

Metaphor in Biblical Poetry

Last week we analyzed Biblical poetic structures, and how those structures aid our interpretation. This week we will discuss the role metaphor plays in Biblical poetry.

Video/Lecture Notes

- Metaphorical language uses imagery to connect concrete experiences with more abstract ideas.
- Metaphors are shaped by the culture in which they occur and so Biblical metaphors are often rooted in earlier narratives or developed in later narratives.
- Metaphors have limited points of contact, to greater or lesser degree. When reading, we want to determine what these points of correspondence are.

Discussion

For the following two passages discuss what is the primary metaphor? How is that metaphor developed in the passage?

Hosea 2

Psalm 23

The Shepherd metaphor is further developed throughout scripture. Read **Ezekiel 34:1-17**; **John 10:1-15**; and **I Peter 5:1-4** to see the ways this metaphor continues to develop throughout scripture.

Read **Psalm 27**. How many different metaphors are used? What do they refer to and how are those metaphors developed?