



# Welcome

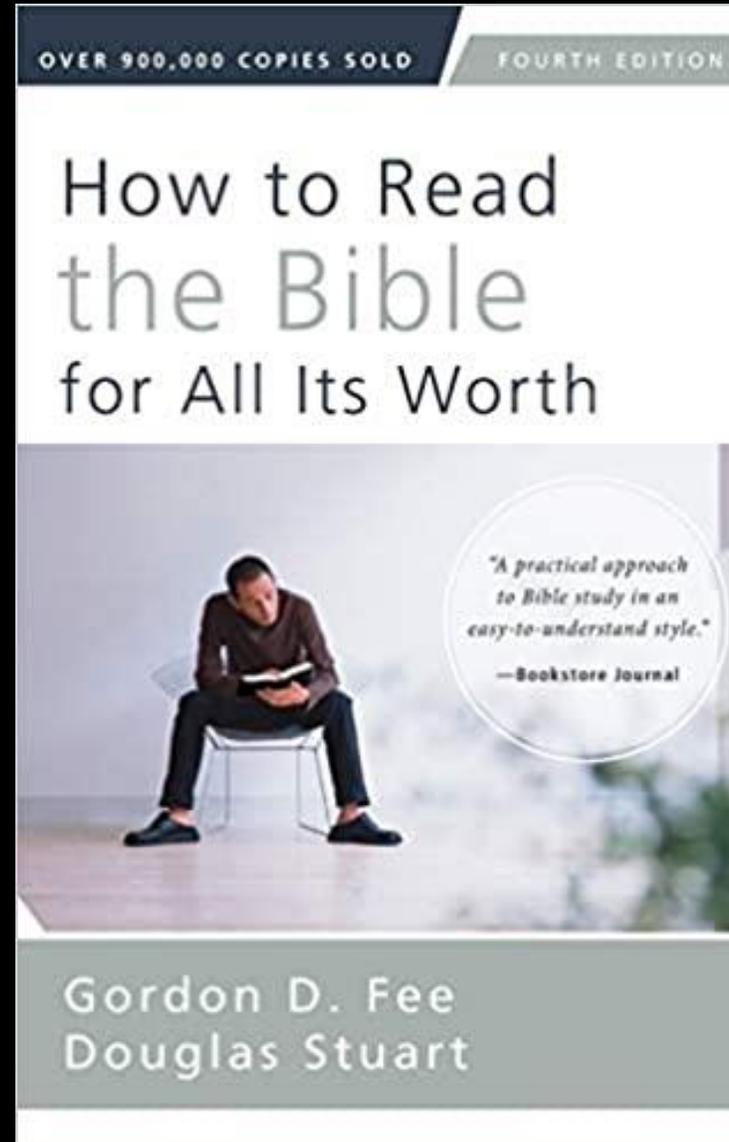
## How to study the Bible

Session 3: The History



# How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth

Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart

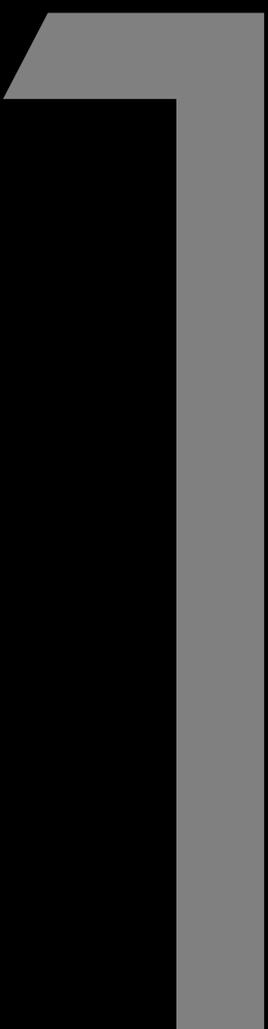


# ground rules:

- be present
- be interactive
- be curious

# agenda:

- the Old Testament narratives  
& their proper use
- the question of historical precedent



