

The Spiritual Secret for Strength

Psalm 1

- I. The Godly Man Approved (vs. 1-3)
 - A. His Path - He is Separated from the World
 - 1. He Does Not Believe Like the World
 - 2. He Does Not Behave Like the World
 - 3. He Does Not Belong to the World
 - B. His Pleasure - He is Satisfied with the Word
 - 1. The Word Captures his full Affection
 - 2. The Word Claims his full Attention
 - C. His Prosperity - He is Situated by the Waters
 - 1. Position
 - 2. Production
 - 3. Prosperous

- II. The Godless Man Abandoned (vs. 4-6)
 - A. He is Driven
 - B. He is Doomed
 - C. He is Damned

- III. The Christian Man's Attitude - Romans 12:1-2
 - A. The Request
 - B. The Requirement
 - C. The Result

HEBREW POETRY AND PARALLELISM

The fundamental feature of Hebrew poetry is not any external form such as rhyme or rhythm, but rather "thought rhyme," often called parallelism. Parallelism is the correspondence of one line to another. Parallelism has much variety (and scholars differ as to terminology and definitions). According to more traditional views of parallelism, we can identify at least five types of parallelism:

1. Synonymous parallelism, in which the second line repeats the first line in different (but fairly synonymous) words or phrases without significant addition.

Ps. 103:3 Who pardons all your iniquities;
 Who heals all your diseases.

Ps. 6:9 The LORD has heard my supplication,
 The LORD receives my prayer.

2. Antithetic parallelism, in which the second line contrasts with the first.

Ps. 1:6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
 But the way of the wicked will perish.

Prov. 14:28 In a multitude of people is the king's glory,
 But in a dearth of people is a prince's ruin.

3. Synthetic parallelism, in which the second line expands the first line (a combination of repetition and addition of new elements).

Ps. 95:3 For the LORD is a great God,
 And a great King above all gods.

Ps. 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him,
 To all who call upon Him in truth.

4. Climactic parallelism, in which the first line is partially repeated and completed in the following line(s). (In contrast to synthetic parallelism, the first line is usually an incomplete thought requiring further lines to develop the sense.)

Ps. 93:3 The floods have lifted up, O LORD
 The floods have lifted up their voice;
 The floods have lifted up their pounding waves.

5. Emblematic parallelism, in which one line images the idea of the other line. (Note that the presence of figures of speech in one or both lines does not necessarily make the parallelism emblematic. It is necessary that one whole line be a figure of the idea stated in the other.)