

## **QUESTIONS**

1. What are narratives?
2. What are three levels of the Old Testament narratives?
3. What is the meta narrative of the Bible?
4. What is the second level of the Hebrew (Biblical, OT) narrative?
5. What is the first level of the Hebrew (Biblical, OT) narrative?

## **ANSWERS**

1. Narratives are stories — purposeful stories retelling the historical events of the past that are intended to give meaning and direction for a given people in the present. The presence of Yahweh, God, is crucial item, in Hebrew narrative.
2. The story of the Old Testaments can be viewed in three levels: Meta (Redemptive) narrative, Redeeming through covenant(s) narrative, and other individual narratives
3. Meta narrative is the story of the redemption, how God rescues his chosen people. “Key aspects of the plot at this top level are the initial creation itself, the fall of humanity, the power and ubiquity of sin, the need for redemption, and Christ’s incarnation and sacrifice.”
4. The second level of how one can view the Old Testament is from a covenant perspective. How God makes a covenant to redeem his people despite their continual failure to stay faithful.
5. The many individual hundreds of narratives throughout the Old Testament that are integral and substantive part of the larger narrative in the second and third level.

## **TERMS**

**Allegorizing:** Instead of concentrating on the clear meaning of the narrative, some relegate the text to merely reflecting another meaning beyond the text. Reading too much into the text beyond that it is saying.

**Decontextualizing:** Taking the narrative out of context by focusing on very small units of passage. Often ignores the full historical and literary contexts.

**Moralizing:** this is a practice and assumption that principles for living can be drawn from that draws universal

## **SUMMARY**

In Hebrew narrative, Bible narrative as whole, it is important to remember how God, Yahweh, fits in respect to everything else. The presence of God is crucial item, explicit or implicit, it is important to recognize and remember that God is the main character and hero of the narrative in which others play a minor part and roles. Reading the Old Testament narrative requires how each smaller narratives are connected to the larger narrative and God’s plan for his humanity. One needs to avoid moralizing, personalizing, allegorizing, and human tendency to gravitate to narratives that makes sense to us in relations to contemporary contexts and values.