

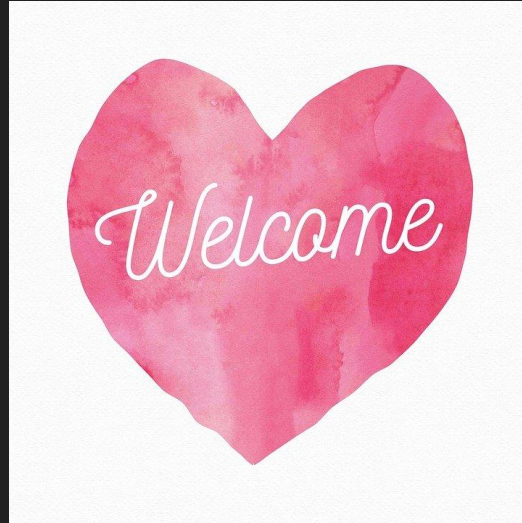
Bible Basics

November 3, 2020

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Zoom Host: Stephanie Broussard

Introduction



Beauty in Biblical Poetry

There is a modern tendency among Christians to reduce the biblical text to a flat, propositional truth of a generally literal nature. But the power and truth of the biblical text is limited by such an approach. The biblical writers intended in the text to move the heart of the reader by the beauty and force of the words and images.

- Professor Diane Jacobson, Luther Seminary,
“The Inseparability of Beauty and Truth in Biblical Poetry”

Beauty in Biblical Poetry

Beauty and art lead to complexity and depth,
to conversation and community,
to insight and questions,
to theology and faith.

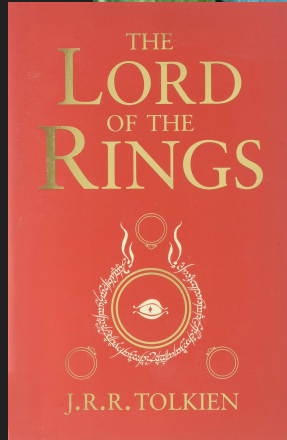
Books in the Bible considered **poetry**:

- Psalms
- Song of Solomon
- Lamentations
- Proverbs

....and the books of the Prophets

$\frac{1}{3}$ of the Bible is considered to be poetry.

Poetry is also found within narrative sections....like a good musical!



Magnificat *Luke 1:46-55, spoken by Mary*

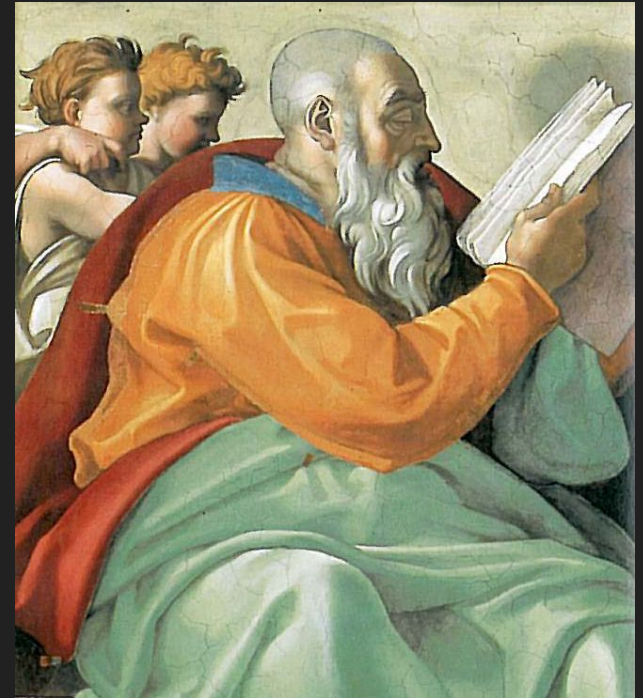
My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has brought down the powerful
from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty



Benedictus Luke 1:68-79, spoken by Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people
and redeemed them.

