6-10 (CH 13-17)~~



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **OBSERVATION**

- **Week 5** Six Things To Look For (CH 18-23)
- **Week 6** What Do I Do With This (CH 24-26)

- **INTERPRETATION**

- **Week 7** Interpretation Intro (CH 27-29)
- **Week 8** Five Keys to Interpretation (CH 30-34)
- **Week 9** Don't Stop (CH 35-38)



Course Outline (12 Weeks)

- **APPLICATION**

- **Week 10** Critical, Truth, Transformation (CH 39-41)
- **Week 11** Steps, Customize, Questions (CH 42-44)
- **Week 12** Principles, Changed Life, Get Started (CH 45-48)



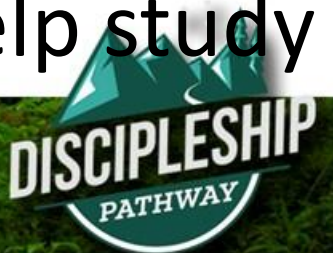
Work With a Paragraph

Chapter 18



Let's Step It Up

- We covered a verse in chapter 6
- Let's move on to a paragraph
 - Why a paragraph?
 - A paragraph represents a complete thought
 - It has a main topic or idea
 - This makes it perfect for observation
- Note: The Bible was not originally divided into chapters and verses or even paragraphs, It was added to help study



The Prayer of Nehemiah

- Let's look at Nehemiah 1:4-11



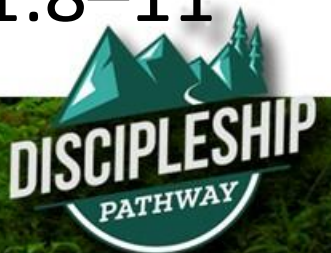
⁴ When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of the heavens.

⁵ I said, LORD, the God of the heavens, the great and awe-inspiring God who keeps his gracious covenant with those who love him and keep his commands, ⁶ let your eyes be open and your ears be attentive to hear your servant's prayer that I now pray to you day and night for your servants, the Israelites. I confess the sins we have committed against you. Both I and my father's family have sinned. ⁷ We have acted corruptly toward you and have not kept the commands, statutes, and ordinances you gave your servant Moses.

Nehemiah 1:4–7



⁸ Please remember what you commanded your servant Moses: “If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples. ⁹ But if you return to me and carefully observe my commands, even though your exiles were banished to the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I chose to have my name dwell.” ¹⁰ They are your servants and your people. You redeemed them by your great power and strong hand. ¹¹ Please, Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant and to that of your servants who delight to revere your name. Give your servant success today, and grant him compassion in the presence of this man.,
At the time, I was the king’s cupbearer. Nehemiah 1:8–11



The Prayer of Nehemiah

- Let's look at Nehemiah 1:4-11
- What is the first thing you observe?
 - ⁴ When I heard these words
 - What words?!
 - A connective!
 - We must go back!
 - We always must go back!



¹ The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

During the month of Chislev in the twentieth year, when I was in the fortress city of Susa, ² Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with men from Judah, and I questioned them about Jerusalem and the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile. ³ They said to me, “The remnant in the province, who survived the exile, are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem’s wall has been broken down, and its gates have been burned.” *What words?*

⁴ When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of the heavens.

Nehemiah 1:1–3



What Were the Words Heard?

- What are the clues you see?
- There are 3 prepositional phrases
 - **During** Month of Chislev
 - **In** the twentieth year
 - **In** the fortress city of Susa
- Let's mark them down
 - How would you mark this in your Bible?



¹ The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:
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When?
Where?

When and Where Is It

- How can we answer the **When** and **Where**?
 - A Bible dictionary could help
 - “Month of Chislev”
 - כִּסְלֵו .pr.[m.] Kislew, ninth month (postex.) = Nov.-Dec.
 - Note to self, ancient Hebrews didn’t use our calendar
 - This is in the northern Hemisphere so, early winter



