



## **UNDERSTANDING PARALLELISM**

One of the structures we see in the Bible, especially in Hebrew poetry is parallelism. This is when the lines of a poetic verse work together to provide emphasis or meaning. There are different forms of parallelism that we see in the Bible.

**Synonymous Parallelism** - The lines of poetry say the same thing in different ways in order to make a point. (Example: Matthew 6:13)

**Antithetic Parallelism** - Two lines are contrasted with one another in order to make a point. (Example: Proverbs 12:2)

**Synthetic Parallelism** - The successive lines build on, and intensify, the first line. (Psalm 131:3)

**Read the passages from Proverbs below. For each passage, identify which type of parallelism is used, the meaning of the verse(s), and possible application.**

**PROVERBS 6:16-19**

**PROVERBS 10:1**

**PROVERBS 19:5**