

# COMMON INTERPRETATION ERRORS



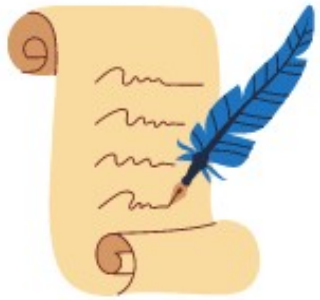


*Greet one another with  
a holy kiss.* 2 Cor 13:12

*And the pig ... is unclean for you.  
You must not eat their meat ...*

Lev 11:7-8





# Types of Literature



## Fiction

- Novel
- Short Story
- Novella



## Non- Fiction

- Essay
- Biography
- Autobiography
- Journalism



## Poetry

- Lyric Poetry
- Narrative Poetry
- Epic Poetry
- Sonnet



## Drama

- Tragedy
- Comedy
- Tragicomedy



## Science- Fiction

- Speculative Fiction
- Fantasy
- Horror



# GENRES OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE

LAW	NARRATIVE	POETRY	PROPHECY	GOSPEL	LETTERS
<p><i>OLD TESTAMENT</i></p> <p>Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy</p>	<p><i>OLD TESTAMENT</i></p> <p>Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther</p> <p><i>NEW TESTAMENT</i></p> <p>Acts</p>	<p><i>OLD TESTAMENT</i></p> <p>Job Psalm Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs</p>	<p><i>OLD TESTAMENT</i></p> <p>Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel Hosea Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi</p> <p><i>NEW TESTAMENT</i></p> <p>Revelation</p>	<p><i>NEW TESTAMENT</i></p> <p>Matthew Mark Luke John</p>	<p><i>PAULINE</i></p> <p>Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon</p> <p><i>GENERAL</i></p> <p>Hebrews James 1 Peter 2 Peter 1 John 2 John 3 John Jude</p>

# SAME OR DIFFERENT?



# WHAT IS GENRE?

*IN A SIMILAR WAY, THERE ARE DIFFERENT “GAME” RULES INVOLVED IN THE INTERPRETATION OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LITERATURE.*

*THE AUTHOR HAS “PLAYED THE GAME,” THAT IS, HAS SOUGHT TO CONVEY HIS MEANING, UNDER THE RULES COVERING THE PARTICULAR LITERARY FORM HE HAS USED.*