When and Where Is It

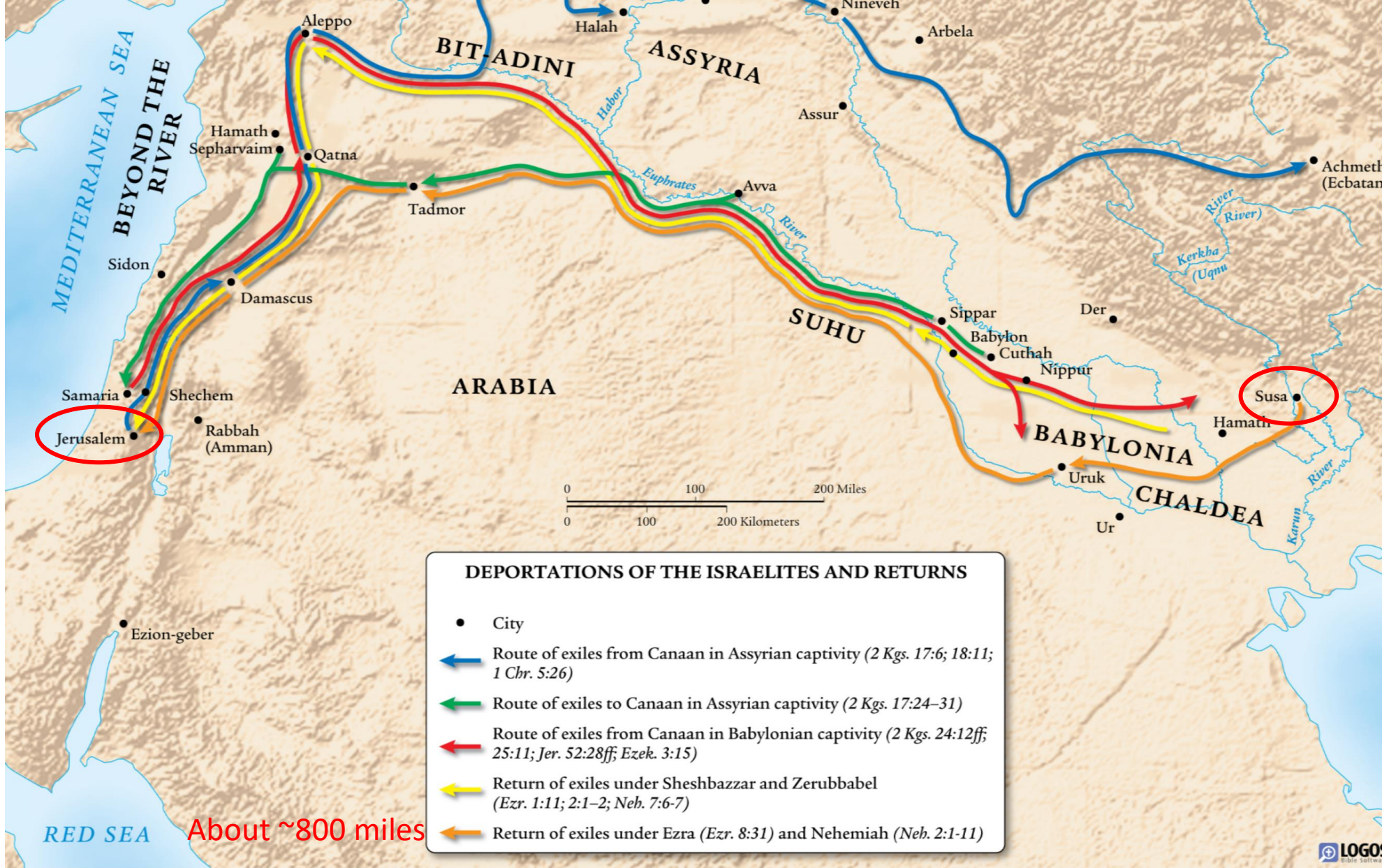
- “in the twentieth year”
 - There is not enough information here to answer that question
 - But I have read ahead a bit and found in chapter 2
 - “During the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes”
 - I see it is the 20th year of King Artaxerxes



When and Where Is It

- “in the fortress city of Susa”
 - Again, referencing a Bible dictionary or commentary
 - We see that Susa is the winter palace of Persia
 - If we know nothing else of the Persian empire
 - We see it is rich
 - It has at least TWO palaces
- A map look up might be good to see here





Nehemiah Asks Questions (v.2)

- ² Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with men from Judah, and I questioned them about Jerusalem and the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile.
- Who did he ask? “my brothers”
- Where are they from? “Judah”
- The Questions
 - “Jerusalem”
 - “remnant”

¹ The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

During the month of Chislev in the twentieth year, when I was in the fortress city of Susa,

When?
Where?

² Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with men from Judah, and I questioned them about

Q1

Jerusalem and the Jewish remnant that had

Q?

Q2

survived the exile. ³ They said to me, “The remnant in the province, who survived the exile, are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem’s wall has been broken down, and its gates have been burned.”

Nehemiah Gets Answers (v.3)

- Notice the dialog between Nehemiah and his brother
 - It is a question and answer



¹ The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

During the month of Chislev in the twentieth

When?

Where?

year, when I was in the fortress city of Susa,

² Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with men

from Judah, and I questioned them about

Q1

Jerusalem and the Jewish remnant that had

Q?

Q2

survived the exile. ³ They said to me, “The

A

People

remnant in the province, who survived the exile,

are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem’s

Place

wall has been broken down, and its gates have

been burned.”

Nehemiah Gets Answers (v.3)

- Notice the dialog between Nehemiah and his brother
 - It is a question and answer
 - Q) How is Jerusalem doing and how are the people?
 - A) Not good. The people are in danger and the gate is gone and for that matter so are the walls



Now to Verse 4

- Now we have context to “⁴ When I heard these words”
- When Nehemiah heard these words, he did what?
 - Wept
 - Mourned
 - Fasting
 - Praying
 - Emotional Response
 - Spiritual Response



⁴ When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of the heavens.

Response

1. Wept
2. Mourned
3. Fasting
4. Praying



Label Your Observations

- There was a(n)
 - Introduction: Who wrote this from where
 - Report: Questions and answers
 - Response: Emotional and Spiritual to the report
 - Request: Nehemiah asks God for help



¹ The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:
During the month of Chislev in the twentieth year, when I was in the fortress city of Susa,

When?

Report

Where?

² Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with men from Judah, and I questioned them about Jerusalem and the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile. ³ They said to me, "The

Q1

Q2

Q3

People

remnant in the province, who survived the exile, are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem's wall has been broken down, and its gates have been burned." ⁴ When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of the heavens.

Place

Response

- 1. Wept Emotional
- 2. Mourned Emotional
- 3. Fasting Spiritual
- 4. Praying Spiritual



The Prayer of Nehemiah

- A pattern to prayer
 - Adoration: “great awe-inspiring God”
 - Praise to God: “Keeps His gracious covenant”
 - Confession: “acted corruptly”
 - Petition: “Give your servant success”



No Detail is too Small

- “I was the king’s cupbearer”
 - The reason Nehemiah is here is because of his Job
 - What is a cupbearer?
 - “The cupbearer was not only responsible for choosing appropriate wines for the king, but he tasted them himself to ensure they were not poisoned.”



No Detail is too Small

- The cupbearer was with the king every meal
 - For midnight snacks
- The cupbearer protected the king
 - He had to be trusted
 - He also heard everything that went on in the court
- Imagine the informational and personal power this position must have carried



Where Do I Begin?