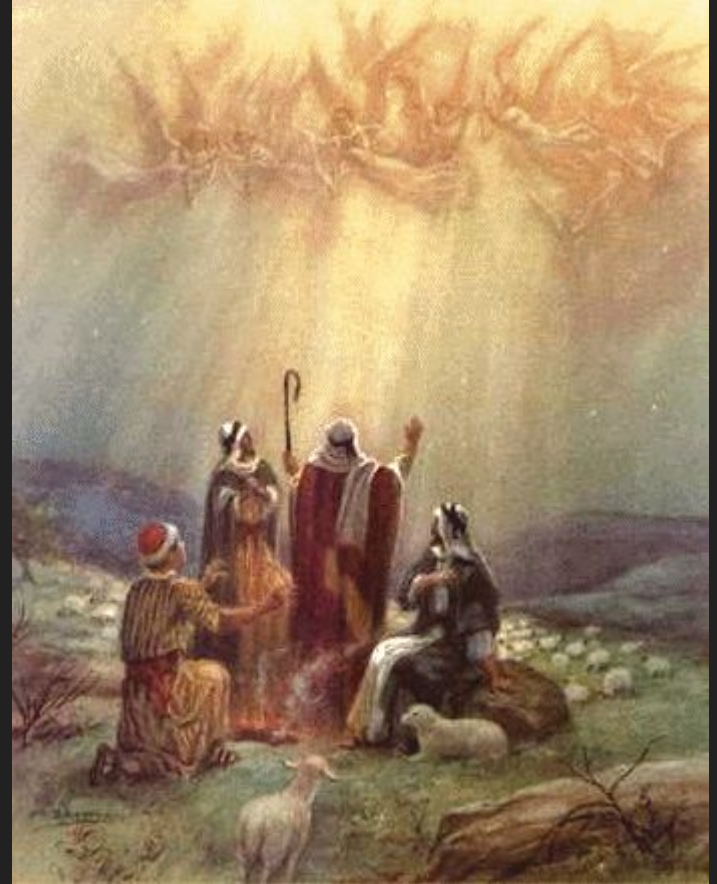
He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke through the mouth
of his holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us.



Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14, sung by the angels

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace
among those whom he favors!”



Nunc Dimittis Luke 2:29-32, spoken by Simeon

Master, now you are dismissing
your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen
your salvation,
which you have prepared
in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles.



2 Timothy 2:11-13

¹¹The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

Philippians 2:9-11

- 9 Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
- 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- 11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

1 Corinthians 13

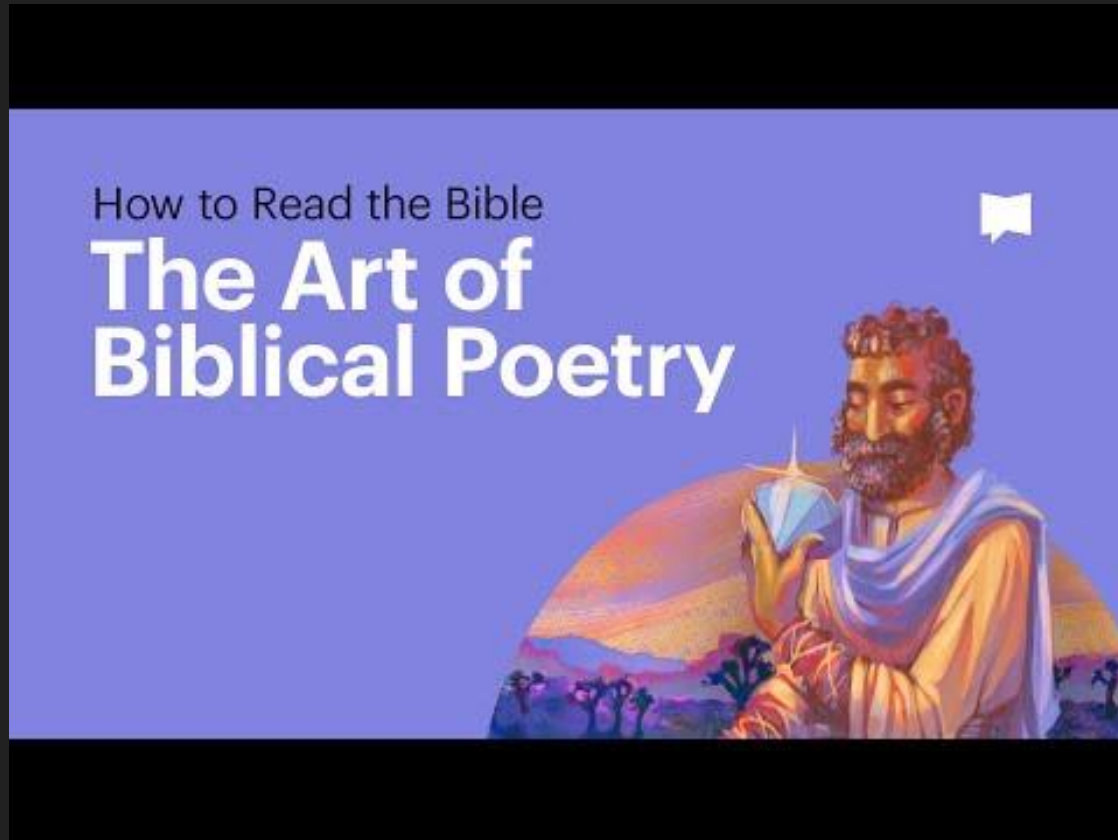
If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all
mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.

