

Questions:

1. Which seven books of the Old Testament are without any poetry?
2. Robert Lowth described three basic types of parallelism, what are they?
3. Which three rhetorical devices are used particularly to characterize Hebrew poetry?
4. What are the three parts of every simile or metaphor?
5. Besides parallelism, what are other features of Hebrew poetry that tend to distinguish it from prose?

Answers:

1. They are Leviticus, Ruth, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, and Malachi.
2. They are synonymous, antithetic, and synthetic.
3. They are chiasm, emblematic symbolism, and climatic parallelism.
4. They are the subject or item being illustrated by the images; the image of the direct or implied comparison; the point of the direct or implied comparison and similarity.
5. A relatively greater conciseness or terseness of form, and greater use of certain rhetorical devices.

Terms:

1. Parallelism: The correspondence of one verse or line with another.
2. Pleonasm: A literary device writers love to use for the sake of emphasizing a point.
3. Hendiatris: three words are used to express a single concept.

Summary:

The Bible provides many different kinds of literature, among them, poetry and wisdom literature are very rich in forms and contents. To interpret them, especially for poetry, special attention has to draw on those figures. During interpreting, both poetry and wisdom literature need to do in the context of the text and culture as well, trying to avoid any over-interpret. Although when the context is not clear, common sense and sound judgment are very helpful to understand the text.