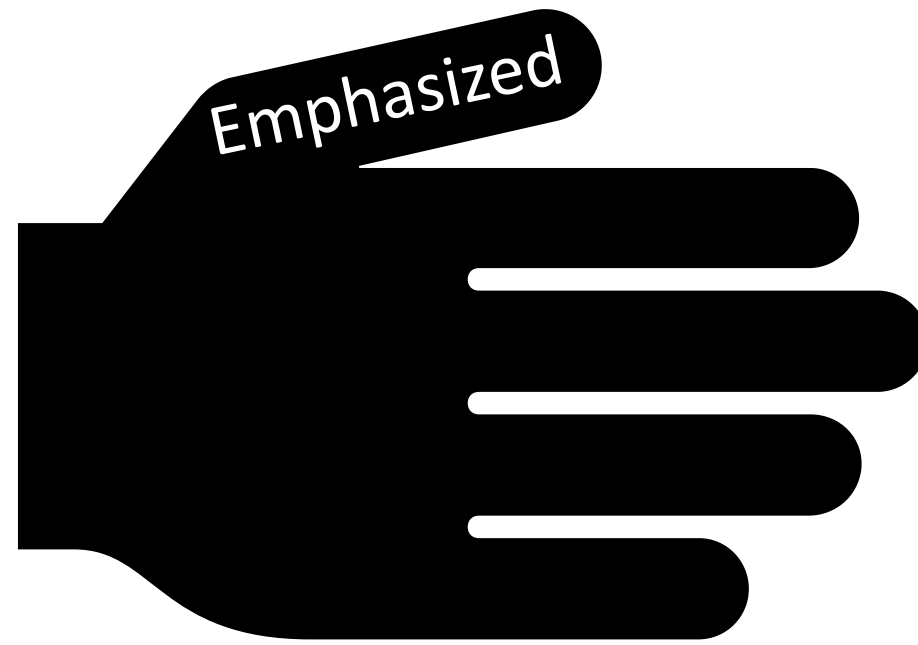
- At some point we all have read from the Bible and said:
 - I have no clue where to go from here
- Would this have been what you said about Nehemiah before now?
 - We have covered ten strategies for reading
 - These will help you break down Biblical text
- Next we will cover six(6) things to look for while reading



The Six Things To Look For

- Things That Are
 - **Emphasized**
 - **Repeated**
 - **Related**
 - **Alike**
 - **Unlike**
 - **True to Life**





Things That Are Emphasized

Chapter 19



How To Recognize Things Emphasized

- **The Amount of Space**

- How much space is given to a topic

- Genesis:

- 1-11 covers: Creation, Fall, Flood, Tower of Babel
- 12-50 covers: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

- It looks like the emphasis is on the family of Abraham



How To Recognize Things Emphasized

- **Stated Purpose**

- Sometime the Bible just tells us

- Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30–31



How To Recognize Things Emphasized

- **Stated Purpose**
 - Sometime the Bible just tells us
- Look at Proverbs:
 - To know wisdom and instruction
 - To discern the sayings of understanding
 - To receive instruction in wise behavior
 - To give prudence to the naive

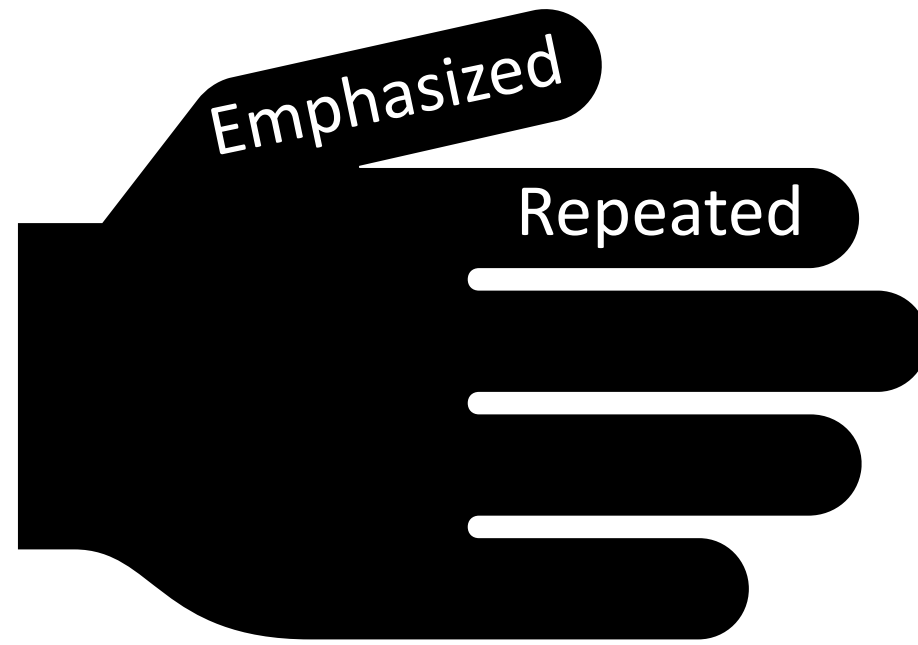


How To Recognize Things Emphasized

- **Order**

- When the order of things are emphasized
 - First Adam and Eve were placed in the garden to:
 - “to cultivate it and keep it,”
 - Then they sinned and God kicked them out and curses the earth
- Notice that Adam and Eve had to work before and after they sinned, the curse wasn't work





