



FEATS Module 4: Genesis/Exodus
Homework to be Completed
Prior to Learning Session #1

Reading Assignments

Fee and Stuart *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*, pp. 17-31; 89-106. (We are using this book for several FEATS modules. It is available used from Amazon.com for less than \$10 and is an excellent resource.)

All of Genesis, using Robert Alter, *The Five Books of Moses: Translation & Commentary*. (This book can be purchased on-line, used, through Amazon.com for around \$15.)

Written Assignments

1. From Fee and Stewart, write down what you think their three primary points are in the chapter on OT narrative, using no more than 2-3 sentences for each point.
2. As you read Genesis, try to read it straight through, or in no more than two sittings. Try to pay little attention to the commentary/translator's notes on the bottom of the page. They're very helpful, but the first time through they might distract you from the text. The reason we're reading so much is that we want to experience Genesis as it was written: as a continuous story.

When you have finished your reading, please note, in writing, seven elements from Genesis that caught your attention. These could be things that surprised you, confused you, made you happy or made you troubled. For each of the seven elements, write a brief (no more than two sentences) description of why.

Also, make a very simple outline of Genesis -include only the episodes that are essential to the story. The story begins with an undifferentiated watery

mass, and ends with Joseph's death in Egypt, so only include the episodes that are needed to get you from that beginning to that end.

By the way, please bring the Bible you regularly use when we meet.

Discussion Topics

1. To get us rolling, we will be telling travel stories. Be ready to share something crazy, funny, scary or poignant that you've experienced while traveling. We're starting here because Genesis is kind of a travel story.
2. Be thinking about what "kind" of story Genesis is. Think through the kinds of stories you've experienced in movies and books and try to connect those to Genesis.
3. Related to this, be ready to discuss the big question: "What is Genesis about?" For instance, if someone asked you what "Jurassic Park" is about, the quick answer would be, "Dinosaurs", but the better answer would be, "It's a cautionary tale about the dangers of messing with nature, especially DNA".