

Understanding the Poetry Books in the Old Testament

Hebrew Poetry is different than western poetry.
Three major features of Hebrew poetry were figurative language, parallelism, and chiasm (chiastic structure)

Parallelism

Repeating the same idea with slightly different words, or stating an idea and then it's opposite (known as antithetical parallelism)

Chiasm

Working into an argument or concept through a series of progressing ideas, and then working back out in the reverse order.

Example - Psalm 1

- Contrast the righteous and the wicked Ps 1:1-2 (they are not the same)
 - What are they like Ps 1:3 (the righteous)
 - What are they like Ps 1:4 (the wicked)
- Contrast the righteous and the wicked Ps 1:5-6 (they are not the same)

Psalms are not meant to define our beliefs as much as facilitate the expression and practice of what we believe.

DAY 26

What is your one takeaway from this session?