Things That Are Repeated

Chapter 20



Look For Repetition, Repetition

- There is no greater tool for teaching than repetition
 - The Bible does this throughout
 - What should we look for?
 - **Terms, Phrases, and Clauses**
 - **Characters**
 - **Incidents and Circumstances**
 - **Patterns**
 - **New Testament use of Old Testament passages**



Terms, Phrases, and Clauses

- Lets play a game, how often is
 - “His love endures forever” used just in the Psalms?
 - 36 times
 - Just in Psalm 136?
 - 26 times
- So we probably should know that
 - Gods love endures forever



Terms, Phrases, and Clauses

- One more
 - “By faith” in Hebrews 11
 - Appears 18 times
- If we want to know what faith is or looks like
 - Maybe Hebrews 11 would be a good place to start



Characters

- Don't just look for words and phrases but
 - Look for people who are repeated
- Do a search on Barnabas in the new testament
 - He is mentioned ~28 times
 - What was he doing each time?
 - Why was he mentioned?
 - Who mentions him?

Incidents and Circumstances

- In Judges the Incident that is repeated:
 - “The Israelites did what was evil in the Lord sight”
 - God sends a new judge because the people did what was evil
 - What did they do over and over?
 - Sin
 - Maybe we can learn from their mistakes



Incidents and Circumstances

- Tension between Jesus and the Pharisees
 - Jesus does something to offend the Pharisees
 - This calls attention to the old way of things (Legalism)
 - And the new way of salvation through Christ



Patterns

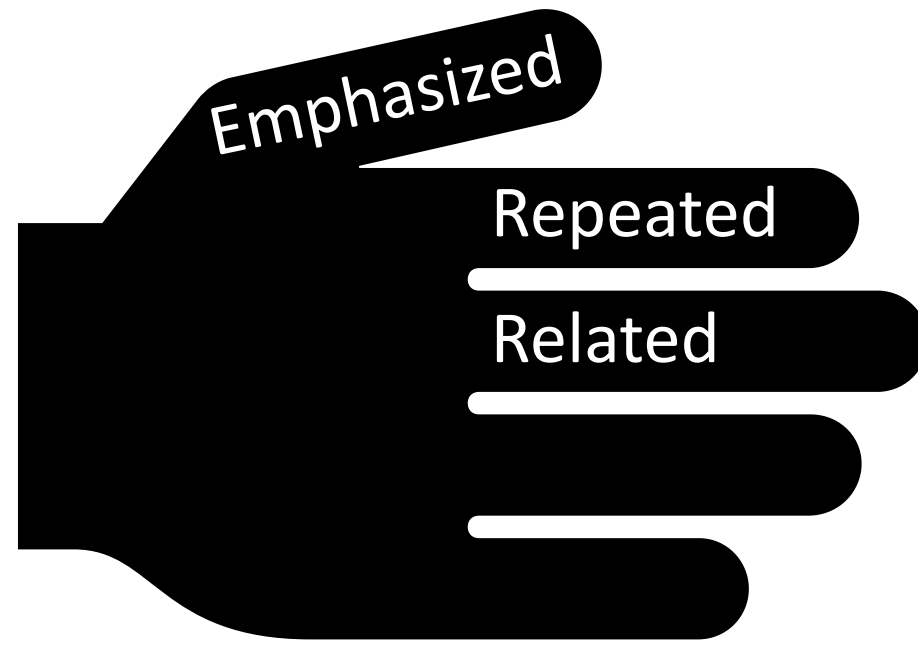
- Look for patterns in people and places
 - Joseph and Jesus
 - Israel and Jesus
- Or look at Saul and David
 - When Saul does wrong
 - David does right
 - David was a man after Gods own heart not Saul



New Testament use of Old Testament Passages

- The ultimate repeat
 - When the Bible quotes itself
 - Jesus quotes the old testament A LOT
 - If Jesus found the verse important
 - Maybe we should also





Things That Are Related

Chapter 21



Things That Are Related

- How do you know something is related?
 - Example: How do you know two people are married?
 - Because they are next to each other?
 - They are both wearing wedding rings?
 - There are a bunch of kids around them?
 - There is an old grandma with them?
 - Not always

