

# The Elephant in the Room



### Sound Parallelism of Rhyme

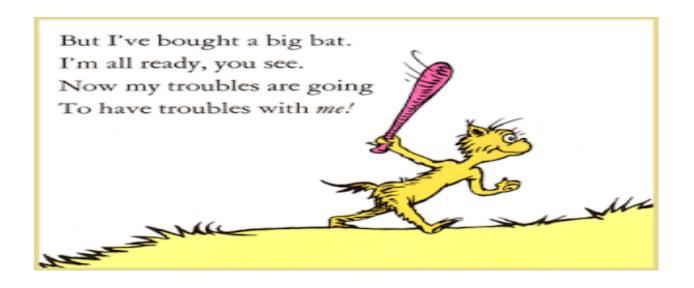
I have heard there are troubles of more than one kind.

Some come from ahead and some come from behind.

But I've bought a big bat. I'm all ready you see.

Now my troubles are going to have troubles with me!

-Dr. Suess



### Time Parallelism of Rhythm

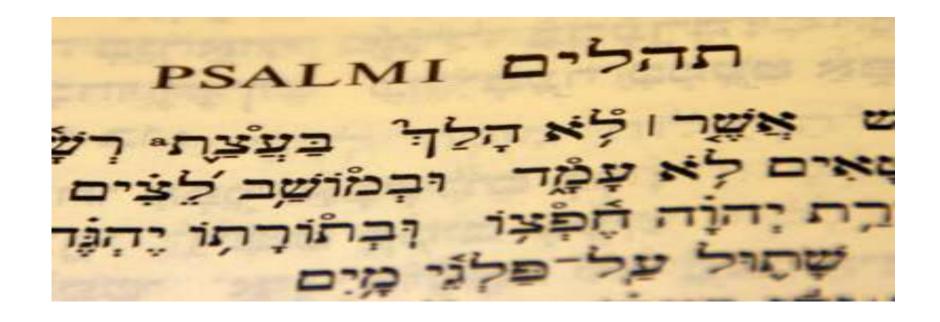


I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils
-William Wordsworth

### Hebrew Poetry

#### Has parallelism of ideas:

- 1) Synonymous
- 2) Contrasting
- 3) Constructive



### Synonymous Parallelism

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
  - 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
  - 3 They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.
  - 4 Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

-Psalm 19

### Contrasting Parallelism

- A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son brings grief to his mother.
- Ill-gotten treasures have no lasting value, but righteousness delivers from death.
- The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.
- Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth.

-Proverbs 10

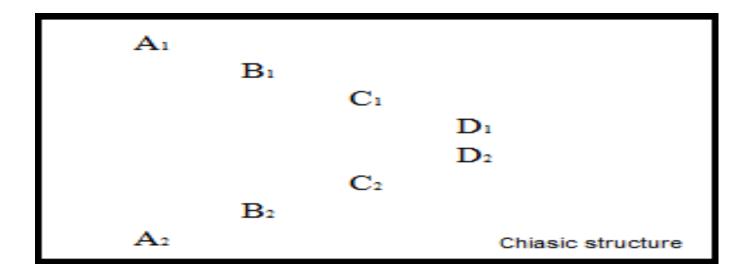
#### Constructive Parallelism

- I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure
- My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.
- Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve,
- everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;
- nothing was gained under the sun.
  - -Ecclesiastes 2

