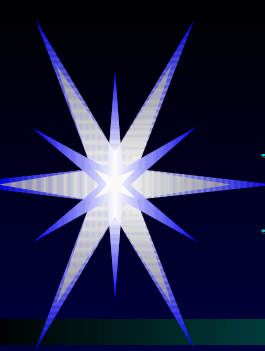


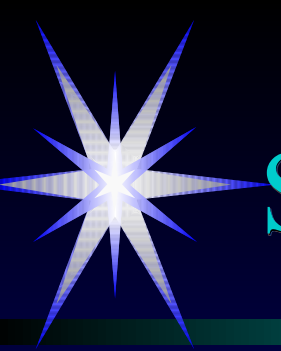
I. Genres of Literature



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.

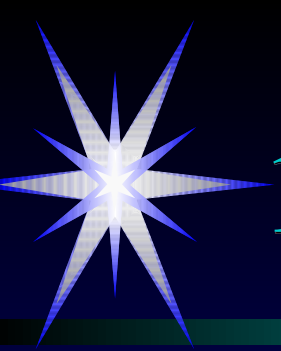
Some views attack biblical authority (“myth,” “legend”).

Missing genre undermines the Bible.

Parables.

Revelation as apocalyptic.

Song of Solomon as love poetry.



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.

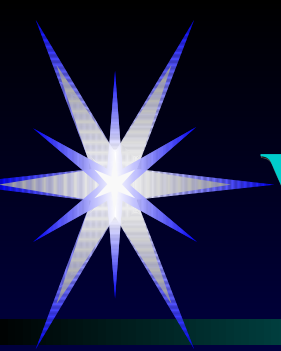


2. What is a “Genre”?

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

Can be larger or smaller.





Various Sized Pieces

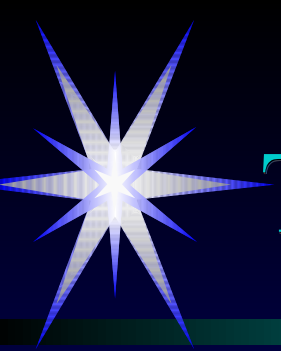
Multivolume Hellenistic history: Luke-Acts

History volume: Luke

Sermon: 6:20-49

Paired parable
6:48-49

6:48

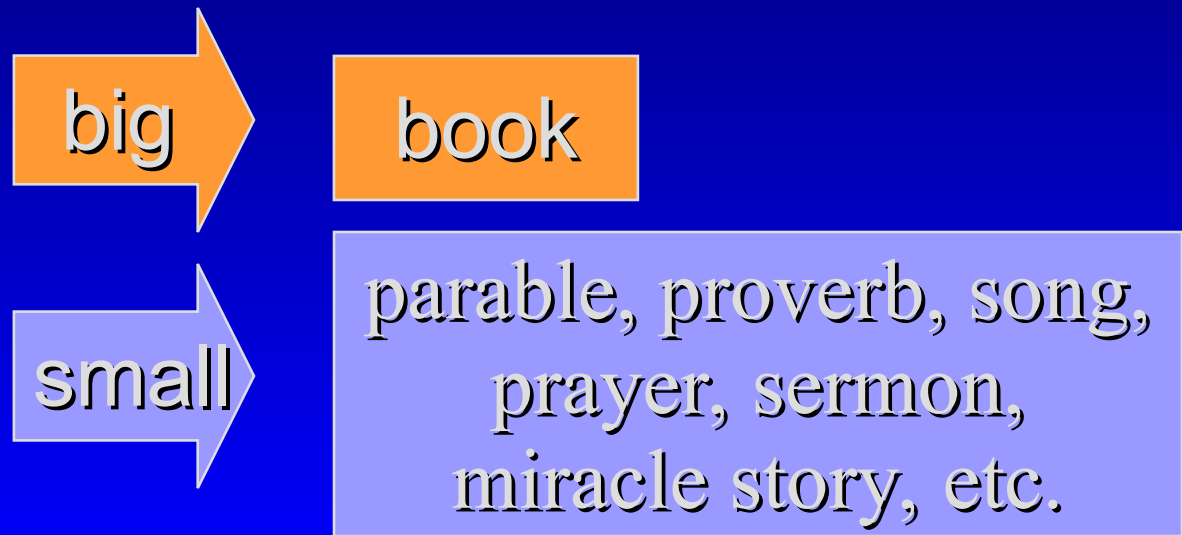


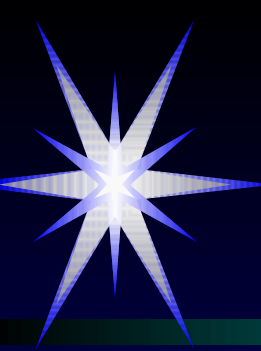
Terminology May Vary

“Genre” may cover all sizes.

Or distinguish “genre” from “form.”

“Genre” for the biggest pieces;
“form” for smaller pieces.





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



Caution about Genre

Scholars can exaggerate importance of genre.

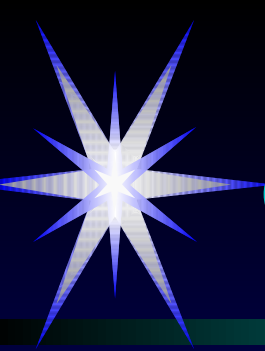
Groupings are based on form and style

But also subject-matter.

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

Exodus in Exod. 14 and 15.

God as speaker of all Scripture.



Genre in Eissfeldt, *OT*

Eissfeldt belongs to critical tradition;
use with caution.

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I. PROSE TYPES

3. SPEECHES, SERMONS, PRAYERS

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

4. RECORDS

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

5. NARRATIVES

(a) *Poetic Narratives*

1. *Introductory*
2. *Myths*
3. *Fairy-tale, fable, tale*
4. *Saga*
5. *Legends*

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1. *Reports*
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5. *Prophetic autobiography*

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12. *Individual songs of thanksgiving*

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