*UNLESS WE KNOW THOSE RULES, WE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY MISINTERPRET HIS MEANING.*

## **OT GENRES**

*Narrative*

*Law*

*Poetry*

*Prophecy*

## **NT GENRES**

*Gospel*

*Narrative*

*Letter*

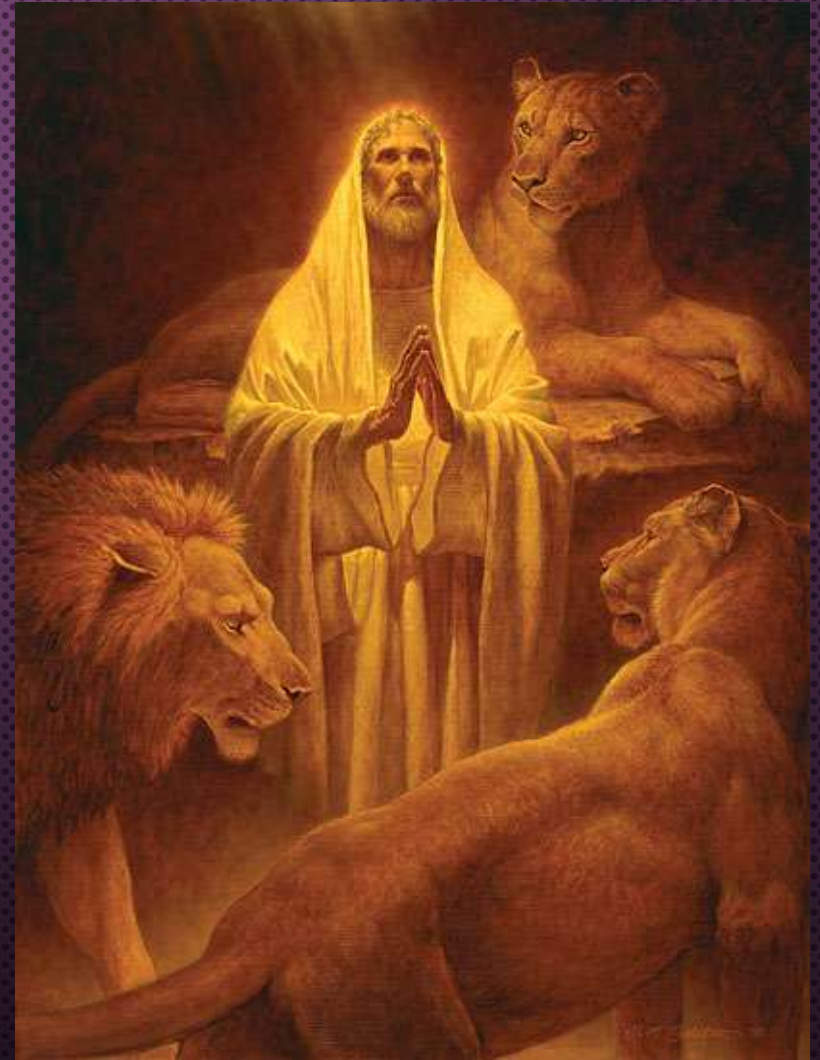
