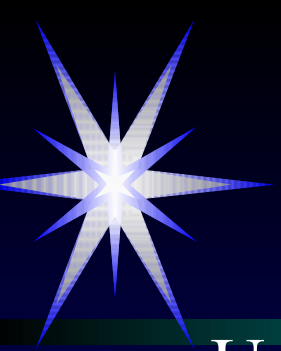


I. Genres of Literature



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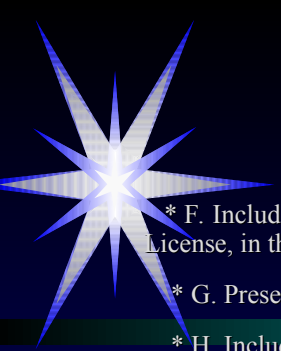
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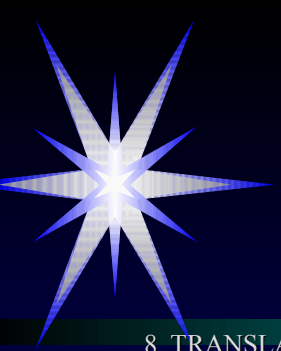
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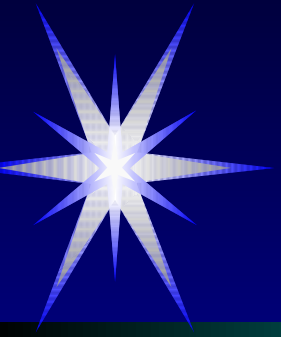
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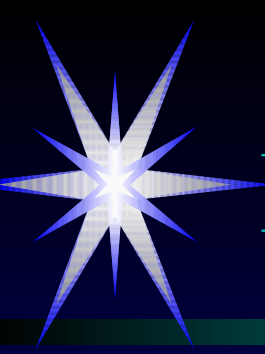
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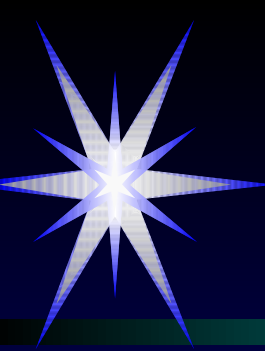
I. How to Pay Attention to Genres of Literature



Readings about Genre

Ryken, *How to Read the Bible as Literature*

Fee, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*



Significance of Genre

Much current interest in genre.

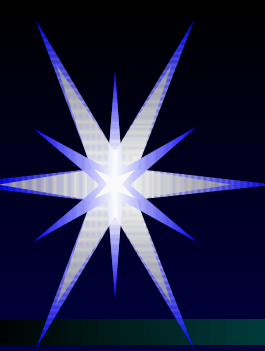
Some views attack biblical authority (“myth,” “legend”).

Missing genre undermines the Bible.

Parables.

Revelation as apocalyptic.

Song of Solomon as love poetry.



Significance of Genre

Much current interest in genre

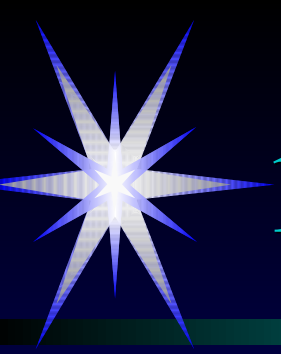
Some views vitiate biblical authority (“myth,”
“legend”)

Ignoring or missing the genre compromises
the real authority of the Bible

Parables

Revelation as apocalyptic

Song of Solomon as love poetry



1. An Example: Isaiah

Prophecy.

No strong chronological interest.

Figurative language.

In the framework defined by Num. 12:6-8.

Various items within the prophecy:

- Indictment for present violations of covenant.

- Prediction.

- Threat of punishment.

- Promise of restoration.



2. What is a “Genre”?

“A group of pieces of literature with similar organization or style.”

Can be larger or smaller.

