



Genre Quick Reference Chart

Reading each part of Scripture the way it was meant to be read

The Bible isn't one book written in one style — it's a library of writings that together tell one story. Each genre communicates truth in a unique way. When we read the Bible according to its genre, we respect both the author's intent and the Holy Spirit's design. This chart helps you recognize the major biblical genres and approach them with confidence and care.

Genre	Purpose & Description	How to Read It Well	Examples
Narrative	Tells the story of God's people — historical, but also theological.	Look for what God reveals about Himself and His purposes. Avoid forcing every story to be about you.	Genesis, Exodus, Acts
Law	Provides moral, civil, and ceremonial instructions for Israel.	Identify timeless principles of justice and holiness fulfilled in Christ.	Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy
Poetry	Expresses emotion, worship, and wisdom through imagery.	Read slowly, reflectively. Focus on metaphors and emotional tone, not just literal meaning.	Psalms, Song of Solomon
Wisdom	Offers guidance for godly living and insight into life's complexities.	Seek the principles, not promises. Meditate on repeated themes.	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job
Prophecy	Declares God's message — calls to repentance, promises of restoration.	Understand the historical audience, and look for how it points to Christ.	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah
Gospels	Present the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus.	Focus on who Jesus is and what He reveals about God's kingdom.	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
Epistles	Letters of instruction and encouragement to the church.	Follow the author's argument carefully. Apply principles, not cultural specifics.	Romans, 1 Corinthians, James
Apocalyptic	Uses symbols and visions to reveal God's ultimate victory.	Focus on the hope and assurance of Christ's reign, not decoding every symbol.	Daniel, Revelation

Genre awareness protects interpretation and deepens devotion.

When we honor each genre, we hear God's voice the way He intended — with clarity, depth, and reverence.

Because there's always Truth in the Text.