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NT615.NA/NOS Biblical Exegesis
February 7, 2023

Questions

1. What are three rhetorical devices that characterize Hebrew poetry?
2. What do these devices signal to the interpreter and what can this tell the interpreter?
3. What is the book of Ecclesiastes an example of?
4. Admonitions appear in which two forms?
5. What is an advantage is there in using figures of speech versus prose?

Answers

1. The three rhetorical devices that characterize Hebrew poetry are chiasm, emblematic symbolism, and climatic parallelism.
2. These devices signal to the interpreter the presence of poetry and lets the interpreter know to lookout for special nuances that the author was intending to convey in the text.
3. The book of Ecclesiastes is an example of wisdom literature.
4. The two forms that admonitions appear are either a positive form (commands) or a negative form (prohibitions).
5. Figures of speech draw pictures and give a vividness that ordinary prose cannot supply. It draws attention to certain items that otherwise might have been passed over.

Terms

1. Emblematic Symbolism- In poetry this is a type of parallelism where one line takes the form of a straightforward or factual statement, while the balancing line(s) takes the form of a simile or a metaphor as a figurative illustration of the same statement.
2. Climatic Parallelism- in this rhetorical device the poet repeats a group of two or three words in two (or sometimes three or four) successive lines.
3. Litotes- a form of understatement that affirms a statement by negating its contrary.

Summary

This chapter focuses on characterizing Hebrew poetry that is found in the bible specifically the Old Testament. The main characteristics discussed are parallelism of thoughts, terseness of form and rhetorical devices. The chapter ends with discussing how wisdom literature is used and includes subgenres such as proverb, riddle, admonition, dialogue, and onomastic.