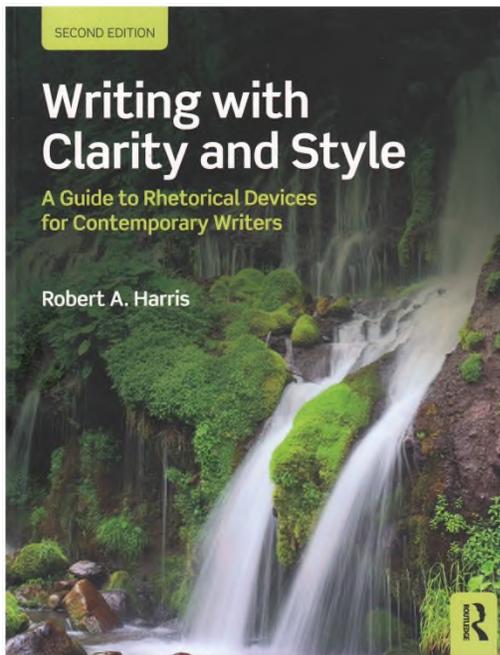


# Biblical Examples of Rhetorical Devices

A Supplement to



***Writing with Clarity and Style***  
*A Guide to Rhetorical Devices  
for Contemporary Writers*  
Second Edition  
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Robert A. Harris  
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## *Biblical Examples of Rhetorical Devices*

A Supplement to  
*Writing with Clarity and Style, 2e*  
Robert A. Harris

This supplement provides Biblical examples of the rhetorical devices presented in the book, *Writing with Clarity and Style, 2e* (copyright 2018 Taylor & Francis). The examples are presented in the same order they occur in the book. This supplement is provided free to purchasers and adopters of the text.

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### **Sources**

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## Introduction

**What’s here.** This document contains a tiny fraction of the rhetorical devices used by the Biblical authors. The Bible is quite literally crammed with metaphors, similes, personifications, and many, many other devices. In fact, while I was in the process of thumbing through my very marked-up copy of the New American Standard Bible (NASB) looking for marginal notes such as “hypophora” or “asyndeton,” to include in this document, it suddenly occurred to me that Ethelbert W. Bullinger could help me out. And he did. His book, *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible, Explained and Illustrated*, published in 1899, made my work substantially easier. Bullinger’s book is, quite frankly, the best thousand pages ever written about Biblical figures of speech, of which he covers 217, many in elaborate detail.

**But why the Bible?** At the beginning of the book of Proverbs, Solomon says that the book will help readers “to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles” (Proverbs 1:6, NASB). Such is true with the Bible as a whole. In fact, the Bible and Shakespeare’s plays and poems are arguably the best sources for learning how rhetorical devices are used, combined, sequenced, and arranged. In the *Poetics*, Aristotle says that mastering the use of metaphors is the most important task for a writer, but that it cannot be taught by one person to another (Section 22). Instead, the creation and effective employment of metaphors (and all the devices) must be grasped by studying how they are used by skillful writers. Studying the Bible and the Bard will provide you with thousands of examples – in context – that will help you improve your rhetorical expertise.

A second reason for developing this collection of examples from the Bible is to make *Writing with Clarity and Style, 2e* more useful as a text in public and private university courses in The Bible as Literature and Introduction to the Bible; and in Christian university courses in writing and in rhetoric and in speech. Teachers at Christian 8-12 schools and homeschoolers will also find this a useful addition to the text itself.

**Lost in translation?** You might ask here, “But wasn’t the Bible written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek? And don’t many of the figures or devices depend on word choice, puns, letter sounds, and so on? Aren’t those likely to be lost in translation?” The answers to your questions are Yes, Yes, and Sometimes Yes. However, many of the devices flow through the translation process and emerge pretty well intact. For example, in the opening chapters of Proverbs, the personification of wisdom as a woman and the simile, “She is more precious than rubies” (Proverbs 3:15a, NKJV) carries the meaning from Hebrew to English very well, judging by the Hebrew-English interlinear Bible.

**Caveat:** I do not know any of the Biblical languages, so if someone asks you, this document contains examples of the rhetorical devices *as delivered in translations* of Biblical passages.

**Translation uses.** For these examples, I have chosen in each case what seems to me the translation that best embodies the rhetorical device. The Bible translation I selected for each device is labeled at the end of each example. The key to each Bible version is on the previous page. As you will note, for the majority of examples, I used the New American Standard Bible (NASB). The only liberties I took with the text were (1) I occasionally capitalized the first letter of the example when the example began in mid-sentence, (2) I dropped the capital at the beginning of lines of poetry (as with the Psalms) and ran the lines together into normalized sentences, and (3) I occasionally silently changed punctuation at the end of an entry, changing a comma or semicolon to a period.

**Software.** Everyone who uses the Bible for study or for locating, say, allusions to the Bible by various authors should have some Bible software. Software makes searching very fast, and

the located passages can be copied and pasted right into the document being written. The program (or app) I use is e-Sword ([www.e-sword.net](http://www.e-sword.net); copyright 2000-2017 by Rick Meyers). It's powerful and easy to use. And it's free, with more than a dozen free translations, and others available for purchase.

**Hint to students.** If your instructor assigns you the task of locating, say, five examples of synecdoche in the Bible, or five examples of any other device, try starting your search in Proverbs and Psalms. Those books are exceptionally rich in literary figures. After all, the Psalms are poems and poems are frequent customers at the rhetoric store. From there, try the prophets, for they often speak in figures. If you can't decide on which prophet to start with, why not go to Isaiah?