the Old Testament narratives  
& their proper use

Genesis Joshua Judges Ruth

1&2 Samuel 1&2 Kings

1&2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah

Daniel Jonah Haggai

the nature of narratives  
and what they really are

narrative

narrative = story

# parts of a narrative

1. characters
2. plot
3. plot resolution

# characters in a narrative

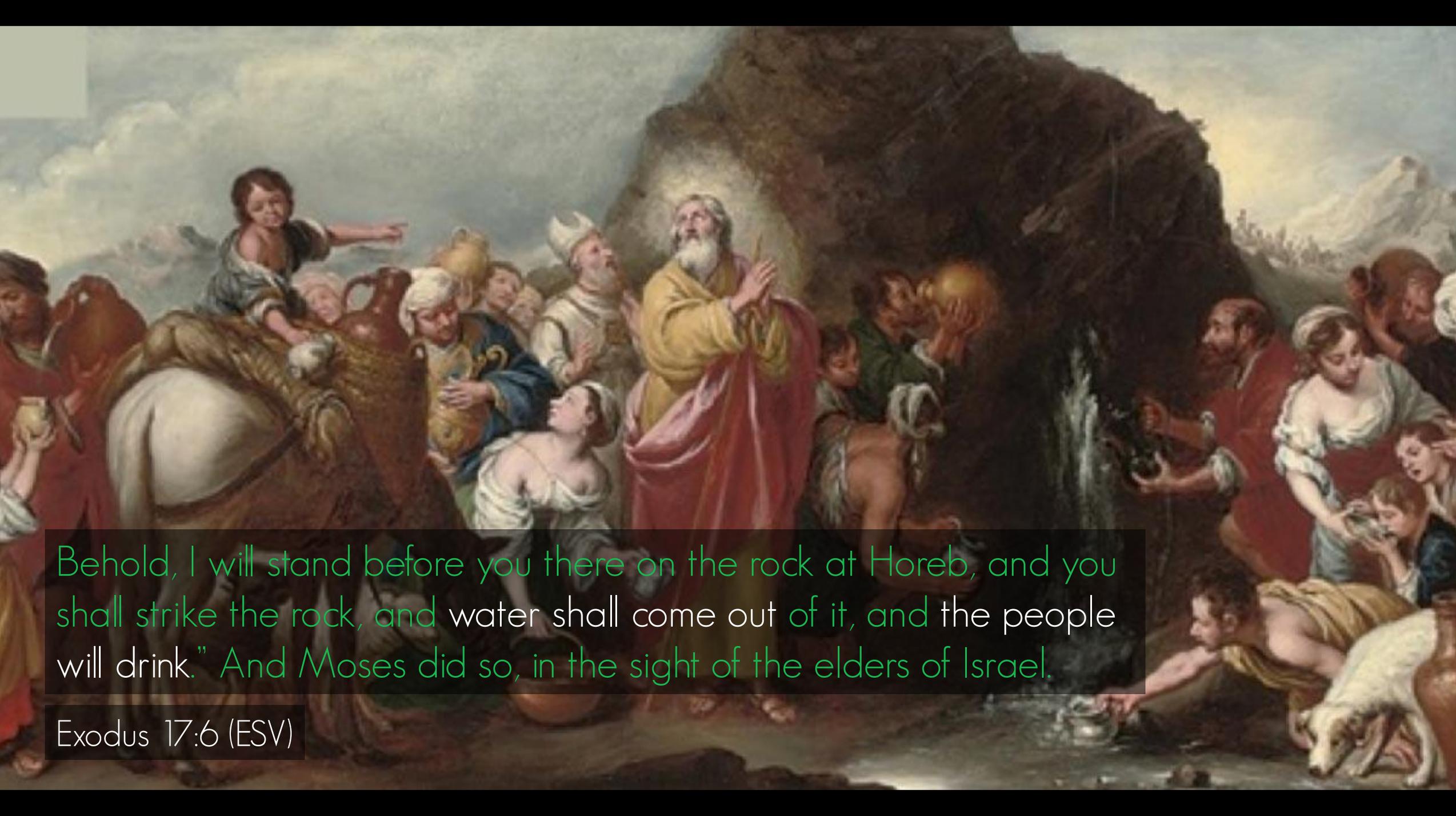
1. protagonist ..... God
2. antagonist ..... Satan
3. agonist(s) ..... the Israelites

