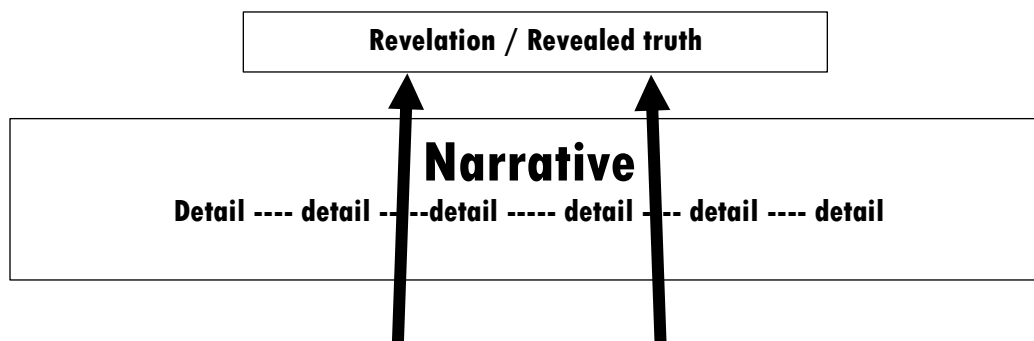


## 1. The power of narrative:

- The Bible is not a western systematic theology book.
- “Systematic theology” of the ancient Near East is narrative.
- The narrative contains details through which emerges or is revealed truths:
  - About God
  - About our relationship with God
  - About human behavior and what behavior is best to keep us on the path
  - About human relationships.
- Revelation from below:
  - Without directly telling us the answer, the Bible is written in a **High Context** communication style. Through the high context which we discover the truths ourselves.
  - Self-discovery (revelation) has significantly more lasting power to transform our lives because the transformation happens from within.



- How to read narrative?
  - “Lather, Rinse, Repeat” – you must read over and over to increase familiarity.
  - Pay attention to the details – if the author included something, he did it for a reason.
  - Details – where do they point us?
    - **Old Testament** – what is the message from the Old Testament.
    - **Culture** – is there something from the culture that would be known to all who prefer high context communication.
    - **Tradition** – is there something from the religious traditions of 1<sup>st</sup> Century Judaism?

## 2. Old Testament:

- Two prominent feeding miracles from the Torah
  - **Exodus 16** – miraculous provision of food.
  - **Numbers 11** – miraculous provision of food (followed by God’s judgment).

- Jesus and Exodus are a common theme (especially Matthew):
  - Jesus is represented as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Moses leading Israel out of exile and into the Kingdom of God.
  - Jesus is the Passover Lamb whose blood delivers you.
  - Jesus is one greater than Moses.

### 3. Elisha Feeding Miracle –

- 2 Kings 4:42-44
- Elijah and Elisha were heroes of the faith for the Jewish community.
  - John the Baptist presents himself as Elijah come again to usher in the Messiah (Malachi 4:5; Luke 1:17)
  - Right after the death of John, the Baptist Jesus does a similar miracle to Elisha.
- Jesus is greater than Elisha.

### 4. Cultural Details -

- **Location:**
  - Feeding of 5000 happens in a Jewish area.
  - Feeding of 4000 happens in the Gentile area.
- **Numbers** relate to the locations:
  - Feeding of 5000 - Jewish area - Land of the twelve (twelve tribes)
  - Feeding of 4000 – Gentile area – Land of the Seven (seven nations driven out)
    - *Gerushim* – the driven out; expelled ones
- **Deuteronomy 7:1**

When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess, and He drives out many nations before you—the **Hittites, Gergashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites** and **Jebusites**, seven nations more numerous and powerful than you

- Acts 13:19

and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance.