

Listening Guide

Introduction

[1] How many Old Testament books are written mostly in poetic form?

[2] Where else do we find poetry in the Old Testament?

Characteristics of Old Testament Poetry

[3] What is the difference between prose and poetry?

[4] Why does the writer veil the poetic message?

[5] How is Hebrew poetry different from poetry today?

[6] What do we call the literary device where two lines work together to create meaning?

[7] How does that literary device work?

[8] How do the two lines in Psalm 118:1 work together?

[9] What characterizes synonymous parallelism?

[10] What characterizes antithetic parallelism?

[11] What characterizes synthetic parallelism?

The Poetic Books

[12] What is the difference between Old Testament poetic and wisdom books?

[13] Did David write all the psalms?

[14] When were the earliest and the latest psalms written?

[15] How are the psalms different from most other Scripture passages?

[16] What are some of the ways the psalmists talked with God in their psalms?

[17] What do the psalms that express bitter feelings toward God or others teach us?

[18] What is the Song of Solomon's theme?

[19] Why is the Song of Solomon in the Bible?

[20] In what places does Lamentations "fit" in the Old Testament?

[21] What is Lamentations about?

Conclusion

[22] Why don't some people benefit from reading Hebrew poetic writings?

[23] How is Hebrew poetry different from modern poetry?

[24] Explain in your own words the meaning of the phrase, “truth discovered is more powerful than truth given.”

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

Open your Bible to one of the shorter psalms or to one of your personal favorites and read it as Hebrew poetry. Examine how the lines work together and meditate on what the writer is saying to you. Imagine how the writer worked to find the right words to put into each line and invest the same kind of effort into working the meaning out of the psalm. Identify which of the three types of parallelism the psalmist uses in each verse.