

Preaching Jesus from all the Bible

Old Testament Books	Genre	Themes	Types/Figures/Images	Questions to ask when preparing
Genesis - Deuteronomy	Narrative/History/Law	<p>Home&Exile – Eden is our place of shalom [only in Rev 21-22 do we see a full return!] Covenant – we are made for relationship with God. Obedience = blessing... Law – Jesus =fulfiller of law (ceremonial – he makes us clean; moral – he earns us blessing through his perfect life) Presence of God&Worship [Leviticus!] – how can sinful people come to a holy God? Sabbath Rest – We are made to find rest in God.</p>	<p>Patriarchs – Jesus is the hope they longed for Rock of Moses = Jesus Tabernacle – Jesus is THE dwelling place of God Bronze snake – Jesus was lifted up Water in the wilderness – Jesus is the water of life Circumcision - Jesus was cut off for his people, we enter into God’s people through him.</p>	<p>How long a section is manageable? Where am I in the overall narrative of the bible? Are there questions of this text which will distract listeners (eg historicity of Genesis 1-11; issues around patriarchy; questions of marriage/sex etc.)?</p>
Joshua - Esther	History	<p>Kingdom – Jesus is the GOOD and everlasting King</p>	<p>Every prophet, priest or King shows something of the salvation of Jesus (either through their flaws or their strengths). The Judges, David, Solomon, Rahab...</p>	<p>Important/distracting questions: Conquest and destruction in the name of the Lord? Historicity? How do I avoid just giving a history lesson?</p>
Job, Song of Songs, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations	Wisdom	<p>Wisdom – Jesus is THE wisdom of God (cf. Prov.8) Marriage – Jesus is the bridegroom, the lover of our souls</p>	<p>Job – Jesus is the ‘better’ Job who is a truly innocent sufferer and intercedes for his friends.</p>	<p>How does the gospel of Jesus answer the issues raised by wisdom lit.? Should I preach thematically through a wisdom book rather than verse by verse?</p>
Psalms	Poetry/wisdom	<p>Kingship – Jesus the true King</p>	<p>David – Jesus is the Davidic King</p>	<p>What emotion is driving this poem or song?</p>

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		Suffering of the Faithful – Jesus is THE innocent sufferer (cf. Ps.22)	The rejected stone/capstone – Ps.118:22	How can I preach that emotion in a way which points to Jesus?
Isaiah - Malachi	Prophecy	Justice and Judgment – God’s holiness and compassion run through in tension. This tension is resolved in Jesus. Home&Exile - Will the people ever really return? Where is our true home?	Suffering Servant - Jesus the lamb who takes away the sins of the world Jeremiah – a prophet of sorrow, acquainted with grief.	What are the distinctive themes of my particular prophet/book? How is this message understood at the time of writing, in the time of Jesus, and today? [horizons of fulfilment].
New Testament Books	Genre	Themes	Dangers to avoid	From Jesus/Letters to us – some questions to consider
Matthew – Acts [Acts = second instalment of Luke]	Gospels [theological history]	Kingdom of God – Jesus is inaugurating the Kingdom The Cross – Jesus’ hour of glory is coming at the cross	Over-familiarity – find the surprise Morality tales – avoid ‘to-do’ application. Coded messages – if we allegorise the gospels they lose their footing in reality!	Find the writer’s purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mark – good news announcer - Matthew – disciple maker - Luke – careful investigator - John – Jesus believer Look at details – why are these specific things included in this very short account? Look for a whiff of OT – where is Jesus fulfilling something?

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				<p>Historical Q: why does Jesus do/say this?</p> <p>Literary Q: why does the author include it?</p> <p>Application Q: what does this mean for us today?</p>
Romans - Jude	Letters	<p>The Church – what is it?</p> <p>Theological wrestling – how does the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, coming of the Holy Spirit...shape our knowledge of God?</p> <p>Second Coming – when is it/how should we live now?</p> <p>Christian Living – what difference does faith in Jesus make to our every day lives?</p>	<p>Forgetting their historical context – all biblical books have an ‘occasion’ for writing. Letters are most obviously and often stated. We mustn’t bypass the original setting.</p> <p>Taking a section in isolation – work hard at understanding the whole letter; work out and follow the ‘flow’ or logic where possible.</p>	<p>Can I find out some of the background to this letter in the book of Acts, or other letters?</p> <p>What can I discover about the original purpose for this letter (often the letter will contain clues)?</p> <p>How do these things shape the theological teaching given?</p> <p>How do they shape the pastoral application?</p>
Revelation	<p>Apocalyptic (see also, Daniel 6ff; Isaiah 24-27; Zechariah)</p> <p>This means ‘unveiling’ - it is a style of literature which pulls back the curtain on the eternal and spiritual realities from God’s perspective.</p>	<p>The Great Day – the day of judgment.</p> <p>New Creation – the fulfilment of all things</p>	<p>Scare-mongering – Revelation was written in a time of great fear for Christians and is intended to bring comfort.</p> <p>Code-breaking – an obsession with tracing every number or message and tracing it on to today’s news/world is usually unhelpful.</p>	<p>Where have these themes come from in the rest of the bible?</p> <p>What comfort would these big truths bring to suffering/persecuted Christians?</p> <p>What are the limits of our understanding here?</p>

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