

The Poetic Books

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Job – drama

Psalms – lyric poems designed to be sung

Proverbs – short, two-line, pithy sayings

Ecclesiastes – prose

Song of Songs – romantic poetry

The Psalms

Praise – Psalm 19

Historical – Psalm 105

Ethical – Psalms 1 & 8

Penitence – Psalms 32 & 51

Messianic – Psalm 22

The Psalms

Psalms of Ascents – Psalms 120-134

Sung by worshipers as they ascended the road to Jerusalem to attend the festivals.

Perhaps also as the singers ascended the steps to the temple.

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Alphabet Psalms – Psalm 119

Proverbs – Hebrew Parallelism

Synonymous parallelism

- 2 or 3 lines with the same thought repeated
- *“Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.”*

Psalm 1:5

Proverbs – Hebrew Parallelism

Antithetic parallelism

- 2 or 3 lines with contrasting thoughts
- *“For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”*

Psalm 1:6

Proverbs – Hebrew Parallelism

Synthetic parallelism

- 2 or 3 lines advance or illuminate the thought in the first line.
- *“As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.”*

Psalm 103:13

Proverbs – Hebrew Parallelism

Synthetic parallelism

- 2 or 3 lines advance or illuminate the thought in the first line.
- *“As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.”*

Psalm 103:13

- *“Fear the Lord, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing.”*

Psalm 34:9

Proverbs – Hebrew Parallelism

Climactic parallelism

- Describes a highly repetitive, slowly advancing set of lines
- *“Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones,
Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.”*

Psalm 29:1-2

Proverbs – Hebrew Parallelism

Examples in the Proverbs

- Sample test question:

“Identify the following using one of the four sets of Hebrew Parallelism described in class.”