

Synthetic Bible Study - Part 7

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I. Potpourri session.

A. Putting the Old Testament together.

1. The New Testament (NT) is approximately 1/3 the size of the Old Testament (OT).

2. The average person thinks that the Old Testament is ordered chronologically.

3. Chronological reconstruction.

a. Genesis - the book of beginnings.

b. Exodus - the book of redemption.

1) Leviticus - the book of worship. No further historical progress in this book.

c. Numbers - the book of the wanderings.

1) Deuteronomy - the book of review. Moses' magnificent obsession. No further historical progress in this book.

d. Joshua - the book of spiritual victory. The key is Joshua 1:8: everyone followed the Word of God.

e. Judges - the book of spiritual defeat. Everyone followed human reason.

f. Ruth - the book of faith working through love. Comes alongside Judges.

g. Kingdom books.

1) 1 Samuel - preparation for the kingdom.

2) 2 Samuel - establishment of the kingdom.

3) 1 Kings - division of the kingdom.

4) 2 Kings - loss of the kingdom.

a) Postmortem books - give you the reason behind the facts of the books of Kings.

i. 1 Chronicles.

ii. 2 Chronicles.

h. Captivity.

1) Ezra - rebuilding the temple.

2) Nehemiah - rebuilding the wall.

a) Esther - a book of faith working through courage.

i. Silence until the Son.

B. Study of the book of 1 Peter.

1. The value of a summary chart - gives you a complete picture and perspective.

a. There is a cause/effect division between each of the divisions in this book.

b. Salvation and suffering.

2. Possible section titles: relationship to God, relationship to others, relationship to circumstances.

3. More possibilities: belief, practice.

4. Even more titles: relationships, responsibilities, rejoicing.

a. The importance of submission to God first and then submission to others second.

b. This prepares you for suffering.

C. Basic insights with respect to charting.

1. The Lord made both the ear and the eye. (Proverbs)

2. We should be committed to both in our ministry.

a. With telling only, you remember 10%.

b. With showing only, you remember 20%

c. With both telling and showing you remember 65%.

3. You ought to commit yourself to an audiovisual form of communication.

4. Three types of charts.

a. Horizontal chart.

1) Used for synthesis.

2) Used primarily with chapters for larger books and paragraphs for smaller books.

3) Primarily concerned with overview.

b. Vertical chart.

1) Used for analysis.

2) Used almost exclusively with paragraphs.

3) A more focused approach.

c. Grid chart.

1) Take what you want to study.

2) Across the top you put the elements you want to compare.

3) Study 'compositively' or comparatively.

4) You end up with a succinct comparison.

d. Samples.

e. The charts make speaking more accessible and flexible.

f. Instilling this practice in your students helps them to do things that you could never do for the Lord.

Application questions:

1. How has the Old Testament overview been helpful to you? How can you use this?

2. Why is submission so central to the message of 1 Peter? Explain.

3. What are some ways that you can use charts in your ministry? In your personal life? Will you take steps to incorporate this into your daily Bible study? If so, how?