*Prophecy*

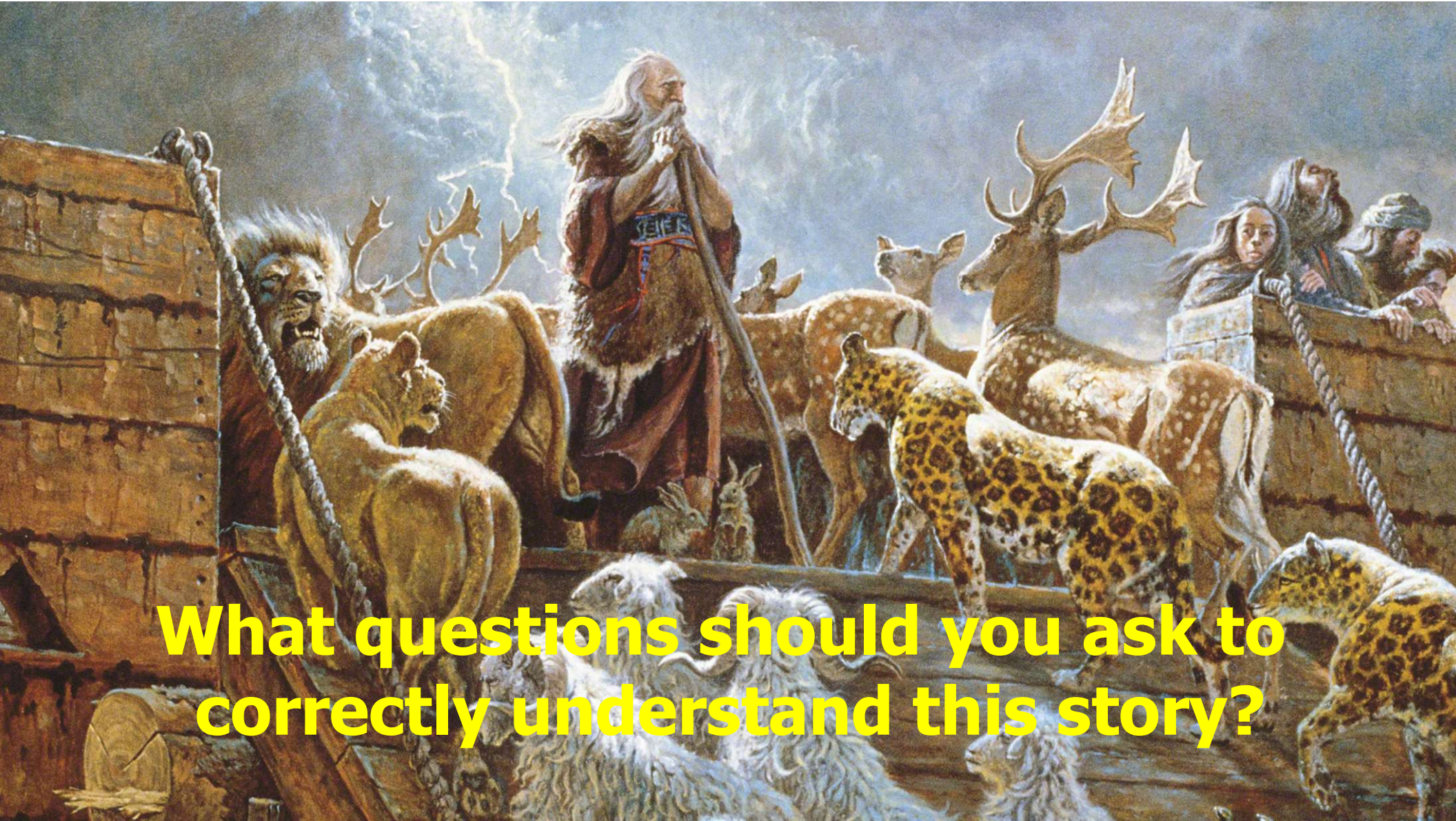


# NARRATIVE

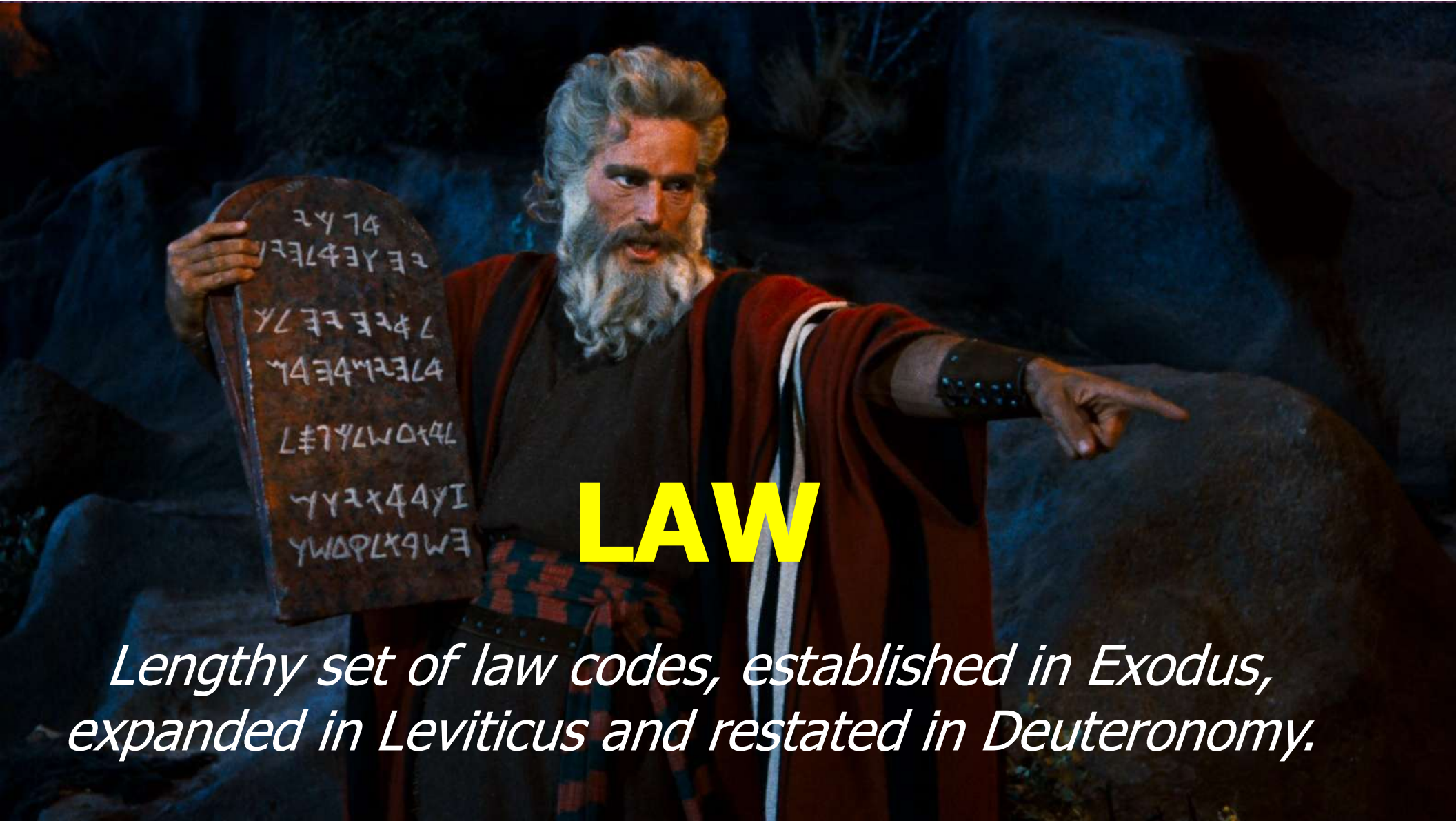
*A biblical narrative is a story told for the purpose of conveying a message through people, their problems and situations.*