#### Introverted Parallelism / Chiasms

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

-Psalm 51



## Acrostics and Alphabet

PSAL. CXIX. צַדתָיו בְּכָל־לַב יִדְרְשִׁוּהוּ: אַ לֹא־פָּעֲלָוּ עַוְלֶה בִּדְרָבֶיו בּ הָלֶבוּ: אָדֶתה אַנִּיתָה פִּקְדִּיף לִשְׁמִר מְאָר: אֲחַלַי יִפְּנוּ בְּ רָרָבָי לִשְׁמִּר דְנֶקִיך: אַ לְא־אֵבְוֹשׁ בְּרַבִּימִׁי אֶל־בָּרֹ'- 6 מאומים: אורב בּוֹשָׁר לַבֶּב בְּלֹמִדִי מִשְׁפַּמִי אַרְכֵּןד: ז § בַּאֲה יְוַכֶּה־ אָדרה אַשְׁבָּוֹר אַל־תַּעַוְבָנִי עַד־מְאָד: נַעַר אָת־אָרְדֶוּ לִּשְׁמֹּר כִּדְבָרֶד: בְּבֶרֹילִבִּי דְרַשְׁתִּיך אַלֹּד י יַּשַשְׁנֵנִי כִּיפִּיצְוֹתֶיךִּ: בְּלָבִי צָפַנְתִּי אִמְרָתֶדְּ לְאַעַן לִאַ 11 אָהֶטָא־לֶּךְ: בָּדֶרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוֹיָה לַמְּדֵנִי הָכֶּוּךְ: בַּשְׁשְׁפָּתִי 13 ספַּרָתִי בֿל מִשְׁפָּמִי־פִּיך: בַּדְרָד עִדְותִיד שִׁשְׁתִּי בְעַל 14 قربا: فَعَوْرُثُهُ هُمُنَاتِ لِمَقِيمُ لِأَسْرِكُ: فَإِلَا إِلَّا אָשְתַּצַשָע לָא אָשְׁכַּח דְּבָרֶך: עַּל־עַרְדְּךָ אֶחְיָה 17 יָאֶשְׁמְרֶה דְבָרֶך: זַּלְ־עֵינִי וְאַבֶּישָׁה נְפְּלָאוֹת מִקּוֹרָתֶך: 18: ַבָּר בָאָרֶץ אַל־תַּסְתַּר בִּאָּנִי בִאָּוֹתֶיך: **נַּרְ**בָּה נַפְּשִׁי <sup>19</sup> לַתַאַבֶּר אָל־מִשְׁפָּמֶיךּ בְבָל־צֵת: עַּנִים אַרוּרֵים בּי בַּשׁנִים מִמִּצְותֶיך: בַּל מֻעָלֵי חֶרְפַָּה וָּבְוּו בִּי עֵרֹתֶיךְ נָצְרְתִּי: 22 בו ישְׁבֵּוּ שֻׂרִים בִּי נִדְבָּרוּ עַבְּדְּדֹּ יִשְׂיחַ בְּחֻכֵּוְדָּ: נַּם־ 23 בּ דַבָּקָה לֶעָפָּר נַפְּשָׁי כה צַרַתִיך שַׁנִשָּׁעַי אַנְשֵׁי נַצָּתִי:

#### **Prose**

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. He had seven sons and three daughters, and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

-Job 1

### A New Perspective

First 17 Books of Bible 5 Poetry Books

Historical Experiential

Nation Individual

Hebrew Race Human Heart

### God as Poet

"These experiences are here recorded and interpreted for us by the Spirit of inspiration through 'holy men of old,' who spoke and wrote 'as they were moved' by Him."

#### Poetic Arc

Job- Blessing Through Suffering

Psalms- Praise Through Prayer

Proverbs- Prudence through Precept

Ecclesiastes- Verity through Vanity

Song of Solomon- Bliss Through Union

"In the Book of Job we see the death of the self-life...with its self-goodness and self-reason and self-religion and self-everything..."

"Next, in the Psalms we see the new life in God..."

"In Proverbs we are in God's school..."

- "...in Ecclesiastes we are taught not to set our affection on anything under the sun..."
- "...the Song of Songs completes the progress by symbolically expressing the sweet intimacy of communion with Christ in all the fullness of His love."



"In these five books, then, we have the death of the old life in self, the flame of the new life in God, the practical disciplining of the soul in the school of God, the weaning of the heart from worldly desires, and the rapture of communion with the heavenly Bridegroom. Is not this a beautiful spiritual progress?

### Job: Death of Old Self

Then Job answered the Lord and said,

"I know that You can do all things,

And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'

Therefore I have declared that which I did not understand,

Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know."

'Hear, now, and I will speak;

I will ask You, and You instruct me.'

"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear;

But now my eye sees You;

Therefore I retract,

And I repent in dust and ashes."

-Job 42

#### Psalms: New Life in God

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,

Nor stand in the path of sinners,

Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water,

Which yields its fruit in its season

And its leaf does not wither;

And in whatever he does, he prospers.

-Psalm 1

#### Proverbs: Growth of Soul

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:
- 2 To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding,
- 3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity;
- 4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,
- 5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,
- 6 To understand a proverb and a figure, The words of the wise and their riddles.
- 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

-Proverbs 1

#### **Ecclesiates: A New Function**

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

What advantage does man have in all his work

Which he does under the sun?

-Ecclesiastes 1

For who knows what is good for a person in life, during the few and meaningless days they pass through like a shadow? Who can tell them what will happen under the sun after they are gone?

-Ecclesiastes 6

Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. Everything is Meaningless..." The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

-Ecclesiastes 12

### Song of Songs: Union with Christ

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Song of Solomon
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A. Prologue (1:2-2:7)
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- B. Invitation (2:8-17)
  - C. Night (3:1-5)
    - D. Wedding (3:6-5:1)
  - C. Night (5:2-7:10)
- B. Invitation (7:11-8:4)
- A. Epilogue (8:5-14)

### Song of Songs: Union with Christ

(Continued)

Awake, north wind,
and come, south wind!
Blow on my garden,
that its fragrance may spread everywhere.
Let my beloved come into his garden
and taste its choice fruits.

I have come into my garden, my sister, my bride;
I have gathered my myrrh with my spice.
I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey;
I have drunk my wine and my milk.
-Song of Solomon 4, 5