For New Testament references, the epistles of Paul are fruitful sources.

If you find a passage that almost displays the use of a device, change translations. The most literal, following the original languages most closely, are the NASB and HCSB and ESV. (Note that e-Sword allows you to compare up to eight translations at once.)

## Pedagogical Use

Here are some sample assignments for those who use this supplement as a teaching tool:

1. Explain the use of the rhetorical device in [one, two, five, ten] of the examples in this supplement. Example: "Incline your ear to me" (Psalm 31:2a, NASB). Answer: "This is a part-for-whole synecdoche, where the ear is a part of the hearing apparatus. Similarly, 'incline your ear' is also a metonymy where inclining (leaning over) toward someone is associated with the act of paying attention and listening to someone."

2. Locate and explain [one, two, three] Biblical examples of [-----] rhetorical device, each from a different Biblical book. Be sure to cite book, chapter, verse, and translation for each.

3. Analyze Psalm [----] and identify and explain the use of all the rhetorical devices in it.

4. Find a verse containing a rhetorical device and compare its translation across at least 8 versions. Do some versions neutralize some of the imagery by "translating" the metaphor or other device? Explain the effect of the differences. Which is clearest, most artful, most emphatic, most memorable, closest to the original?

To help you with this project, you should google "interlinear Greek-English New Testament" or "interlinear Hebrew-English Bible."

Bible versions to consult include:

AMP The Amplified Bible  
 ASV American Standard Version  
 BBE The Bible in Basic English  
 CEV Contemporary English Version  
 ERV Easy-to-Read Version  
 ESV English Standard Version  
 GNB Good News Bible  
 GW God's Word  
 HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible  
 ISV International Standard Version  
 JPS Jewish Publication Society Bible

KJV King James Version  
 LITV Literal Translation Version Bible  
 NASB New American Standard Bible  
 NCV New Century Version  
 NEB New English Bible  
 NIV New International Version  
 NKJV New King James Version  
 NLT New Living Translation  
 RV Revised Version  
 WEB World English Bible  
 YLT Young's Literal Translation

5. Write an essay with examples, arguing whether or not the use of rhetorical devices makes the Bible more interesting, effective, memorable, powerful, persuasive.

6. Write an essay explaining the use and effect of all the rhetorical devices use in 2 Corinthians 11:20-29.

7. Defend or attack the proposition, "Paul's use of rhetorical devices in his epistles adds to their persuasive power."

8. How does the use of a fortiori affect the arguments of those using it? (Does it make them stronger, weaker? How or why? Is the use simply decorative without adding persuasiveness? Be sure to find as many instances as you can. (Search on "much more," "all the more," "even more.")

9. How does your understanding of hyperbole help you to negotiate the Biblical texts where it is present?

10. Identify as many as you can of the rhetorical devices used in Psalm 52. Hint: apostrophe, metonymy, simile, personification, antithesis, synecdoche.

11. Identify the rhetorical devices and describe (or explain or diagram) the sentence in Philippians 2:14-15 (NASB).

October, 2018

Robert A. Harris

## Chapter 1: Balance

### Chiasmus

In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. – Psalm 95:4 (ESV)

God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. – Genesis 1:5a (NASB)

Always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. – 2 Corinthians 4:10 (NASB)

I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, when your dread comes like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. – Proverbs 1:26-27 (NASB) [also amplification]

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. – Galatians 2:16 (NKJV)

Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. – Proverbs 10:4 (NASB)

He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, but he who ignores reproof goes astray. – Proverbs 10:17 (NASB)

### Parallelism

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! – Psalm 1:1 (NASB)

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat. – Isaiah 65:21-22a (NKJV)

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.” – Isaiah 55:8-9 (NASB)

But I tell you, don't take an oath at all: either by heaven, because it is God's throne; or by the earth, because it is His footstool; or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. – Matthew 5:34-35 (HCSB)

Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. – 1 Corinthians 15:11 (NASB)

The king is not saved by a mighty army; a warrior is not delivered by great strength. — Psalm 33:16 (NASB)

## **Antithesis**

I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. — Romans 16:19b (NASB)

A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother. — Proverbs 10:1b (NASB)

Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy. — Proverbs 27:6 (NASB)

Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. — Mark 14:38 (NASB)

For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. — 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (NASB)

Better is the little of the righteous than the abundance of many wicked. — Psalm 37:16 (NASB)

The LORD curses the house of the wicked, but He blesses the home of the upright. — Proverbs 3:33 (NLT)

See also

Romans 2:5-10 (NASB, HCSB)

Matthew 5:19 (HCSB)

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 (NASB)

2 Corinthians 4:12 (NASB)

Proverbs 3:34 (NLT)

For many examples close together, see Proverbs, Chapters 10-18.

