

Reading the Bible for all it's Worth

For starters:

- There were three surprises (women) in the ancestry of Christ? Can you name them?
 - Why was it a surprise that they appeared in the genealogy?
 - Discuss the story of each.
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Narratives:

1. Bible Narratives tell a story. There is a _____(what and how), _____(where and when), _____(who), a _____ and a resolution in most cases.
2. Bible narratives tell _____ history. They are not made up but record actual historical people and events. Yet there are theological principles revealed.
3. Bible narratives include the _____ character and _____ of the participants. (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Solomon etc.)
4. Bible narratives do not always identify _____ or the mistakes or even the positive behavior. They sometimes remain neutral. Many times it is left up to the reader to discover. (Judges)
5. Bible narratives sometimes teach _____ and sometimes they teach _____

Let's look at one such lesson from Scripture:

Let's read Joshua chapter 2. It includes the story of one of the surprising women in the bloodline of Jesus. See Matt 1:2-6 for all three.

We can study this verse by verse and paragraph by paragraph and find many good thoughts. Sometimes the major principle is revealed by the way stories are strung together and by contrasting characters.

- Chapter one – we have the challenge to be strong and cross Jordan to begin the Conquest
- Chapter two – We have the story of but one woman and her family and she of questionable character
- Chapters three to five – Describes the Hebrews' preparation to cross the Jordan and take the land

- Chapter Six- tells how they miraculously took Jericho and saved the woman and her family alive
- Chapter 7 tells the Story of Ai and the discovery of wicked Achan.
- A national history is interrupted with the individual stories to two families. Why? Could there be something to it? Notice the contrast between Rahab and Achan

Rahab	Achan
Woman	Man
Canaanite	Hebrew (tribe of Judah)
Prostitute (no respect)	Respectable
Should have died but survived and prospered	Should have prospered but died
Her family and all she owned survived	His family and all he owned perished
Nation perishes	Nation prospers
Hides the spies from the king	Hides the loot from God and Joshua
Hides the spies on the roof	Hid the loot under his tent
Fears the God of Israel	Does not fear the God of Israel
Has only heard of God but believes	Has seen the acts of God but disobeys
Her house survives while the city is burned	His tent is burned
Cattle sheep and donkeys of Jericho perish	Cattle sheep and donkeys of Achan perish
She becomes like an Israelite and lives	He becomes like a Canaanite and dies

Do you see? They _____. Do you think God is saying something by the placement of these stories?

What principles can we learn from this? You decide. Write them on the back.