

JOB AS LITERATURE

I. Job as LITERATURE

A. Grouped among the OT WISDOM Literature

1. Job: narrative DRAMA
2. Psalms: OT HYMNAL
3. Proverbs: WISDOM maxims
4. Ecclesiastes: A PHILOSOPHY of LIFE discourse
5. Song of Solomon: Cantata of LOVE
6. Lamentations: DIRGES lamenting the DESTRUCTION of Jerusalem

B. Bears all the characteristics of OT POETRY

1. Uses METER: a PATTERN of stressed and unstressed syllables
2. Uses parallelisms: a kind of RHYMING of IDEAS
3. Uses FIGURES of SPEECH

II. Job's Parallelisms

A. Synonymous: line two REPHRASES the thought in line one (Ps. 2:4; cf. Job 3:11; 4:17; 5:18)

B. Synthetic: line two FURTHER DEVELOPS the idea of line one (Ps. 95:3; cf. Job 5:12, 17; 39:1)

- C. Antithetic: line two CONTRASTS the idea of line one, or gives an OPPOSITE perspective (Ps. 1:6; cf. Job 32:7-8; 36:11-12)
- D. Emblematic: a figure of speech in one line ILLUSTRATES a TRUTH stated in the other (Ps. 23:1; cf. Job 8:2, 14; 19:9)
- E. Formal: pair of lines related only by FORMAL STRUCTURE (Ps. 2:6; cf. Job 38:3; 40:1-2)
- F. Climactic: a STANZA of related lines, all BEGINNING alike with the last line stating a GRAND CONCLUSION (Ps. 29:1-2; cf. Job 13:7-10)

III. Job's Figures of Speech

- A. Simile: a comparison stating something is LIKE something else (Job 23:10)
- B. Metaphor: a comparison stating one thing REPRESENTS another (Job 7:7)
- C. Merism: communicates a single basic truth or idea by expressing two OPPOSITES or EXTREMES (Job 38:19)
- D. Personification: attributes the characteristics of PERSONALITY to an inanimate OBJECT or an IDEA (Job 38:8)