## **Chapter 2 Emphasis I**

### **Climax**

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. — James 1:14-15 (NASB)

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope. — Romans 5:3-4 (NASB)

The enemy said: “I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil. My desire will be gratified at their expense. I will draw my sword; my hand will destroy them.” — Exodus 15:9 (HCSB)

## Asyndeton

It [love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. — 1 Corinthians 13:7 (HCSB)

They were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. — Luke 17:27 (NASB)

Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. — 1 Corinthians 3:12-13 (NASB)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. — Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB)

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. — 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. — 2 Timothy 4:2 (NASB)

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. — James 1:19-20 (ESV) [also antithesis and anaphora]

Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. — 1 Corinthians 15:58 (HCSB)

## Polysyndeton

Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. — 1 Kings 18:38 (NASB)

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. —Matthew 23:23 (NASB)

And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. —2 Timothy 1:11 (NIV)

Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright. —Genesis 25:34 (ESV)

And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. —Joshua 7:24 (ESV)

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 8:38-39 (NASB)

## **Sentential Adverb**

It is of little importance to me that I should be evaluated by you or by any human court. In fact, I don't even evaluate myself. —1 Corinthians 4:3 (HCSB)

Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? —1 Corinthians 6:7 (NASB)

Judah replied, "Let her keep the items for herself; otherwise we will become a laughingstock. After all, I did send this young goat, but you couldn't find her." —Genesis 38:23 (HCSB)

So Achish said to David, "You know, of course, that you and your men must march out in the army with me." —1 Samuel 28:1b (HCSB)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. —Colossians 3:15 (NASB)

So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. —John 8:36 (NASB)

For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection. —Romans 6:5 (NASB)

It is definitely because they have misled My people by saying, "Peace!" when there is no peace. And when anyone builds a wall, behold, they plaster it over with whitewash. —Ezekiel 13:10 (NASB)

And [Jesus] said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” –Matthew 18:3 (NASB)

In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. –Genesis 3:5 (HCSB)

You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity to show it. –Philippians 4:10b (HCSB)

Indeed, it is useless to spread the baited net in the sight of any bird. –Proverbs 1:17 (NASB)

## **Beginning and Ending Stress**

### **Compare these two versions:**

for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart. –Luke 6:45 (NASB)

for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. –Luke 6:45 (ESV)

### **Compare these two versions:**

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. –Psalm 36:9 (NASB)

The life-giving fountain belongs to you, and your light gives light to each of us. –Psalm 36:9 (CEV)

### **Compare these two versions:**

When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. –Proverbs 3:24 (NASB)

When you lie down, you will not be afraid; you will lie down, and your sleep will be pleasant.

–Proverbs 3:24 (HCSB)

### **Compare these three versions:**

But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. –Acts 3:18 (NKJV)

But what God predicted through the mouth of all the prophets – that His Messiah would suffer – He has fulfilled in this way. –Acts 3:18 (HCSB)

But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah – that He must suffer these things. –Acts 3:18 (NLT)

## Chapter 3 Emphasis II

### Irony

For in what respect were you treated as inferior to the rest of the churches, except that I myself did not become a burden to you? Forgive me this wrong! – 2 Corinthians 12:13 (NASB)

I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? But be that as it may, I did not burden you myself; nevertheless, crafty fellow that I am, I took you in by deceit. – 2 Corinthians 12:15-16 (NASB)

And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. – Matthew 11:23 (NASB)

### Understatement

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise. – Proverbs 20:1 (NKJV)

Unequal weights are an abomination to the LORD, and false scales are not good. – Proverbs 20:23 (ESV)

### Litotes

And even they, if they do not remain in unbelief, will be grafted in, because God has the power to graft them in again. – Romans 11:23 (HCSB)

I disregarded them, says the Lord, because they did not continue in My covenant. – Hebrews 8:9b (HCSB)

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise. – Proverbs 20:1 (NKJV)

Unequal weights are an abomination to the LORD, and false scales are not good. – Proverbs 20:23 (ESV)

### Hyperbole

I am weary with my sighing; every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my couch with my tears. – Psalm 6:6 (NASB)

So the Pharisees said to one another, “You see that you are not doing any good; look, the world has gone after Him.” – John 12:19 (NASB)

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which, if they were written one by one, I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written. – John 21:25 (HCSB)

Now in the street, now in the squares, she lurks at every corner. – Proverbs 7:12 (HCSB)

If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. – Matthew 18:8 (NASB)

If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. – Luke 14:26t (NASB)

I robbed other churches by accepting support from them in order to serve you. – 2 Corinthians 11:8 (ESV)

## Emphatic Positioning

### Compare:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. – John 1:1 (NKJV)

The Word was in the beginning, and God was with the Word, and God was the Word.

### Compare:

A dry crust of bread eaten in peace and quiet is better than a feast eaten where everyone argues. – Proverbs 17:1 (CEV)

Eating a dry crust of bread is better than everyone arguing during a feast.

### Compare:

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak. – Matthew 12:36 (ESV)

But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. – Matthew 12:36 (NKJV)

## Stylistic Fragments

What then? If some did not believe, will their unbelief cancel God’s faithfulness? Absolutely not! – Romans 3:3-4a (HCSB)

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. – Romans 3:27 (NKJV)

As the truth of Christ is in me, this boasting of mine will not be stopped in the regions of Achaia. Why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! —2 Corinthians 11:10-11 (NASB)

## Chapter 4 Transition

### Metabasis

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. And this we will do, if God permits. —Hebrews 6:1-3 (NASB)

So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts. But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all. —1 Corinthians 12:31 (NLT)

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. —Hebrews 1:1-2 (NASB)

### Procatlepsis

Someone may ask, “How can God blame us, if he makes us behave in the way he wants us to?” —Romans 9:19 (CEV)

But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?” —1 Corinthians 15:35 (NASB)

But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” —James 2:18 (NASB)