Revelation 5:12-14 John's vision of angels singing

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power, and riches,
and wisdom, and strength,
and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Video - Bible Project: Poetry



Couplets or “parallel line”

The meaning of a poetic line is captured in the tension of the two parts. In the movement from one part to the other, from a to b, meaning is anticipated in the pieces' relationship to one another. We as readers, hearers, singers are caught up in the puzzle and the gift of this tension—consciously or unconsciously puzzling out how the lines fit together. In such a way, we are invited into the creation of the meaning of the passages. Meaning is certainly there for us to discover, but more than this, meaning is found in the tension of the lines, with all their beauty and complication. - *Diane Jacobson*

Complete

Deepen

Contrast

GROUPS

- Psalm 1:6
- Psalm 2:1
- Psalm 2:10
- Psalm 29: 1
- Psalm 78:1
- Prov 15:13–15

Complete

Deepen

Contrast

Psalm 1:6 The Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish. **Contrast**

Psalm 2:1 “Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?” **Complete**

Psalm 2:10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.” **Deepen**

Psalm 29: 1 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength

Complete

Psalm 78:1 Pay attention, my people, to my teaching,
Be attentive to the words of my mouth.

Deepen

Proverbs 15:13–15

(with notes on the underlying Hebrew):

A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance [face],
but by sorrow of heart the spirit [ru'ah] is broken. **Contrast**

The mind [heart] of one who has understanding seeks
knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly. **Contrast**

All the days of the poor [oppressed, afflicted] are hard,
but a cheerful heart has a continual feast. **Complete**

Metaphor

Psalm 22:16 For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me.

Psalm 69:1-2

Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.
I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold;
I have come into deep waters,
and the flood sweeps over me.

Metaphor

Psalm 18:2 The Lord is my rock,
my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait for the Lord
shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. -

Paradox

Proverbs 26:4-5

Do not answer fools according to their folly,
or you will be a fool yourself.

Answer fools according to their folly,
or they will be wise in their own eyes.

Paradox

Psalms 139:8, 11-12

Where can I go from your spirit?