*Narratives follow a pattern in which a **problem** occurs near the beginning, with increasing complications that reach a **climax**. And then it moves toward a **solution** to the problem, and **concludes** with the problem solved.*





**What questions should you ask to correctly understand this story?**



# LAW

*Lengthy set of law codes, established in Exodus, expanded in Leviticus and restated in Deuteronomy.*



# OLD TESTAMENT LAWS

**MORAL LAWS** – declares what God requires of man

**CEREMONIAL LAWS** – portrays the salvation to come in Christ

**CIVIL LAWS** – for the nation Israel to restrain evil



**What questions should you ask to correctly apply these laws?**

A painting of a man with brown hair and a green headband, wearing a simple brown tunic, playing a wooden harp. He is looking down at the instrument with a slight smile. The background is a soft, textured wash of light colors.

# POETRY

**Hebrew poetry isn't built on rhyme or rhythm, but on parallel structure. Verses are grouped in pairs, threes or fours to illustrate an idea by restating, expanding, or contrasting it.**

*Hebrew Parallelism*

**Psalm 33:10-11**

**Yahweh brings the counsel of the nations to nothing**

**He frustrates the plans of the people**

**The counsel of Yahweh stands forever**

**The plans of his heart to all generations**

**SOVEREIGNTY**



**I can never escape from your Spirit!  
I can never get away from your presence!  
If I go up to heaven, you are there;  
if I go down to the grave, you are there.  
If I ride the wings of the morning,  
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,  
even there your hand will guide me,  
and your strength will support me.**