### Hypophora

So He was saying, “What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it? —Luke 13:18 (NASB)

How shall I admonish you? To what shall I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? To what shall I liken you as I comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your ruin is as vast as the sea; Who can heal you? —Lamentations 2:13 (NASB)

But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other children, and say, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn." –Matthew 11:16-17 (NASB)

What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; –Romans 3:9 (NASB)

What then can we say that Abraham, our physical ancestor, has found? –Romans 4:1 (HCSB)

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? –Romans 6:1 (NKJV)

See also

Romans 8:31

Romans 9:14

## **A Fortiori**

Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? –2 Corinthians 3:7-8 (ESV)

For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. –2 Corinthians 3:9 (NASB)

So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever! –2 Corinthians 3:11 (NLT)

If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? –Matthew 6:30 (NIV)

And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." –Matthew 12:11-12 (NASB)

"For I know your rebellion and your stubbornness; behold, while I am still alive with you today, you have been rebellious against the LORD; how much more, then, after my death? –Deuteronomy 31:27 (NASB)

But David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the ranks of the Philistines?" –1 Samuel 23:3 (NASB)

When one told me, saying, "Behold, Saul is dead," and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him in Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood from your hand and destroy you from the earth? –2 Samuel 4:10-11 (NASB)

He puts no trust even in His servants; and against His angels He charges error. How much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed before the moth! – Job 4:18-19 (NASB)

If the righteous will be rewarded in the earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!  
– Proverbs 11:31 (NASB)

Even Death and Destruction hold no secrets from the LORD. How much more does He know the human heart! – Proverbs 15:11 (NLT)

The sacrifice of a wicked person is detestable – how much more so when he brings it with ulterior motives! – Proverbs 21:27 (HCSB)

So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who keep on asking him! – Matthew 7:11 (ISV)

It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they call those of his household!  
– Matthew 10:25 (NKJV)

Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! – Luke 12:24 (NASB)

For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by His life! – Romans 5:10 (HCSB)

But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. – Romans 5:15 (NASB)

For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? – Hebrews 9:13-14 (NASB)

See also

Romans 5:17

Romans 11:12

Romans 11:24

1 Corinthians 6:3

2 Corinthians 3:9,

2 Corinthians 3:11

**A fortiori bonus enrichment.** The argument a fortiori is most often expressed in the “how much more” or “all the more” comparison, as discussed in the book. But a fortiori can also be presented in the opposite way, using “how much less” or “all the less.”

Excellent speech is not fitting for a fool, much less are lying lips to a prince. — Proverbs 17:7 (NASB)

But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! — 2 Chronicles 6:18 (NKJV)

But will God indeed live on earth? Even heaven, the highest heaven, cannot contain You, much less this temple I have built. — 1 Kings 8:27 (HCSB)

Even when it was whole it could not be made into a useful object. How much less can it ever be made into anything useful when the fire has devoured it and it is charred! — Ezekiel 15:5 (HCSB)

But Moses said in the LORD’s presence: “If the Israelites will not listen to me, then how will Pharaoh listen to me, since I am such a poor speaker?” — Exodus 6:12 (HCSB)  
*[that is, how much less will Pharaoh listen to me]*

## Chapter 5 Clarity

### Distinctio

Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. — Genesis 9:4 (NASB)

All these came as allies to the valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). — Genesis 14:3 (NASB)

But if anyone says to you, “This is meat sacrificed to idols,” do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience’ sake; I mean not your own conscience, but the other man’s; for why is my freedom judged by another’s conscience? — 1 Corinthians 10:28-29 (NASB)

I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. — 1 Corinthians 5:9-10 (NASB)

What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. — 1 Corinthians 10:19-20 (NASB)  
*[also hypophora]*

But you say, “If a man says to his father or his mother, ‘Whatever I have that would help you is Corban’ (that is to say, given to God),” you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother. — Mark 7:11-12 (NASB)

The soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and they called together the whole Roman cohort. — Mark 15:16 (NASB)

When evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea came. . . . — Mark 15:42-43a (NASB)

## Exemplum

As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. — James 5:10 (NASB)

Did the gods of the nations that my predecessors destroyed rescue them — nations such as Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the Edenites in Telassar? — 2 Kings 19:12 (HCSB)

Since I am speaking to those who understand law, brothers, are you unaware that the law has authority over someone as long as he lives? For example, a married woman is legally bound to her husband while he lives. But if her husband dies, she is released from the law regarding the husband. — Romans 7:1-2 (HCSB)

What should we say then? Is the law sin? Absolutely not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin if it were not for the law. For example, I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, **Do not covet**. — Romans 7:7 (HCSB)

My brothers, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. For example, a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and a poor man dressed in dirty clothes also comes in. If you look with favor on the man wearing the fine clothes and say, “Sit here in a good place,” and yet you say to the poor man, “Stand over there,” or, “Sit here on the floor by my footstool,” haven’t you discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? — James 2:1-4 (HCSB)

They have become fat and sleek. They have also excelled in evil matters. They have not taken up cases, such as the case of the fatherless, so they might prosper, and they have not defended the rights of the needy. — Jeremiah 5:28 (HCSB)

## Amplification

I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, when your dread comes like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. — Proverbs 1:26-27 (NASB) [also chiasmus]

I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.  
– 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 (NASB)

The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. – Psalm 67:6 (NASB)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. – John 1:1-2 (NKJV)