Things That Are Related

- Before you put two things together look for the relationship
 - Movement from the general to the specific
 - Questions and Answers
 - Cause and Effect



Movement From the General to the Specific

- A good example is a part of the sermon on the mount
 - The General
 - “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. Otherwise, you have no reward with your Father in heaven. Matthew 6:1
 - If you want your reward now, make sure everyone sees all your good deeds, your righteousness



Movement From the General to the Specific

- The Specific
 - Giving
 - But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, Matthew 6:3
 - Praying
 - But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you., Matthew 6:6



Movement From the General to the Specific

- The Specific
 - Fasting
 - But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that your fasting isn't obvious to others but to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:17–18



Questions and Answers

- Questions are strong tools to get your attention
 - Do all questions have answers?
 - Yes, yes, they do
 - But we are not given the answer to all our questions
 - Or the answer to the question given is rhetorical
 - As in you should already know the answer
- Let's look at some examples



Questions with Answers

- Question with answers:
- What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? ² Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Romans 6:1–2
- ¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Absolutely not! Romans 6:15



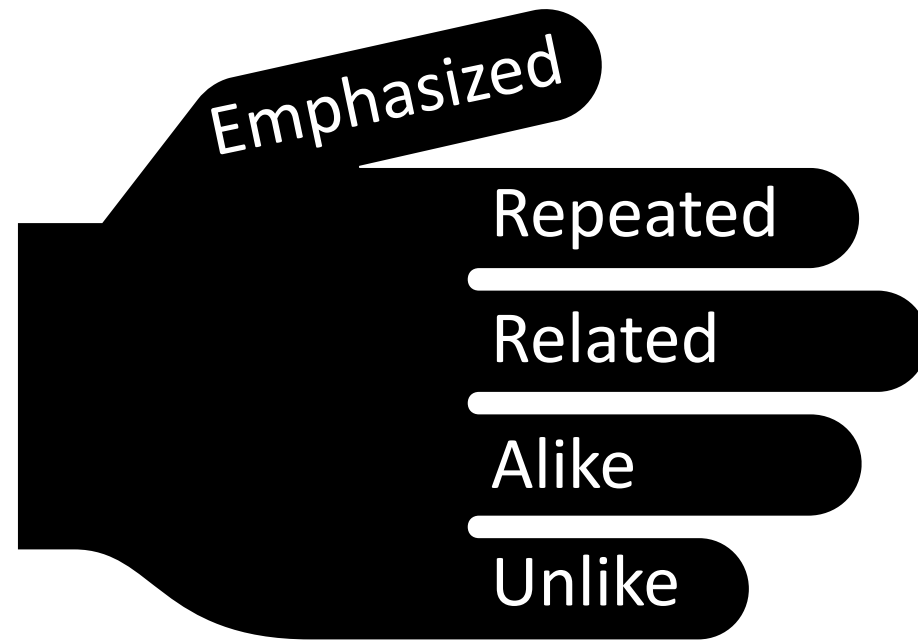
Questions without Answers

- Question with no answers:
- Job 38:3–5 (CSB)
 - ³ Get ready to answer me like a man; when I question you, you will inform me.
 - ⁴ Where were you when I established the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.
 - ⁵ Who fixed its dimensions? Certainly you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?

Questions and Answers

- Lookout for questions
 - And then find the answer
 - Or ask why was this question asked
- When God asks questions, he is trying to make a point
 - God doesn't need our answers He has the answers





Things That Are Alike & Unlike

Chapter 22

Metaphors and Like Similes

- The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.
- She walked into my office like a centipede with 98 missing legs.
- Her hair glistened in the rain like a nose hair after a sneeze.
- Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.



