

## Questions:

1. What are narratives?
2. What are the three levels of narrative?
3. What are narratives not?
4. What is the crucial item to keep in mind when reading any Hebrew narrative?
5. What is the primary reason that Christians have often read the Old Testament narratives so poorly, finding things that are not really there?

## Answers:

1. They are stories----purposeful stories retelling the historical events of the past that are intended to give meaning and direction to a given people in the present.
2. The “top” level is often called the “metanarrative”, this level has to do with the whole universal plan for God worked out through his creation, and focusing primarily on God’s chosen people. The second level is the story of God’s redeeming a people for his name. These people are constituted twice----by a former covenant and a “new” covenant. The “first level” narratives are found all the hundreds of individual narratives that make up the other two levels.
3. Old Testament narratives are not allegories or stories filled with hidden meanings. Individual Old Testament narratives are not intended to teach moral lessons. Even though the Old Testament narratives do not necessarily teach moral values directly, they often illustrated what is taught explicitly and categorically elsewhere.
4. That is the presence of God in the narrative.
5. It is because of the tendency to “flatten” everything because they assume that everything God has said in his Word is thereby a direct word to them.

## Terms:

1. Inclusion: is a technical term for the form of repetition where a narrative is begun and brought to conclusion on the same note or in the same way.
2. Foreshadowing: it means that where something that is briefly noted in an early part of a narrative is picked up in detail later on.
3. Allegorizing: Instead of concentrating on the clear meaning of the narrative, some relegate the text to merely reflecting another meaning beyond the text.

## Summary:

The narrative is the single most common type of literature in the Bible and there are three-quarters of narratives in the Old Testament. How to properly use the Old Testament narratives has been a common issue for Christians. Despite the forms of narratives, their characters, and structures, the bottom line to read them is to let the text talk in its

context and to its audience, what we could draw is the knowledge of God. It is about God and his plan, it's not about the application of our today's life.