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Biblical Exegesis

QUESTIONS

1. What are the three parts in every simile or metaphor?
2. When does a simile become a parable? is extended into a story.
3. What are the three basic types of parallelism?
4. How does poetry contrast with prose?
5. What are other features of Hebrew poetry that tend to distinguish it from prose?

ANSWERS

1. The subject or item being illustrated by the image, the image of the direct or implied comparison, and the point of the direct or implied comparison and similarity.
2. When a simile is extended into a story, it becomes a parable.
3. The three basic types of parallelism are synonymous, antithetic, and synthetic.
4. Prose is organized into paragraphs while poetry is divided into strophes, or stanzas.
5. Two ways to distinguish Hebrew poetry from prose are a greater use of certain rhetorical devices and a relatively greater conciseness or terseness of form.

TERMS

Synonymous Parallelism- the second line of the poetic form repeats the idea of the first line without making any significant addition or subtraction to it.

Simile- an expressed or formal comparison between two things or two actions in which one is said to be “as,” or “like” the other.

Metaphor- A more difficult but much more frequent figure of speech is the metaphor.

SUMMARY

In this chapter, the authors spoke on the differences of poetry and prose in biblical literature. The books of the Bible that are wisdom literature show that we order our lives according to God’s own order in the world (Kaiser and Silva, 150). This poetic and wisdom literature are filled with similes, metaphors, proverbs, and allegories. The authors challenge those who seek to interpret wisdom genres to determine where each of the subgenres belong.