

Synthetic Bible Study – Part 6

Howard Hendricks

I. Book recommendations.

A. Baxter's *Explore the Books*.

1. Gives you a good overview of synthesis.

B. Jensen's *The Bible Self Study Series*.

1. Not so much the product of synthesis as the process.
2. It will get you into the book yourself.

C. Morgan's *The Analyzed Bible* and *Living Messages of the Books of the Bible*.

D. Scroggy *Know your Bible and the Unfolding Drama of Redemption*.

II. Another look at Jonah.

A. Note the conjunctions with which each paragraph begins.

B. In summarizing a paragraph, try to limit the words of your title.

C. Sections.

1. First paragraph: Calling, Commission, etc.

2. Second paragraph: Conflict, God exposes Jonah, Discover, etc.

- a. Do not try to force the alliteration in titles, but use it if you have it.

- b. You want to gear your message toward the audience.

3. Prayer of Jonah.

- a. Look for the connectives: then, yet, but.

- b. Look for the change in pronoun: I, thou, and a combination.

- 1) Why?

- a) Begins with confession.

- b) Ends with promise.

4. Chapter 3 paragraphs.

- a. First: Re-commission, First Cry, etc.
- b. Second: Crusade, Dual Repentance, Second Cry, etc.

5. Chapter 4 paragraphs.

- a. First: Preacher Pal, Turning in the Prophet's Badge, the First Heart Revealed, etc.
- b. Second: Love Lesson Taught, the Second Heart Revealed, etc.

1) Greatest difficulty of the ministry is depression.

a) Every major servant of God goes through strong areas of depression.

b) It is easy to see how God deals with depression on the part of His servants.

2) Jonah would not make a good Christian novel - it ends unhappily.

D. The process is as important as the product.

III. Summarizing the book in a chart.

- A. Take the plot of a book and map it out visually.
- B. Put summaries at the bottom tracing the topics throughout the book.
- C. Make it memorable; make sure it is an overview.
- D. This distills your study down so it is accessible and memorable.

Application questions:

1. What stood out to you about the process of titling paragraphs in Jonah?

2. What is the value of chart making? How can it help your disciples? How will it aid you?

3. Develop a chart for Jonah summarizing the contents, titling the paragraphs, and selecting key verses. Be creative.
