

How to Study the Bible

Figures of Speech

Draw a line to the correct example...

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| 1. Simile | a. "all the country of Judea was going out to Him" |
| 2. Metaphor | b. "You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel" |
| 3. Exaggeration | c. "The trees of the Field clap their hands..." |
| 4. Metonymy | d. "His eyes were like a flame of fire" |
| 5. Synecdoche | e. "I am the vine, you are the branches" |
| 6. Personification | f. "You are already filled and... rich...you have become kings" |
| 7. Irony | g. Use of the word "Law" to refer to various things is an example. |

Rules for Figures of Speech:

1. First, you must recognize that the author is using them! This will avoid many errors!
2. Identify the type of language being used...
3. Follow the guidelines for interpreting that figure of speech.

1. Simile – "Like or as"
2. Metaphor – implied comparison in things that are different
3. Exaggeration or hyperbole - deliberate overstatement for effect
4. Metonymy – one figure used for another
5. Synecdoche – figure where the whole can refer to a part or the whole
6. Personification – an object given people characteristics
7. Irony – a statement that is really intending the exact opposite.

Try these if you can:

"If your right eye offends you, cut it out..."

"Satan walks about as a roaring lion..."

"I am the Way and the Truth and the Life..."

RULES FOR PARABLES AND ALLEGORIES

1. Remember that they are usually about "the Kingdom of God/Heaven"
2. Always look for the "keys" to the understanding. [Beginning or End!]
3. Use Parallel version if possible for all the info.
4. See if the placement gives clues to interpretation.
5. Always check your findings with other commentaries – if it's new, its probably wrong!
6. Remember that they are simple stories for simple folk!
7. Make sure it is an allegory before you use it as such.
8. Limit your application of allegory to Biblical need.
9. God can Allegorize, You can't!!! [Gal. 4:21ff]
10. Pray, Pray, Pray!!!