

Parallelism in Hebrew Poetry

Type	Description	Example
Number Parallelism	First a number (n) is mentioned, then a higher number ($n + 1$)	<i>For three sins of Damascus, even for four, I will not relent (Amos 1:3)</i>
Synonymous Parallelism	The second line of poetry restates or supports the idea of the first line	Statement A: <i>My people, hear my teaching; </i> Reiteration A': <i>listen to the words of My mouth (Psalm 78:1)</i>
Antithetical Parallelism	The second line of poetry contrasts the idea of the first line	Statement A: <i>The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge; </i> Contrast B: <i>but the mouth of the fool gushes folly (Proverbs 15:2)</i>
Developmental Parallelism	The second line of poetry extends or builds upon the idea of the first line	Statement A: <i>That person is like a tree </i> Development A': <i>planted by stream of water </i> Development A'': <i>which yields its fruit in season </i> Development A''': <i>and whose leaf does not wither. </i> Development A''': <i>Whatever they do prospers. (Psalm 1:3)</i>
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