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,

John 5:39 (ESV)

and all drank the same spiritual drink. For  
they drank from the spiritual Rock that  
followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV)



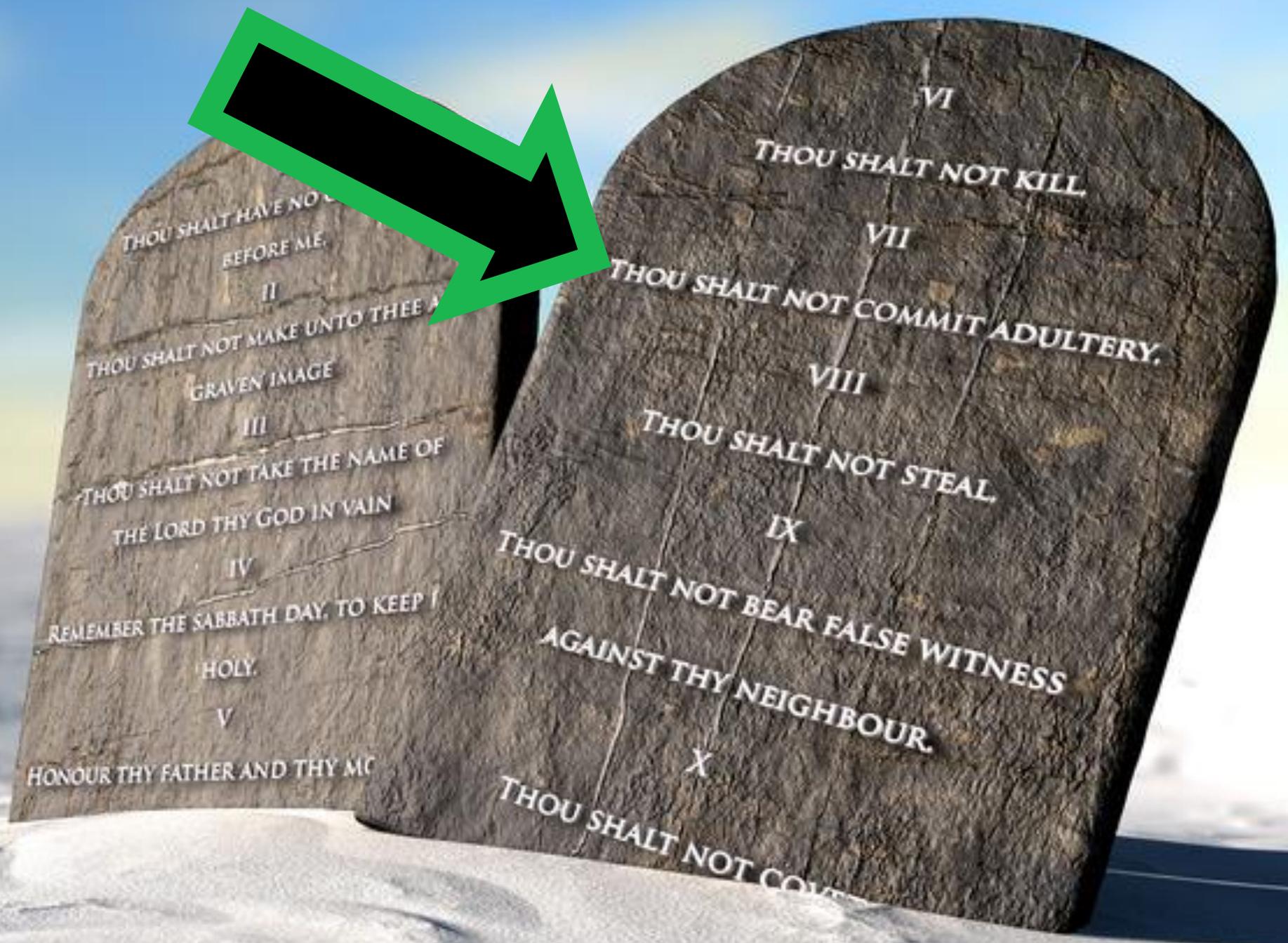
Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Exodus 17:6 (ESV)

# Old Testament narratives:

1. are not allegories
2. are not intended to teach moral lessons
3. can teach moral lessons implicitly





THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.  
I  
THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE A GRAVEN IMAGE.  
II  
THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN.  
III  
REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY.  
IV  
HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.  
V

VI  
THOU SHALT NOT KILL.  
VII  
THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.  
VIII  
THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.  
IX  
THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR.  
X  
THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOUR'S HOUSE, HIS WIFE, HIS SERVANT, HIS OX, HIS ASS, NOR ANYTHING THAT IS HIS.

the characteristics  
of Hebrew narratives

# cautions

- allegorizing
- decontextualizing
- selectivity
- moralizing
- personalizing
- misappropriation
- false combinations
- redefinition

# key takeaways

- the Old Testament narrative is not doctrinal
- they document what happened
- they are selective and incomplete
- they are not written to answer theological questions
- God is the hero of all Biblical narratives



the question of historical precedent

the Acts of the Apostles

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:7 (ESV)

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

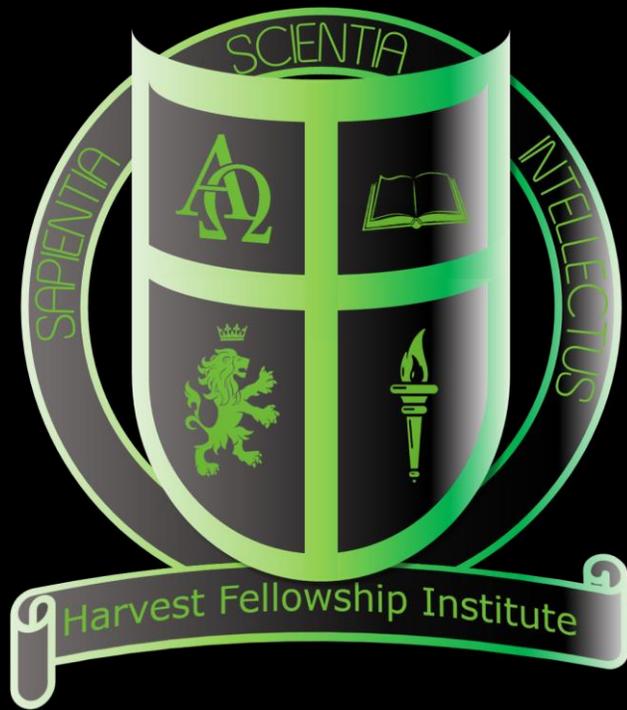
Acts 9:31 (ESV)

But the word of God increased  
and multiplied.

Acts 12:24 (ESV)

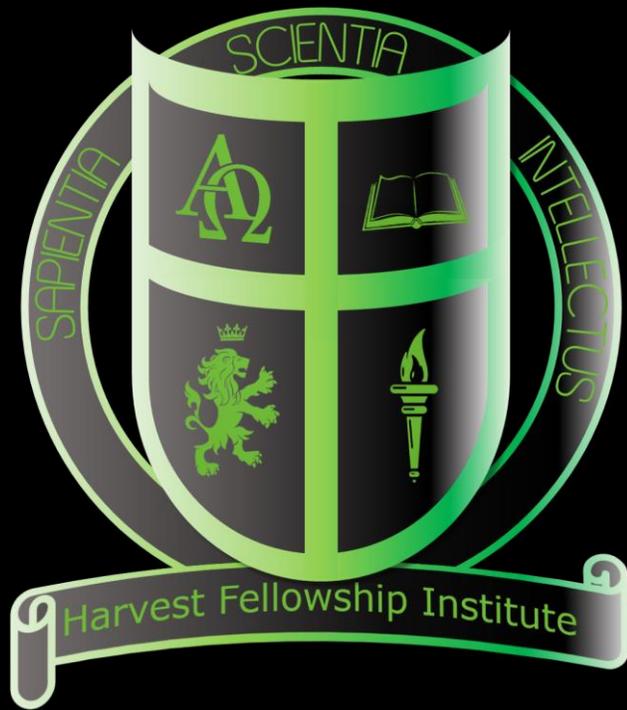
<sup>4</sup> As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

Acts 16:4-5 (ESV)



Questions?





## Week 4: The Good News

- the Gospels: one story, many dimensions
- the parables: do you get the point?