Ps 139:7-10

**What questions should you ask to  
correctly interpret this psalm?**

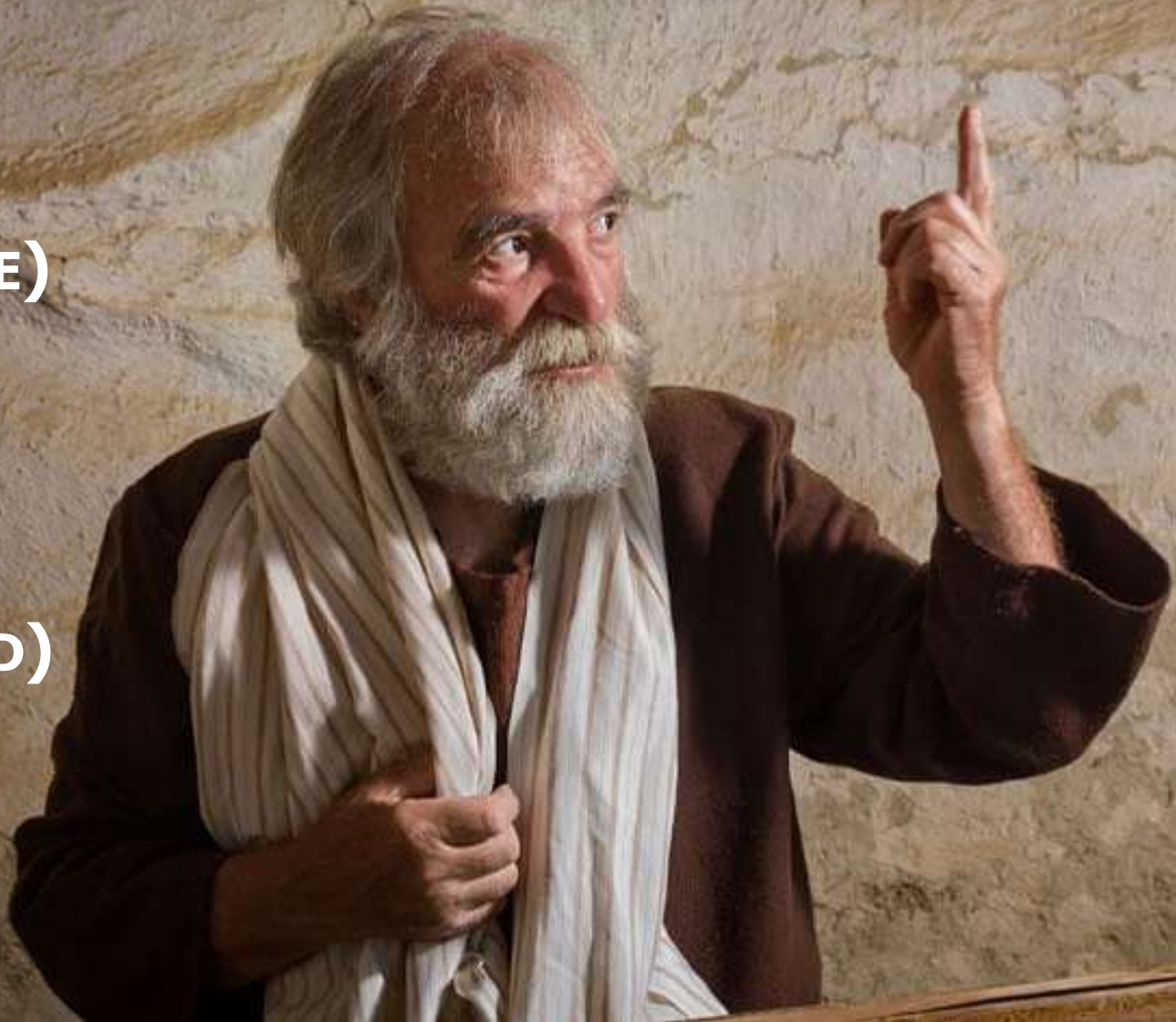


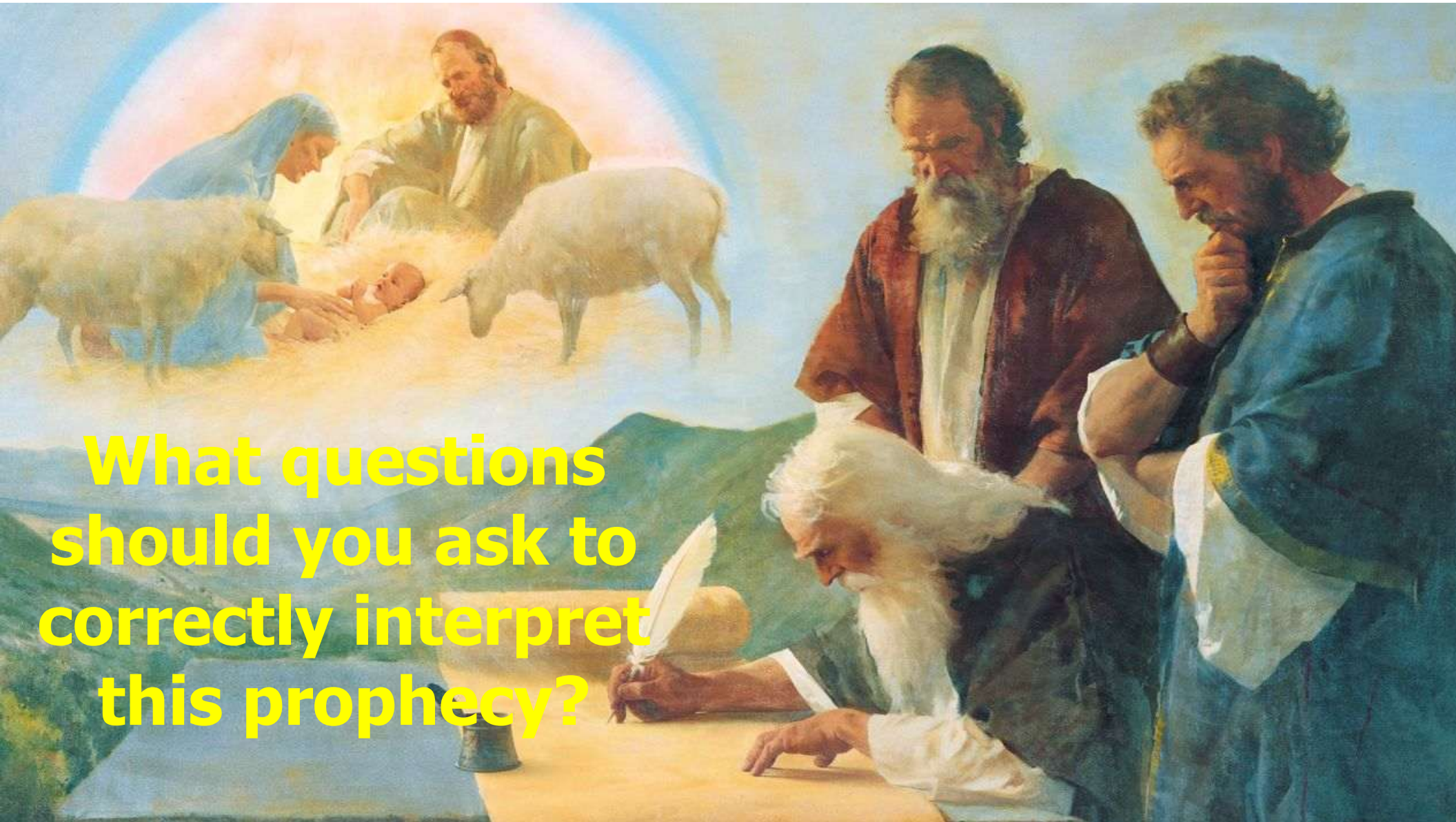
# PROPHECY

**These are writings rich in metaphor and symbolism. They are written passionately, at times using sharp satire and graphic images best for mature readers.**

