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NT615 “My Heart Is Stirred by a Noble Theme”: The Meaning of Poetry and Wisdom – Ch. 9

QUESTIONS

1. What are the three basic types of parallelism?
2. Identify three rhetorical devices that particularly characterize Hebrew poetry.
3. Admonitions appear in either positive forms (_____) or negative expressions (_____).
4. _____ uses words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning.
5. What is the first issue to address in the study of the Gospels?

Answers

1. Synonymous, Antithetic, and Synthetic
2. Chiasm, Emblematic Symbolism, & Climactic Parallelism
3. Commands, Prohibitions
4. Irony
5. Historicity

TERMS

Rhetorical Device: a use of language that creates a literary effect but often without regard for literal significance (i.e. repetition, figurative language, & rhetorical questions)

Pleonasm: a literary device writers love to use for the sake of emphasizing a point; involves a redundancy of expression used to obtain a certain effect on the mind of the listener or reader.

Didactic: intended to teach, particularly in having moral instruction as an ulterior motive

SUMMARY

Poetry is widely used in the Old Testament. It has many figures of speech which must be considered for its interpretation, and is an extremely important form which requires special hermeneutical demands. Wisdom Literature expresses the writers’ concern that we order our lives according to God’s own order in the world. Each subgenre has its own interpretive strategy.