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Essay Question
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OT751

Hebrew language students only – discuss an interesting feature of the text.

An interesting feature of the text of Isaiah is the different Hebrew poetic expressions it uses. In chapter 1 alone can be found at least two examples of Hebrew poetry expressions. In Hebrew poetry there has been one feature identified known as Synonymous Parallelism. Next is the External Parallelism. In Is.1:3, Synonymous parallelism is demonstrated in the following way:

“The ox knows its master,
The donkey its owner’s manger,
But Israel does not know,
My people do not understand” (NIV)

The text here expresses thought in four lines, in which all lines of Hebrew poetry follow the same thought. Then there is Is.1:10, which says:

“Hear the word of the Lord,
You rulers of Sodom;
Listen to the instruction of our God,
You people of Gomorrah!” (NIV)

This verse if read carefully uses the Internal and External Parallelism, because it introduces a balance between the first two lines individually, and the second two lines

individually. Yet at the same time it produces balance as well between the first two lines and the second two lines to produce a stanza of Hebrew poetry that is synonymous.