

Lesson #13
How to Read the Bible
Poetry

One third of the Bible is written in poetry. It has unusual characteristics.

1. The Bible is one unified story.
 - a. Poetry is everywhere in the Bible.
 - i. Most of God's speech in the Bible is represented as Poetry.
 - ii. It's common in a biblical story that there is a pause and the character breaks out into Biblical song e.g. Exodus.
 - iii. Poems have different purpose than story.
 1. Why? Poems are much more descriptive.
 2. Ignites imagination through verbal art.
 - b. Biblical Poems are free verse.
 - i. Don't use meter and rhyme.
 - ii. Biblical poems are couplets i.e. two lines placed beside each other.
 - iii. First line makes a statement and the 2nd develops it somehow.
 - iv. Repetitive in nature which forces us to slow down and reflect on the meaning.
 1. Look at an idea from various angles.
 - v. Verbal artistry.

Lesson #13
How to Read the Bible?
Poetic Metaphor

Understanding poetic metaphor used by the biblical authors to communicate complex ideas will help us read biblical poetry with more insight.

1. Over 30% of the Bible is poetry.
 - a. Biblical poetry not only communicates info but invites us to experience ideas with our imagination.
 - i. This is called “Metaphysical language.”
 - b. Metaphors governs all of our language.
 - i. We use it all the time e.g. she gave me the cold shoulder.”
 - ii. Need the narratives to understand the poetic images.
2. Largest collection of poetry is in Psalms.