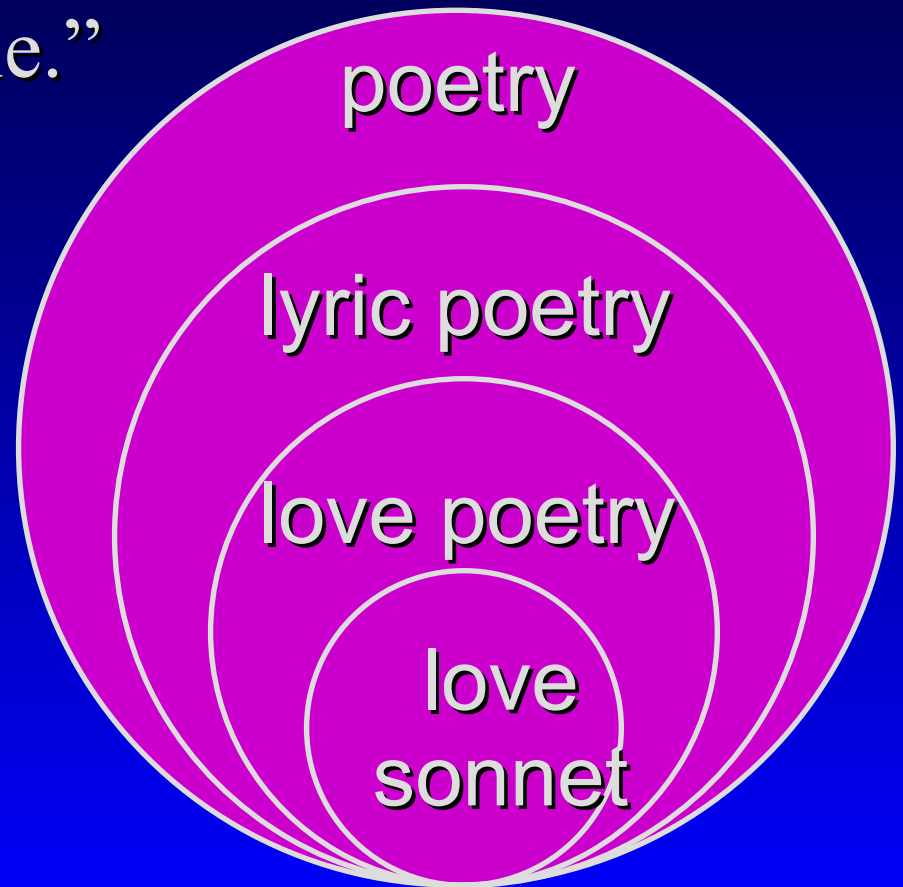


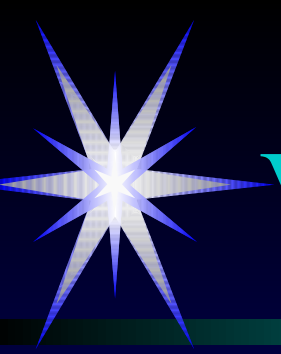


2. What is a “Genre”?

“A group of pieces of literature with similar organization or style.”

Can be a larger or smaller group.





Various Sized Pieces

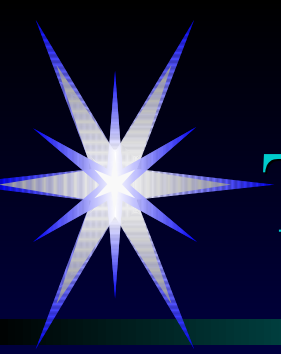
Multivolume Hellenistic history: Luke-Acts

History volume: Luke

Sermon: 6:20-49

Paired parable
6:48-49

6:48



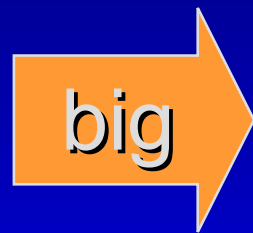
Terminology May Vary

“Genre” may cover all sizes.

Or distinguish “genre” from “form.”

“Genre” for the biggest pieces;

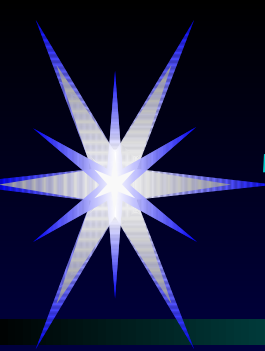
“form” for smaller pieces.



book



parable, proverb, song,
prayer, sermon,
miracle story, etc.

