Interpreting Biblical Genres Chart

Genre	Books	Features	Mistake to Avoid	Proper Interpretation
Narrative / Historical	Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther; Gospels, Acts	Plot, character, setting	Treating narrative as commands	Read as descriptive; look for God's faithfulness & redemptive themes.
Law / Covenant	Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy	Moral, ceremonial, civil laws	Applying ancient civil/ceremonial laws today	Distinguish moral, ceremonial, civil; understand covenant context.
Wisdom / Poetry	Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	Parallelism, metaphors, imagery	Reading Proverbs as promises	Poetic/figurative; Proverbs = principles, not guarantees.
Prophecy	Isaiah–Malachi; parts of Daniel, Ezekiel	Symbolic imagery, near/far fulfillment	Forcing prophecy into modern politics	Read historically; interpret symbols using OT; focus on covenant faithfulness.
Epistles	Romans–Jude	Arguments, exhortations, doctrine	Universalizing situational instructions	Letters addressing contexts; distinguish doctrine vs. cultural details.
Apocalyptic	Revelation; parts of Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah	Symbolism, visions, cosmic imagery	Over-literalizing symbols	Symbolic genre; Christ's victory; interpret using biblical storyline.