

## Chapter 6: The Nature of Hebrew Poetry – Parallelism Categories (Kinds, Types)

Grace Christian Fellowship of Dayton / Sunday Bible Study Prepared by Gregory A. Weis / September 1, 2019

### I. Review from the Past 5 Messages:

#### A. **Chapter 1: The Apostolic Writer's Use of Psalms in the N.T.** (4 Pages of Quotes)

1. Our Lord Jesus & the N.T. Apostolic Writers Testify Frequently that the Psalms are About the Christ.
2. The Birth of the Apostolic Hermeneutic: (Regarding Biblical Studies - It is Always All About Jesus)

**Note:** Luke 24:44-45 is the Incarnation (Birth) of the Apostolic Hermeneutic in Human (Christian) History.

"The Apostolic Hermeneutic is Both Correct & Christocentric." {GCF Dictum: Memorize} {John 5:39}

#### B. **Chapter 2: The Five Books of Biblical Wisdom Literature:** Job; Psalms; Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Canticles

1. Anthropomorphic Wisdom in Scripture is Jesus: (Colossians 2:1-3) (1 Corinthians 1:30)
2. Definition of Biblical Wisdom: Biblical Life-Skills in Fear of God. Practical Lifestyle from God's View.
  - a. Blessing vs. Curse Realms; Living in Harmony w/ God's Righteous Order; Every Part of Life.  
No Deception, No Blame shifting, Cover-Ups; Etc. (e.g. Proverbs 1 & / or Ecclesiastes 12.)
  - b. 2 Paths: Path (Way) of the Wise (Righteous) vs. the Path (Ways) of Fools (Wicked); [e.g. Psalm 1]

#### C. **Chapter 3: Biblical Imagery** (Intro to the Nature of Hebrew Poetry)

1. Rhyme & Rhythm in World Poetry vs. Imagery (aka Word Pictures) (Sovereign Translation Purpose)
2. Biblical Imagery (Word Pictures): Not Lost in Translation – God's Providential Foresight.

#### D. **Chapter 4: Parallelism(s)** (More Intro to the Nature of Hebrew Poetry)

1. Building Blocks of Hebrew / Biblical Poetry: Words; Cola; Lines; & Strophes (aka Stanzas)
2. Biblical (aka Hebrew) **Parallelism Defined:** The correspondence that intentionally exist between two juxtaposed lines, segments (cola) or strophes in a poem or song.

#### E. **Chapter 5: Eight Literary Devices Used in the Biblical Imagery of the Psalms.** (2 Weeks Ago.)

1. Simile: Comparison linked by comparative words such as: "like" or "as." (Psalms 37:1; 102:6)
2. Metaphor: Comparison not linked together by comparative words. (Psalm 23:1)
3. Metonymy: Figure of speech using name of one object or concept for another. (Psalm 5:9; 24:4)
4. Synecdoche: Figure of speech in which part represents whole or whole is used for the part.  
Or, figure of speech in which the general is used for specific or specific for general. (Ps. 44:6)
5. Hyperbole: Obvious exaggeration to emphasize a point. Use of extravagant statement not to be taken literally, but to focus attention. ("I would never use Hyperbole in a million years.") (Psalm 18:7-8; 42:3a)

**Note:** Use of Hyperbole in an age of Word Inflation, Etc.

6. Apostrophe: Addresses an inanimate thing as a person; a person not present as if they were present; or an imaginary person as if they were present. (Psalm 24:7; 87:3; 148:3)
7. Anthropomorphism: Assigning to God Human Characteristics or Body Parts. (Psalm 10:12; 31:2)
8. Mythological Historical Allusions: Literary Device using extra-Biblical Historical Imagery from rival pagan nations to mock their false gods. (Eg. Canaanites & Babylonians vs. YHWH) (Psalm 74:12-14)