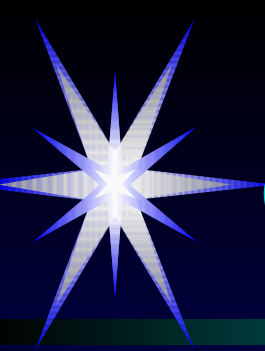


Terminology May Vary

“Genre” can be the umbrella term covering all sizes of pieces and all groupings, large or small.

Or we may distinguish “genre” from “form.”

“Genre” when dealing with the biggest pieces of text (whole books), “form” when dealing with smaller-sized pieces (parable, proverb, song, prayer, sermon, miracle story, etc.)



Character of Genre Analysis

Synchronic focus.

Not the same genres today.

Global context influences smaller setting.

Book genre

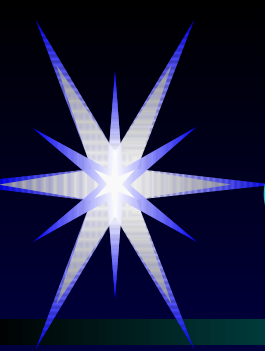


Paragraph genre

Book of Job



speech of Eliphaz



Character of Genre Analysis

Synchronic focus.

Do not assume that today has the same genres.

Accurate knowledge of global context (big sized text) sharpens our expectations for the smaller passage.

Book genre

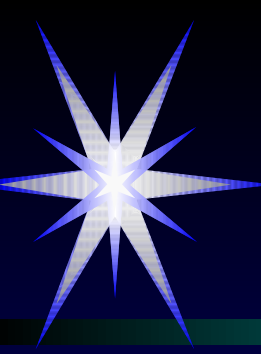


Paragraph genre

Book of Job



speech of Eliphaz



Caution about Genre

Scholars can exaggerate importance of genre.

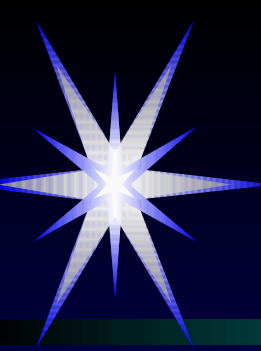
Groupings are based on form and style

But also subject-matter.

Creation in Gen. 1-2 and Ps. 104.

Exodus in Exod. 14 and 15.

God as speaker of all Scripture.



Caution about Genre

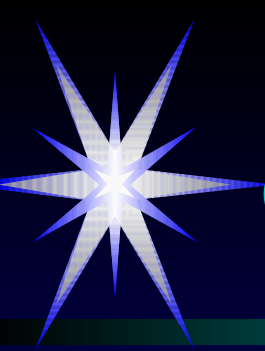
Scholarly interest can exaggerate the importance of genre.

Common formal structure and style lead to some significant groupings. But just as important are groupings on the basis of subject-matter or speaker.

Creation in Gen. 1-2 and Ps. 104.

Exodus in Exod. 14 and 15.

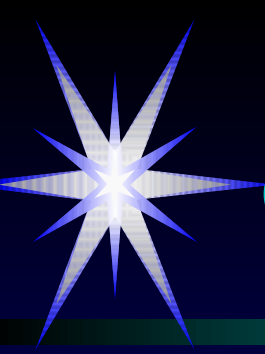
God as speaker of all Scripture.



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Eissfeldt belongs to critical tradition;
use with caution.

Table of Contents suggests the diversity.



Genre in Eissfeldt, *OT*

Eissfeldt belongs to the critical tradition; use with caution.

The Table of Contents is suggestive of the diversity of types of material.

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I. PROSE TYPES

3. SPEECHES, SERMONS, PRAYERS

1. *Speeches*
2. *Sermons*
3. *Prayers*

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- (b) *Letters*
- (c) *Lists*
- (d) *Laws*
- (e) *Cultic Ordinances*

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12. *Individual songs of thanksgiving*

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