

Lesson 12 Notes – 03/04/2008

Figurative Language (continued)

Symbols

1. Anything which represents or stands for something beyond its immediate literal sense
2. Examples:
 - a. Numbers
 - b. Colors
 - c. Metals and other materials
 - d. Creatures – lion, eagle
 - e. Ceremonies – Passover, sacrifices, baptism, Lord's Supper

Figures of Speech

1. E. W. Bullinger's book, *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*, lists 217 distinct figures of speech in the Old and New Testaments.
2. **Metaphor** – a comparison in which one thing is said to be another
 - a. God's word is a lamp and a light – Psalm 119:105
 - b. Put on the whole armor of God – Ephesians 6 (an extended or stretched out metaphor)
 - c. "This is my body" – Jesus instituting the Lord's Supper
3. **Simile** – a comparison using the words "like" or "as"
 - a. "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God." – Psalm 42:1
 - b. "Like a tree planted by streams of water" – Psalm 1
 - c. Jesus' parables are mostly extended similes, "The kingdom of heaven is like..."
4. **Allegory** – a form of extended metaphor
 - a. John 10 – Good Shepherd
 - b. John 15 – I am the vine, you are the branches
 - c. Galatians 4 – Hagar and Sarah an allegory of physical and spiritual Jerusalem
5. **Hyperbole** – purposeful exaggeration for emphasis
 - a. Matthew 23:24 – swallow a camel
 - b. Matthew 7:3-4 – a wooden beam in someone's eye
 - c. Mark 11:22-24 – Mountain thrown into the sea
6. **Irony** – saying the opposite of what is meant
 - a. Paul calling himself "foolish" – II Corinthians 11
 - b. Elijah speaking to the priests of Baal – I Kings 18:27
7. **Personification** – attributing human characteristics to non-human things – Numbers 16:32; Matthew 6:34
8. **Rhetorical questions** – questions with the answer implied within them

Doing a Word Study

1. Simple steps to do a word study:
 - a. Identify the word to be researched
 - b. Use interlinear Bible to identify Greek or Hebrew original word
 - c. Use expository dictionary to see the “meaning range” of the original language word
 - d. Identify the part of speech
 - e. Try to isolate the exact meaning within the “meaning range” and try putting the definition back into the biblical text to see if the meaning of the passage is clearer
 - f. Look at all other occurrences of the Greek or Hebrew word in the Bible and how it is used
 - g. Research synonyms
 - h. Look at the word’s “root meaning” and how that meaning may still be influencing the current meaning