## **Metanoia**

Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. – John 16:32 (NASB)

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. – 1 Corinthians 15:10 (ESV)

But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? – Galatians 4:9 (ESV)

And Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, “Is this not David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, who has been with me these days, or rather these years, and I have found no fault in him from the day he deserted to me to this day?” – 1 Samuel 29:3b

Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. – Romans 8:34 (NASB)

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.  
– 2 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV)

## **Chapter 6 Syntax I**

### **Zeugma**

So Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives entered the ark because of the waters of the flood. – Genesis 7:7 (HCSB)

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that *is* your neighbor's. —Deuteronomy 5:21 (NKJV)

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. —1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NASB)

## **Diazeugma**

I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. —Psalm 34:4 (NASB)

He brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, gave him the testimony, and made him king. They anointed him and clapped their hands and cried, "Long live the king!" —2 Kings 11:12 (HCSB)

There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. —Galatians 3:28 (HCSB)

A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind. —Proverbs 18:2 (NASB)

Casting the lot ends quarrels and separates powerful opponents. —Proverbs 18:18 (HCSB)

He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD. —Proverbs 18:22 (ESV)

## **Prozeugma**

By me princes rule, and nobles, all the judges of the earth. —Proverbs 8:16 (NKJV)

Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness. —Proverbs 8:18 (ESV)

He who speaks truth tells what is right, but a false witness, deceit. —Proverbs 12:17 (NASB)

For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life. —Psalm 56:13 (ESV)

The wages of the righteous is life, the income of the wicked, punishment. —Proverbs 10:16 (NASB)

We look for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far from us. —Isaiah 59:11 (NKJV)

Let my mouth be filled *with* Your praise and with Your glory all the day. – Psalm 71:8 (NKJV)

## Mesozeugma

And his mouth was opened presently, and his tongue, and he was speaking, praising God.  
– Luke 1:64 (YLT)

## Hypozeugma

For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. – Acts 4:27-28 (NKJV)

He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change; who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.  
– Psalm 15:2-5 (ESV)

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. – Ephesians 4:31 (ESV)

## Syllepsis

Tear your hearts, not just your clothes, and return to the LORD your God. – Joel 2:13a (HCSB)

## Cumulative and Periodic Sentences

### Cumulative

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. – Ephesians 1:18-19a (NASB)

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.  
– Ephesians 1:9-10 (NASB)

### Periodic

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shown forth. – Psalm 50:2 (NASB)

But when God, who from my birth set me apart and called me by His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me, so that I could preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone. – Galatians 1:15-16 (HCSB)

No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the LORD. – Proverbs 21:30 (ESV)

And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food. And it was so. – Genesis 1:30 (NASB)

Now it came about when all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard how the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan before the sons of Israel until they had crossed, that their hearts melted, and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the sons of Israel. – Joshua 5:1 (NASB)

### **Combination Periodic and Cumulative**

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. – Ephesians 2:4-7 (NASB)

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory. – Ephesians 1:13-14 (NASB)

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. – Ephesians 1:15-21 (ESV)

## Chapter 7 Syntax II

### Hyperbaton

Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. —2 Corinthians 7:4a (NASB)

Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death. — Acts 2:23 (NKJV)

But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. — Acts 3:18 (NKJV)

### Anastrophe

Say to God, “How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You.” — Psalm 66:3a (NASB)

Let your foot rarely be in your neighbor’s house, or he will become weary of you and hate you. — Proverbs 25:17 (NASB) [also, synecdoche]

### Appositive

Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. — Mark 15:43 (NASB)

The Mighty One, God, The Lord, has spoken, and summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. — Psalm 50:1 (NASB)

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. — John 17:3 (NASB)

Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Let me not look on the death of the child.” — Genesis 21:16a (ESV)

### Parenthesis

But in whatever respect anyone else is bold — I speak in foolishness — I am just as bold myself. — 2 Corinthians 11:21b (NASB)

Are they servants of Christ? — I speak as if insane — I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. — 2 Corinthians 11:23 (NASB)

Now from those recognized as important (what they really were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism) – they added nothing to me. – Galatians 2:6 (HCSB)

But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while – in person, not in spirit – were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. – 1 Thessalonians 2:17 (NASB)

Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight – we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. – 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NASB)

See also  
2 Corinthians 6:13 (NASB)

## **Parataxis and Hypotaxis**

### **Parataxis**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. – John 1:1-5 (NKJV)

This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. – John 3:19 (NASB)

### **Hypotaxis**

After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias). A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick. – John 6:1-2 (NASB)

He said, “If now I have found favor in Your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go along in our midst, even though the people are so obstinate, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your own possession.” – Exodus 34:9 (NASB)

For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions. – Matthew 6:14-15 (NASB)

## Chapter 8 Figurative Language I

### Simile

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every impurity. — Matthew 23:27 (HCSB)

Their life will be like a watered garden, and all their sorrows will be gone. — Jeremiah 31:12b (NLT)

As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God! — Psalm 68:2 (ESV)

How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. — Matthew 23:37b (NASB)

His speech was smoother than butter, but his heart was war; his words were softer than oil, yet they were drawn swords. — Psalm 55:21 (NASB) [also antithesis and metaphor]

The princes of Judah have become like those who move a boundary; on them I will pour out My wrath like water. — Hosea 5:10 (NASB)

Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance; they were eating and drinking and rejoicing. — 1 Kings 4:20 (NASB)

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God. — Psalm 52:8 (NASB)

For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. — Proverbs 5:3-4 (NKJV)

But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. — Proverbs 4:18 (NASB)

See also:  
Proverbs 4:18 (NASB)

For many similes all together, see Proverbs, Chapters 25-26.