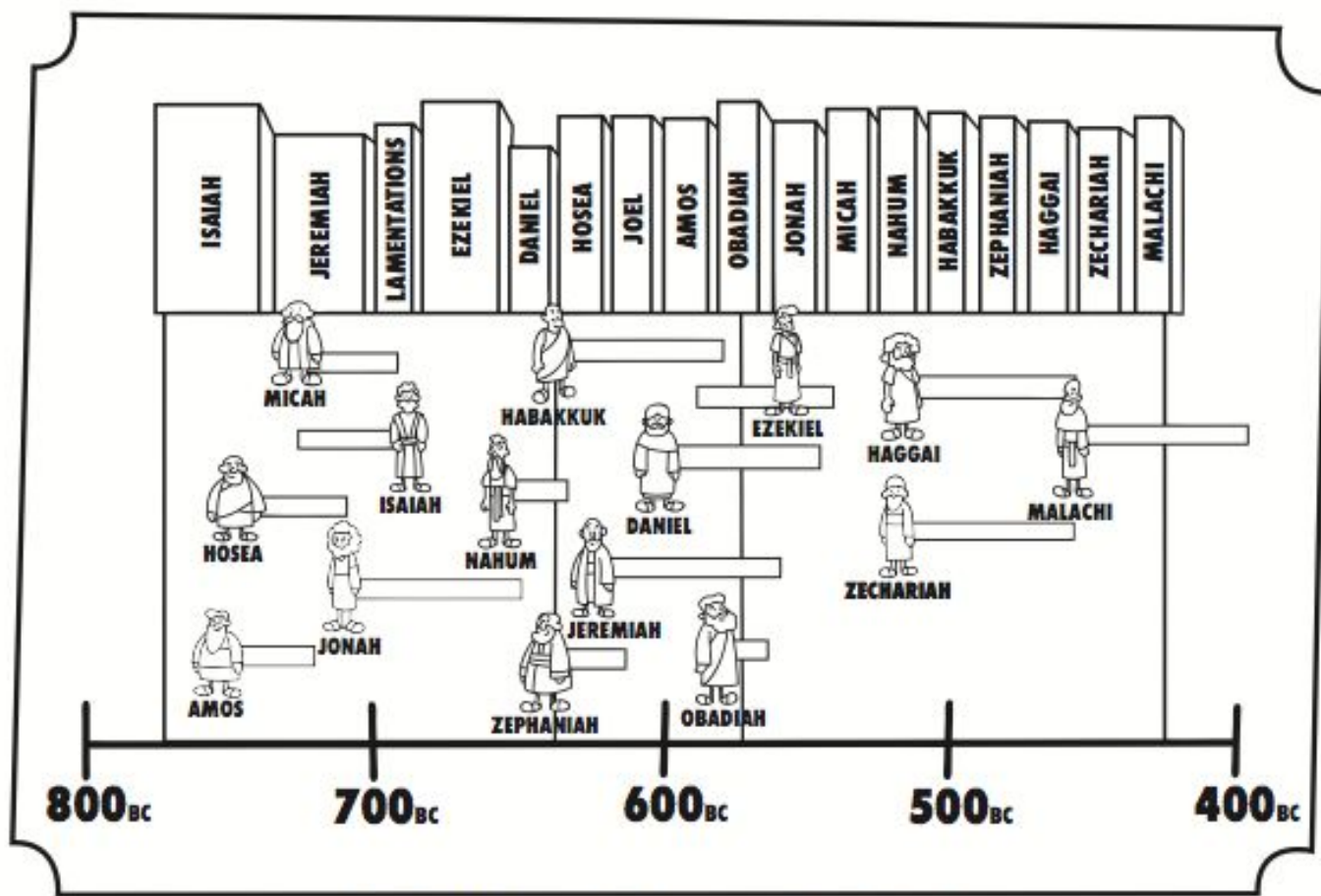
Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,

for darkness is as light to you.



The Major & Minor Prophets

Video - Bible Project: Prophets

How to Read the Bible

Prophets



Foretelling OR Forthtelling?

Foretelling

This is what everyone thinks about when they think about prophecy—predicting the future. That's what prophets do, right?

Foretelling OR Forthtelling?

Foretelling

Predicting Jesus?

Isaiah 53 (Good Friday lectionary reading)

For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others.... Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

Foretelling OR Forthtelling?

Forthtelling

The prophets were speaking forth God's truth to the people of their own day.

1. Accuse
2. Repent, or confess & change
3. Consequences of your actions, or "day of the Lord" (true and false prophets?)
4. Restoration, hope

Micah

1:1 Micah of Moresheth

CH 1& 2 Warnings (Read 1:1-5)

CH 6-8 social justice...

CH 7 judgement; mercy

CH 5:2-8 Remnant, restoration, new King from Bethlehem
(see Matthew 2)

Prophetic voices today?

- Call to justice, remind us of God's Word
- "Outsiders"
- Usually rejected
- Usually appreciated after the fact....
- False prophets?
- TED talks

Next Class: Tues, **November 17th** (in 2 weeks) @7:00pm

SESSION 4

Narrative in the Bible

Matthew 1:18-25 Joseph, the righteous