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Poetry, Wisdom, & the Psalms

Questions:

1. What percentage of the Old Testament is poetry
2. 3 types of parallelism?
3. What is pleonasm?
4. What is the saying?
5. What is onomastica?

Answers:

1. 1/3rd of the Old Testament is poetry
2. The 3 types of parallelism are synonymous, antithetic, and synthetic
3. This figure involves a redundancy of expression used in order to obtain a certain effect on the mind of the listener or reader
4. Sayings are typically statements that note what does or does not take place from time to time.
5. A lists on various topics, which were used by the Wisdom writers in a secondary way to organize their thinking on certain subject

Terms:

Climactic Parallelism: The poet repeats a group of two or three words in two —sometimes three or four —successive lines.

Simile: A simile is an expressed or formal comparison between two things or two actions in which one is said to be “as,” or “like” the other; hence, there is a direct comparison made between the two items.

Proverbs: Are brief sayings that are memorable, embody the wisdom of many, possess a fullness of meaning despite economy of words, and have a bit of a kick or bite to them to ensure their saltiness and continued usefulness.

Summary:

Chapter 9 is an overview poetry and the devices that characterize poetry used within the Bible. Recognizing these devices will help an interpreter recognize poetry in the Old and New Testament. This chapter also provides an overview at Wisdom Literature used in the Bible.

First, we review poetry, looking at parallels and the different literary patterns that are used to distinguish parallels form of poetry. It expands on figures of speech and how similes and metaphors when extended become parables and allegories. It outlines figures of comparison and contrast, omissions and how those are applied in the bible.

The chapter then pivots to the Wisdom Literature and how there we can interpret and analyze wisdom literature based on the patterns of how they are they are written. It provides a deep dive into the 1) proverbs 2) sayings 3) riddles 4) allegory 5) admonitions 6) dialogue 7) onomastica.