Things That Are Alike

- The Bible uses similes and metaphors to help draw our attention and imagination
 - Two ways it does this is through
 - Similes
 - Metaphors



Simile

- You can recognize simile when you see expression that use “as” and “like”
 - **As** a deer longs for flowing streams, so I long for you, God. Psalm 42:1
 - **Like** newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word,, so that by it you may grow up into your salvation, 1 Peter 2:2



Simile

- A simile with a twist
 - ⁶ This is what the LORD, the King of Israel and its Redeemer, the LORD of Armies, says: I am the first and I am the last. **There is no God but me.** ⁷ Who, like me, can announce the future? Isaiah 44:6–7
- There is nothing “like” God



Metaphors

- Like a simile without the like
- “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. John 15:1
 - Jesus doesn’t mean he is a real vine
 - Jesus is painting a picture
- Jesus continues the metaphor



Metaphors

- I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. John 15:5
- Here is one we use all the time
 - Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again,, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3



Things Unlike (But)

- The flip side of comparison is contrast—things that are unlike
- Use of “**but**” is a big clue that there is a contrast coming
- ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, ...Galatians 5:19–21
- ²² **But** the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, Galatians 5:22

Things Unlike (Metaphors)

- Just as metaphors can point out things that are alike, they can also show us things that are unlike.
- John 18:1-8 “The parable of the persistent widow”



¹ Now he told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not give up. ² “There was a judge in a certain town who didn’t fear God or respect people. ³ And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’

⁴ “For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or respect people, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice, so that she doesn’t wear me out by her persistent coming.’ ”

⁶ Then the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ Will not God grant justice to his elect who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay helping them? ⁸ I tell you that he will swiftly grant them justice. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Luke 18:1–8



Things Unlike (Metaphors)

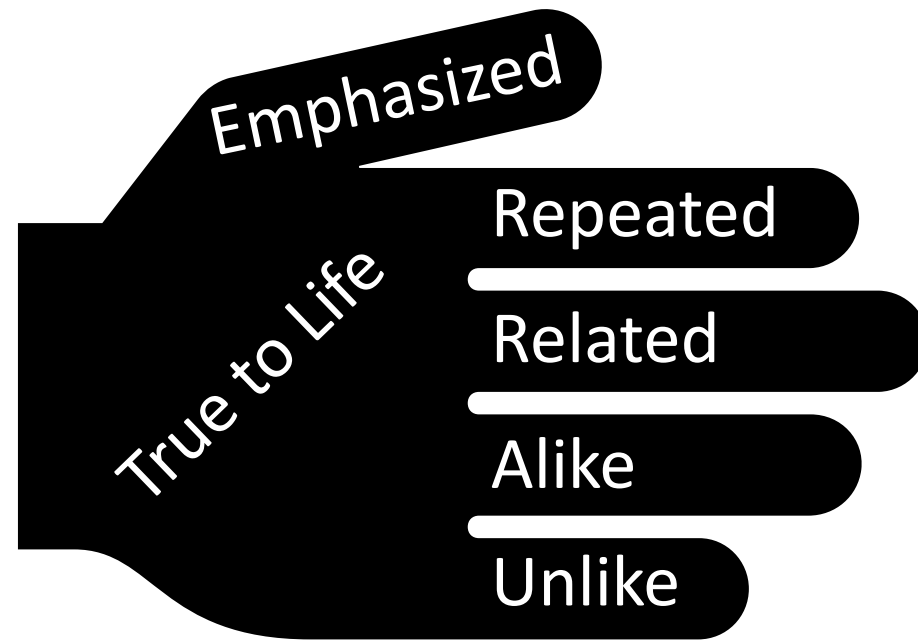
- The judge who didn't fear God is compared to God
- This metaphor is contrasting a bad man to God
 - But God is not bad
 - So, if a bad man will do what's right when pestered
 - Then why would you think God wouldn't



Things Alike & Unlike

- We often see passages in the Bible that are alike
- We also see passage that almost seem to contradict each other
- Look at these passage and dig into why
 - How are they the same? Why are they the same?
 - How are they different? Why are they different?





Things That Are True to Life

Chapter 23



True To Life

- The people in the Bible are not made up
 - They lived real lives
 - With real problems
 - With real worries
- We can relate to these people like we can relate to friends, family, people we see on TV
 - Did you cry when Old Yeller died?