### Analogy

And hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." — Mark 2:17 (NASB)

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. —1 Corinthians 12:12 (NASB)

Go to the ant, O sluggard, observe her ways and be wise, which, having no chief, officer or ruler, prepares her food in the summer and gathers her provision in the harvest. —Proverbs 6:6-8 (NASB) [also, apostrophe]

Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy one to those who send him. —Proverbs 10:26 (NASB)

But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places, who call out to the other children, and say, “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.” For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon!” The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds. —Matthew 11:16-19 (NASB)

## Metaphor

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. —John 6:35 (NASB)

I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. —John 10:9 (NASB)

Their molten images are wind and emptiness. —Isaiah 41:29b (NASB)

The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to Him and are safe. —Proverbs 18:10 (NLT)

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. —Ephesians 6:14-17 (ESV)

Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow Me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” —Matthew 4:19 (NLT)

“Woe to the world because of its stumbling blocks! For it is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; but woe to that man through whom the stumbling block comes! —Matthew 18:7 (NASB)

*Note the varying degree of identification between image and idea. There is directly stated:*

Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. —Luke 11:34 (ESV)

*[When your spiritual perception is good, your mind will be filled with truth....]*

*There is semi-implied:*

And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.’” — Luke 13:32 (ESV)

*[Herod is a fox, a sly person.]*

*There is implied:*

Let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings. — Psalm 61:4b (NASB)

*[God is a bird and the psalmist is a hatchling feeling safe nestled under the wings of its mother.]*

*And there is very implied:*

For if they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry? — Luke 23:31 (NASB)

*[If men do evil deeds (such as killing innocent people) when there is peace and prosperity, what much worse things will they do in times of scarcity and war?]*

In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back, but the lips of the wise will protect them.

— Proverbs 14:3 (NASB)

*[Foolish people say things that bring punishment on them, but the wise say things that keep them safe.]*

Where no oxen are, the manger is clean, but much revenue comes by the strength of the ox.

— Proverbs 14:4 (NASB)

*[Work is messy, but work puts food on the table.]*

Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.” — Matthew 9:37 (NASB)

Make Your face to shine upon Your servant. — Psalm 31:16a (NASB)

Jesus sent out these 12 after giving them instructions: “Don’t take the road leading to other nations, and don’t enter any Samaritan town. Instead, go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

— Matthew 10:5-6 (HCSB)

He replied, “Every plant that My heavenly Father didn’t plant will be uprooted. — Matthew 15:13 (HCSB)

See also

2 Corinthians 5:2

## **Catachresis**

The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright will deliver them.

— Proverbs 12:6 (NASB)

Curds of cows, and milk of the flock, with fat of lambs, and rams, the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the finest of the wheat—and of the blood of grapes you drank wine. —Deuteronomy 32:14 (NASB)

But I see a different law in the parts of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body. —Romans 7:23 (HCSB)

And they said to them, “The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.” —Exodus 5:21 (ESV)

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. —Revelation 1:12a (NKJV)

Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off. —Exodus 20:18 (ESV)

## **Pleonasm**

O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us the work that You did in their days, in the days of old. You with Your own hand drove out the nations. —Psalm 44:1-2a (NASB)

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life. . . . —1 John 1:1 (NASB)

## **Chapter 9 Figurative Language II**

### **Metonymy**

By the sweat of your face you will eat bread. —Genesis 3:19 (NASB)

Then I said, Woe is me, for I am ruined because I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips. . . . —Isaiah 6:5 (NASB)

Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue, only a moment. —Proverbs 12:19 (HCSB)

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! —Psalm 1:1 (NASB)

Incline your ear to me. —Psalm 31:2a (NASB)

My times are in your hand. — Psalm 31:15a (NASB)

There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers. — Proverbs 6:16-19 (NASB)

The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip. — Psalm 37:31 (NASB)

If anyone does not repent, God will sharpen His sword; He has strung His bow and made it ready. — Psalm 7:12 (HCSB)

The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he overthrows the words of the traitor. — Proverbs 22:12 (ESV)

*Metonymy involving a verb:*

Yes, you have rejected me, sold yourselves to your lovers, and gone to bed with them. — Isaiah 57:8b (CEV)

## **Synecdoche**

Give us this day our daily bread. — Matthew 6:11 (NKJV)

Their feet are swift to shed blood. — Romans 3:15 (NASB)

Be gracious to me, LORD, for I am weak; heal me, LORD, for my bones are shaking; — Psalm 6:2 (HCSB)

And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. — Matthew 17:22 (NASB)

There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers. — Proverbs 6:16-19 (NASB)

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and His ears are open to their cry. The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. — Psalm 34:15-16 (NASB)

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice. — Psalm 37:30 (NASB)

You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to You; at best, each of us is but a breath.” – Psalm 39:5 (NLT)

*While most synecdoches are nouns, there are some verbs:*

Instead, you will put them to flight when you aim your bow at their faces. – Psalm 21:12 (HCSB)

See also:  
Proverbs 3:8

## **Personification**

Wisdom calls out in the street; she raises her voice in the public squares. – Proverbs 1:20 (HCSB)