### II. **Today: Chapter 6: More on Parallelisms (aka Couplets) – Parallelism Categories** (Types or Kinds)

**Note:** Several Categories of Parallelism's have more than one synonymous name. (List in Order of Importance.)

#### A. **Synonymous, Static, or Emphatic Parallelism:** 1<sup>st</sup> line or cola is restated by 2<sup>nd</sup> Line or cola. (A, A)

1. Usually the meanings are nearly identical, but the Imagery or Words have changed.
2. Done for Emphasis (Amplification / Accentuation) and Clarity. (See Deuteronomy 6:5)

(Psalm 78:1) Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! (ESV) (7 & 8)

(Psalm 78:1) Listen, O my people, to my instruction; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. (NASB)

(Psalm 117:1) Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol (Laud) Him, all peoples! (ESV / NASB, NKJV)  
 (Psalm 3:1-2) O LORD, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me. <sup>2</sup> Many are saying of my soul, There is no deliverance (salvation) for him in God.” (NASB / ESV) (Triplet)  
 (Psalm 120:2) Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, From a deceitful tongue. (Cf. Psalm 40:13)  
 (Proverbs 3:11) My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, (ESV)  
 (Proverbs 3:11) My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His reproof, (NASB) (cf. Hebrews 12:5)  
 (Psalm 5:9) For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue. (ESV) Static Emphatic Parallelism w/ ABBA Chiastic Structure.

**B. Antithetical, Opposition, or Contrasting Parallelism:** 2<sup>nd</sup> line states the opposite of 1<sup>st</sup> line. (A, B)

(Psalm 1:6) For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish. (Cf. Ps. 1:1-5)  
 (Psalm 18:27) For you save a humble (afflicted) people, but the haughty eyes you bring down (abase). (ESV / NASB)  
 (Psalm 20:7) Some boast in chariots and some in horses, But we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God.  
 (Psalm 34:10) The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. (ESV)  
 (Ecclesiastes 10:2) A wise man's heart inclines him to the right, but a fool's heart to the left.  
 (Proverbs 10:1) A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish son is a grief (sorrow) to his mother. (NASB /ESV)

**C. Synthetic, Formal, Progressive or Climatic Parallelism:** 2<sup>nd</sup> line shows resulting movement < progression or completion if 1<sup>st</sup> line.

**Note:** Some consider Climatic Or Step) Parallelism to be a separate category of parallelisms.

(Psalm 18:3) I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. (A, B)  
 (Psalm 23:1) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (A, B)  
 (Psalm 42:1) As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. (ESV) (A, B)  
 (Psalm 29:1-2) Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. <sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. (A, B, C, D Progression)  
 (Proverbs 4:23) Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life. (NASB) (A, B)  
 (Proverbs 4:23) Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs (issues) of life. (ESV / NKJV)

**D. Emblematic or Comparative Parallelism:** Figure of Speech (Imagery, Symbol) in 1 line illustrates or illuminates the meaning or content of the 2<sup>nd</sup> corresponding line.

(Psalm 1:3) He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. (Phrases A, B & C illustrate D)  
 (Psalm 18:14) And He sent out his arrows and scattered them; He flashed forth lightnings and routed them.  
 (Psalm 42:1) As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. (ESV) (A, B)  
 (Psalm 103:13) As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. (NKJV) (or has compassion)  
 (Proverbs 25:12) Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise reprovew to a listening ear. (A, B)

**Enjoyable Exercise:** Using Chapters 5 & 6 of the “Guide to the Psalms Series” identify Literary Devices in the Biblical Imagery and the Categories of Parallelisms in Luke 1:46-55 (“*The Magnificat*”). What Images are drawn from other places in the Scriptures & from where are they derived? (Advent is in 91 days – 3 Months)

**III. Upcoming Messages:**

Genres or Categories (Types of Kinds) of Psalms; The Psalms in Church History;  
 An Overview of the Bible & the Place of the Wisdom Literature in General;  
 Intro to Biblical Numerology; Various Psalm Favorites Explored; Etc.



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