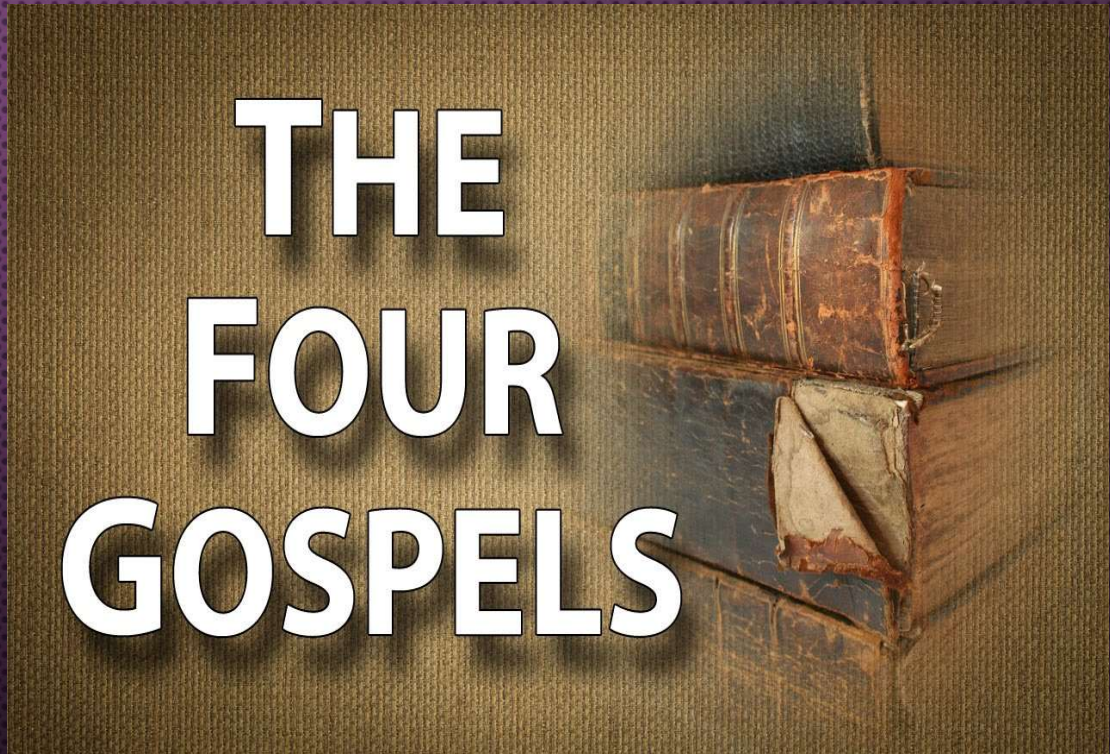
**PROPHECY IS**  
**FORE-TELLING**  
(PREDICTING THE FUTURE)

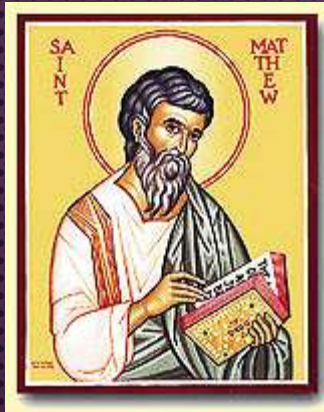
**PROPHECY IS**  
**FORTH-TELLING**  
(SPEAK FORTH THE WORD)





**What questions  
should you ask to  
correctly interpret  
this prophecy?**





Presents Jesus as the  
Coming King of  
Israel, the Messiah

**MATTHEW**

Presents Jesus  
as the Servant  
of the LORD

**MARK**



?? Why Four Gospels ??

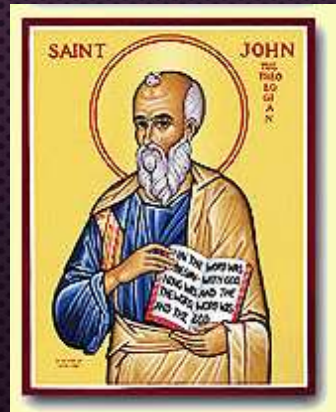


**LUKE**

Presents Jesus as  
the perfect, yet  
dependent, Man.