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.  
– Psalm 85:10 (ESV)

Even the Cypress trees rejoice over you and the Cedars of Lebanon, saying, “Since you were laid low, no tree cutter comes up against us.” – Isaiah 14:8 (NASB)

For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. – Isaiah 55:12 (NASB)

He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground.” – Genesis 4:10 (NASB)

See also:  
Proverbs 3:13-18

## **Euphemism**

Come, let us take our fill of love till morning; let us delight ourselves with love. – Proverbs 7:17 (ESV)

The tombs were also opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.  
– Matthew 27:52 (HCSB)

For David, after serving his own generation in God’s plan, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and decayed. – Acts 13:36 (HCSB)

When Saul came to the sheep pens along the road, a cave was there, and he went in to relieve himself. –1 Samuel 24:3a (HCSB)

But you will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a ripe old age. –Genesis 15:15 (HCSB)

This is the way of an adulterous woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, and says, “I have done no wrong.” –Proverbs 30:20 (NASB)

The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit; He who is cursed of the LORD will fall into it. –Proverbs 22:14 (NASB)

**Compare the following translations of Galatians 5:12:**

I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves. (NASB)

I wish those who are disturbing you might also get themselves castrated! (HCSB)

I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves! (ESV)

I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off! (NKJV)

## Chapter 10 Figurative Language III

### Allusion

Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? –Luke 13:4 (NASB)

And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. –Luke 17:26-27 (NKJV)

In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out. –Luke 13:28 (NASB)

For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. –Luke 11:30 (NASB)

### Eponym

The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. –Matthew 12:42 (NASB)

## Apostrophe

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it! – Luke 13:34 (NASB)

But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? – Romans 2:3 (NASB)

How long, foolish ones, will you love ignorance? How long will you mockers enjoy mocking and you fools hate knowledge? – Proverbs 1:22 (HCSB)

We have spoken openly to you, Corinthians; our heart has been opened wide. – 2 Corinthians 6:11 (HCSB)

Learn to be shrewd, you who are inexperienced; develop common sense, you who are foolish. – Proverbs 8:5 (HCSB)

## Transferred Epithet

There they are, bellowing with their mouths with swords in their lips – for “Who,” they think, “will hear us?” – Psalm 59:7 (ESV)

## Chapter 11 Restatement I

### Anaphora

□ – – – □ – – – □ – – –

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic; the voice of the Lord breaks the Cedars. – Psalm 29:4-5 (NASB)

On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the open country, dangers on the sea, and dangers among false brothers. – 2 Corinthians 11:26 (HCSB)

But in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness,

in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the word of truth, in the power of God. – 2 Corinthians 6:4-7 (NASB)

For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.  
– 2 Corinthians 7:11 (NASB)

For you tolerate it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face. – 2 Corinthians 11:20 (NASB)

Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. – 2 Corinthians 12:10 (NASB)

See also

Matthew 5:3-10 (NIV) the Beatitudes, anaphora with parallelism

Proverbs 8:27-29 (NASB)

Psalm 29

Philippians 3:2 (NASB)

## Epistrophe

— — — □ — — — □ — — — □

Make room for us in your hearts; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one. – 2 Corinthians 7:2 (NASB)

For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light. – Psalm 36:9 (NKJV)

## Simploce

□ — — — ○ □ — — — ○ □ — — — ○

Therefore say to them, Thus declares the LORD of hosts: Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. – Zechariah 1:3 (ESV)

Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, O Lord GOD of hosts; let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, O God of Israel. – Psalm 69:6 (ESV)

## Anaphora with Prefixes and Suffixes

They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, arrogant, proud, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful. – Romans 1:29b-31 (HCSB)

## Chapter 12 Restatement II

### Anadiplosis

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They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out of cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water. – Jeremiah. 2:13 (NASB)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
– John 1:1 (NASB)

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. – Matthew 6:34 (NIV)

All who hate me whisper together against me; against me they devise my hurt. – Psalm 41:7 (NKJV)

### Conduplicatio

— □ — — □ — — —

Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. – 2 Timothy 2:3-4 (NASB)

I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature. . . . – 1 Corinthians 2:3-6a (NKJV)

Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him – a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. – Colossians 3:9-11 (NASB)

## Epanalepsis

□ — — — □

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. — Psalm 47:6 (NASB)

The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart. — Luke 6:45 (NASB)

In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world. — John 16:33b (NASB)

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD! — Psalm 27:14 (ESV)

## Chapter 13 Restatement III

### Diacope

We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks. — Psalm 75:1 (NASB)

My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises! — Psalm 57:7 (NASB)

### Epizeuxis

— — — □, □, □

“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.” — Ecclesiastes 1:2 (NASB)

So the children of Israel spoke to Moses, saying, “Surely we die, we perish, we all perish!” — Numbers 17:12 (NKJV)

Whoever even comes near the tabernacle of the LORD must die. Shall we all utterly die?” — Numbers 17:13 (NKJV)

And he answered, saying, “Babylon has fallen, has fallen. All the images of her gods have been shattered on the ground.” — Isaiah 21:9b (HCSB)

## Antimetabole

The Holy One, the True One, the One who has the key of David, who opens and no one will close, and closes and no one opens says. . . . — Revelation 3:7 (HCSB)

Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. — Matthew 23:12 (ESV)

Now I am ready to come to you this third time. I will not burden you, for I am not seeking what is yours, but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. — 2 Corinthians 12:14 (HCSB)