True To Life (Moses)

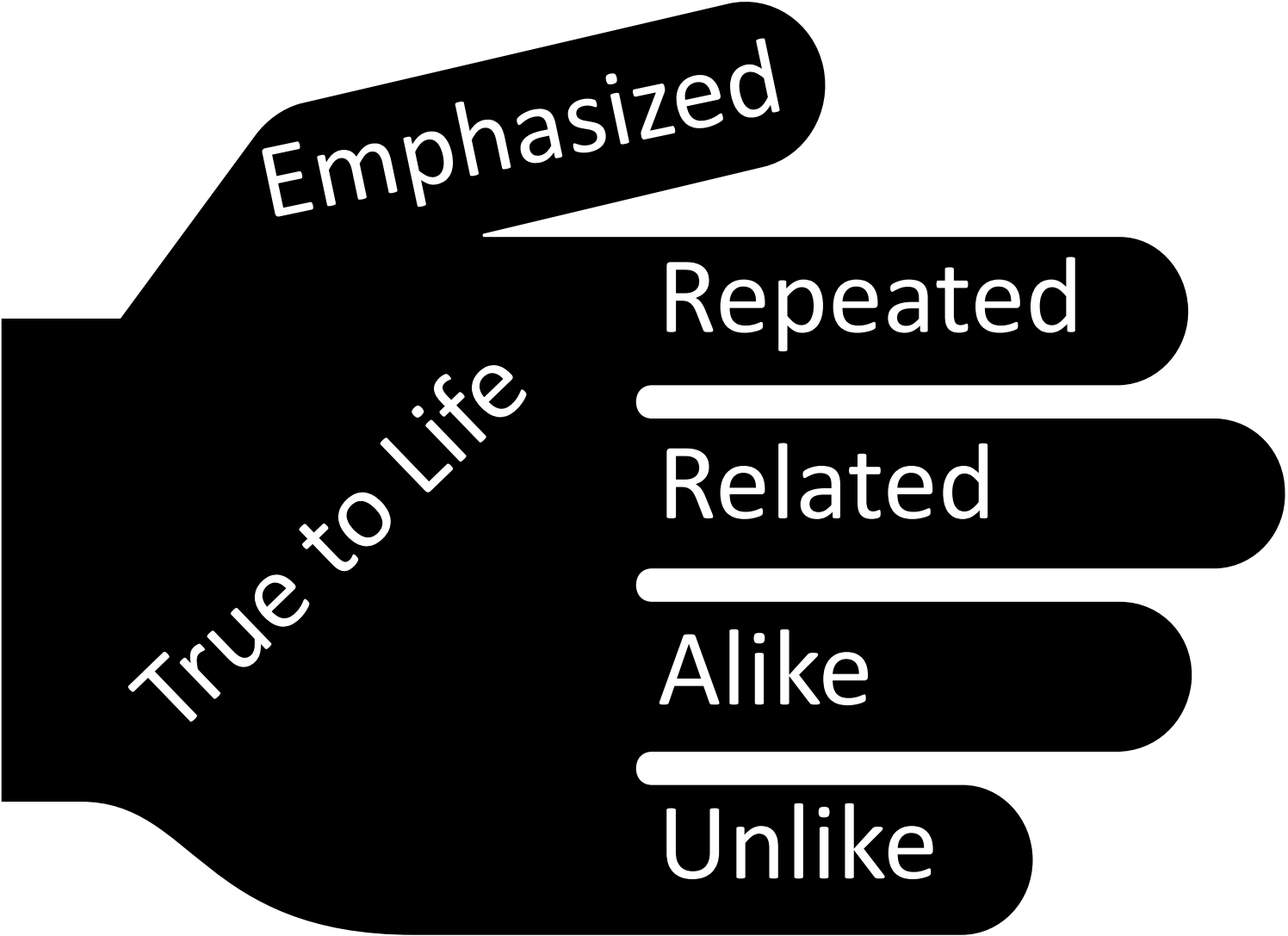
- Let's discuss Moses. Was he a real man?
 - Yes
 - Then how do you think he felt when
 - Faced his fears and stood up against Pharaoh
 - Lead a bunch of whinny kids through the desert
 - Made one mistake and didn't get to see the land God promised?
- How would you feel?



True To Life (Noah)

- Let's discuss Noah. Was he a real man?
 - Yes
 - Then how do you think he felt when
 - He was the only one doing the right things
 - Was the only one following God
 - Was the only one building a giant boat
 - Was made fun of
- How would you feel?





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Observation: What do I see?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Application: How does it work?

