

# How to Study the Bible - Poetry

## Review

**Text type** refers only to the *form* of the text in a particular *passage*.

**Discourse** is speech or \_\_\_\_\_.

To find the structure, we look at the flow of thought by examining the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Narrative** is \_\_\_\_\_.

To find the structure, we look at the \_\_\_\_\_ by tracing tension through each \_\_\_\_\_.

## Poetry

*The Goal: Identify the \_\_\_\_\_ and their \_\_\_\_\_.*

Meaning-based forms

- Colons
- Repetition
- Imagery
- Change of speaker
- Chiasm

**Colons** \_\_\_ or \_\_\_ lines

Types of relationships

- Parallelism (most common)
- Contrast
- Development (sometimes inferred)
- Question / Answer (Ps 119:9)

**Imagery** - Word pictures that elicit

Experience - often sensory

Emotion

Meaning

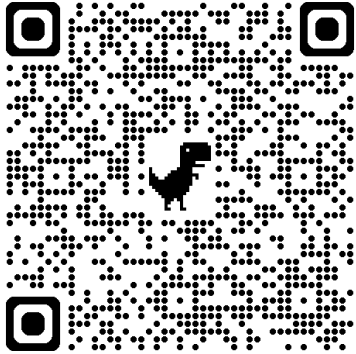
Type	Definition	Example
Metaphor	comparison of two unlike things at a point of similarity	They encircle me with words of hate Ps 109:3
Simile	explicit comparison	He flourishes like a flower of the fields Ps 104:15
Personification / apostrophe	inanimate objects treated like people	Lift up your heads, O gates! Ps 24:7
Metonymy	one expression used to refer to another associated idea	Scepter = authority Ps 110:2

**Metaphor** - an illustration that refers to a topic at a point of similarity.

**Stanzas** - A \_\_\_\_\_ of lines with \_\_\_\_\_ concepts / images

*What is the pattern of relationships between all the stanzas in the poem?*

Last Week's Video, handouts:



### Resources

Charles Simeon Trust. *Worksheet Preparation Guide*. 2025.

Merriam-Webster. "Poetry." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary,  
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/poetry>. 2026

## NIRADS in Class - Poetry in Ps 110

**N - Note** What does it say?

1. Observations: (Notice bi/tri-colons; Identify imagery; Notice repetitions)

2. Structure Analysis (Identify stanzas; Trace relationships)

3. *Emphasis* \_\_\_\_\_

**I - Interpret** What does it mean?

• Context

    Psalm type

    History/Culture

• Conversation

• *Main Claim to Original Hearers* \_\_\_\_\_

**R - Reflect** How does this relate theologically to the Gospel?

*Main Claim to Us Now* \_\_\_\_\_

**A - Apply** Given this truth, what needs to change?

    My life

    Family life

    Church life

    Society

**D/S - Do / Share**

    When will I make these changes?

    Who else needs to hear this?

## NIRADS at Home - Psalm 110

**N - Note** What does it say?

1. Observe (Notice bi/tri-colons; Identify imagery; Notice repetitions)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Structure (patterns and connections) (Identify stanzas; Trace relationships)

3. *Emphasis*\_\_\_\_\_.

**I - Interpret** What does it mean?

Passage Before:

After:

History/Culture

Conversation

*Main Claim to Original Hearers* \_\_\_\_\_

**R - Reflect** How does this relate theologically to the Gospel? *Look up the NT quotations.*

*Main Claim to Us Now* \_\_\_\_\_

**A - Apply** Given this truth, what needs to change?

My life

Family life

Church life

Society

**D/S - Do / Share**

When will I make these changes?

Who else needs to hear this?

## Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.