## Scesis Onomaton

Oh sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity, brood of evildoers, depraved children! They have abandoned the LORD; they have despised the Holy One of Israel; they have turned their backs on Him. — Isaiah 1:4 (HCSB)

For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. — Psalm 33:9 (NASB)

The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; from His dwelling place He looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth. — Psalm 33:13-14 (NASB)

With her many persuasions she entices him; with her flattering lips she seduces him. — Proverbs 7:21 (NASB)

From everlasting I was established, from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth. — Proverbs 8:23 (NASB)

I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. — Philippians 4:12 (NASB)

## Increasing Vividness

But it must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be a slave to all. — Mark 10:43-44 (HCSB)

## Chapter 14 Sound

### Alliteration

That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. – Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)

Write to the angel of the church in Sardis: “The One who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says: I know your works; you have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead.” – Revelation 3:1 (HCSB)

### Onomatopoeia

And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. – Romans 16:20a (NKJV)

The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the jackals, and the wild goat shall bleat to its companion; also the night creature shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest. – Isaiah 34:14 (NKJV)

All who pass by clap their hands at you; they hiss and shake their heads at the daughter of Jerusalem. . . . – Lamentations 2:15a (NKJV)

How the animals groan! The herds of cattle are restless, because they have no pasture; even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment. – Joel 1:18 (NKJV)

We all growl like bears, and moan sadly like doves; we look for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far from us. – Isaiah 59:11 (NKJV)

### Assonance

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. – Matthew 5:14 (NASB)

The way of life winds upward for the wise. – Proverbs 15:24a (NKJV)

### Consonance

Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken. – Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NKJV)

## Chapter 15 Drama

### Rhetorical Question

Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God?” – Mark 12:24 (NASB)

And He also spoke a parable to them: “A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Will they not both fall into a pit?” – Luke 6:39 (NASB)

For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? – 1 Peter 2:20a (NASB)

Therefore, to have legal disputes against one another is already a moral failure for you. Why not rather put up with injustice? Why not rather be cheated? – 1 Corinthians 6:7 (HCSB)

But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you think lightly of the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? – Romans 2:3-4 (NASB) Also apostrophe

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? – Matthew 6:27 (NIV)

Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? – Matthew 7:9-10 (NIV)

You blind fools! Which is greater, the gold or the temple that makes the gold sacred? – Matthew 23:17 (CEV)

Can a man scoop a flame into his lap and not have his clothes catch on fire? – Proverbs 6:27 (NLT)

### Aporia

Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other. – 1 Corinthians 1:16 (NASB)

### Apophasis

I don't need to write you about the money you plan to give for God's people. I know how eager you are to give. – 2 Corinthians 9:1-2a (CEV)

But if he [Onesimus] has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account; I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay it (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well). – Philemon 1:18-19 (NASB)

Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated – to say nothing of you – for being so confident. – 2 Corinthians 9:4 (ESV)

## **Anacoluthon**

On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone – however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks – when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. – John 6:22-24 (NKJV)

And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality) – those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me. – Galatians 2:6 (ESV)

[Jesus said] “The baptism of John – was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me.” And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From men’ “ – they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed. – Mark 11:30-32 (NKJV)

My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you – but I could wish to be present with you now and to change my tone, for I am perplexed about you. – Galatians 4:19-20 (NASB)

There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, yet is not washed from his filthiness. There is a kind – oh how lofty are his eyes! And his eyelids are raised in arrogance. – Proverbs 30:12-13 (NASB)

## **Chapter 16 Word Play**

### **Oxymoron**

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. – 1 Corinthians 1:21 (NASB)

## Pun

Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language [turned to babble] of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. –Genesis 11:9 (NKJV)

But he said, “It is not the sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear.” – Exodus 32:18 (ESV)

*[From the Hebrew: What I hear is not the sound of those striking the enemy in battle, or the sound of those being struck by the enemy, but the sound of those striking up their instruments.]*

Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the name of that place is called Gilgal [*Hebrew, rolling*] to this day. – Joshua 5:9 (NASB)

## Anthimeria

[To be added]

## Afterword

This list provides only a few hundred examples from the Bible of the rhetorical devices discussed in *Writing with Clarity and Style, 2e*. Some of the devices are so ubiquitous in the Bible that a complete list would require hundreds of pages.

Looking back over this project, I would say that these generalizations are pertinent to the study of rhetoric in the Bible.

1. The most common devices such as simile, metaphor, personification, and antithesis easily transfer from the Hebrew or Greek without any editing into a clearer English. These devices relate to conceptual imagery or logical presentation, so translating them does not cause a problem.

2. Other devices, such as polysyndeton, asyndeton, and parenthesis are stylistic, and therefore are often necessarily the translator’s choice, also because the original manuscripts lack punctuation. And some translations are intentionally simplifications of the source text, intended to make reading more accessible to contemporary readers. Such simplification often omits potentially confusing rhetorical castings.

3. A few devices are language specific, such as pun, assonance, consonance and so forth, making it quite a challenge to find examples.

4. Rhetorical devices often appear in close sequence, in rapid shifting, or in combination. (Such practices will seem familiar to students of the English metaphysical poets.) For example, Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV) includes rhetorical question, metaphor, and antithesis; while 2 Corinthians 6:14 (NASB) includes metaphor, personification, and analogy (or simile).

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