**JOHN**

Presents Jesus as  
the Son of God -  
eternal Deity



# TEMPTATION OF JESUS

## Matthew

**4** <sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” <sup>5</sup> Then the

## Mark

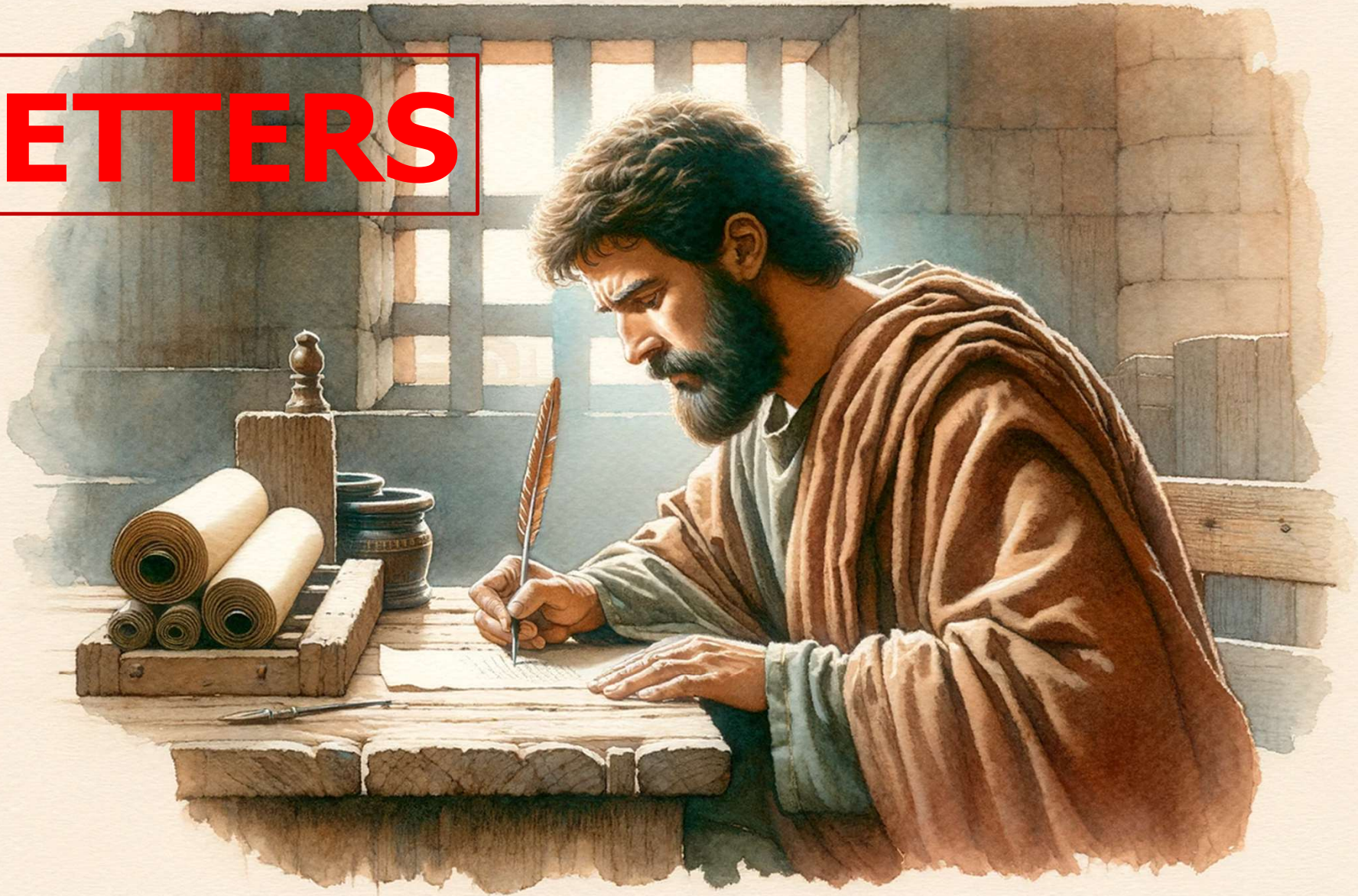
<sup>12</sup> The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

## Luke

**4** <sup>1</sup> And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness <sup>2</sup> for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” <sup>5</sup> And the

**What do we learn from each Gospel writer's account on this event?**

# LETTERS



# Letters Written by Paul Circa 50-65 C.E.

**ROME**  
Ephesians  
Colossians  
Philemon  
Philippians  
Hebrews  
2 Timothy

**MACEDONIA**  
2 Corinthians  
1 Timothy  
Titus (?)

**CORINTH**  
1 Thessalonians  
2 Thessalonians  
Romans

**EPHESUS**  
1 Corinthians

**ANTIOCH**  
Galatians (?)

● Locations where Paul wrote his letters  
(?) Location of writing uncertain



**What questions  
should you ask to  
correctly apply  
this letter?**



# **GENRES**

## **Types of writing in the Bible**

**It's important to know  
what GENRE you are  
reading because this  
impacts how we read and  
interpret what it says!**

**COMMON  
INTERPRETATION  
ERRORS**

