



Chapter and Verse: Honest Questions about the Bible

Part Two: Is the Bible True? Sermon Study Guide 7/17/16 The Story Houston



I recently walked the streets of Houston asking people whether they believe the Bible is fact or fiction. Why is that an unfair question?

Instead of a simple up/down vote, let's talk percentages. What percentage of the Bible would you say is fact? Fiction?

Now let's consider a similar question. **What percentage of the Bible would you say is true? False?**

Why were your answers different? What's the difference between "fact" and "truth"? Between "fiction" and "false"?

Christians spend a lot of time talking about what the Bible is. **Have you ever stopped to consider what the Bible is not?** The Bible is NOT:

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Notes:

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If the Bible is not any of *that*, then what is it?

Make notes of any definitions or illustrations of the Bible that resonate with you:

What is genre? Why does it matter when reading the Bible?

The Nine Genres in the Bible (write examples of each genre from the Bible)

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Law/Doctrine</u> | <u>Prophecy</u> |
| <u>History</u> | <u>Wisdom</u> |
| <u>Narrative</u> | <u>Epistles</u> |
| <u>Gospel</u> | <u>Apocalyptic Lit.</u> |
| <u>Poetry/Song</u> | |

Given what the Bible isn't, what it is, and its many genres, **what is the most important lens through which Christians interpret scripture?**

Matthew 22:34-40 Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

What does it mean to interpret the Bible (especially some of the Bible's most problematic passages) through the lens of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection? Be as specific as possible, using examples from your own journey with the Bible so far.