

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

PART TWO

Particular Hermeneutics

Hermeneutics is the science of interpretation. I would prefer a smaller term but it is necessary to use these academic designations to establish the fact of one's education! Our study in understanding the Bible covered (in a very quick way) some of the basics. From those general subjects we move to special areas and suggest things that help us understand them better. Our discussion will touch on poetry, prophecy, allegory and a few speech figures. Some notes will be presented about biographical excerpts and historic settings. It probably sounds like a lot but the discussions cannot be detailed and other information sources will be suggested. Our outlining and numbering scheme continues on the order established in Part One and this is now.....

V. Understanding Hebrew Poetry

There is some poetry in the New Testament but it is small in the total amount of things and the great mass of Biblical poetry is in the Old Testament. The poetry of a Greek derivation is close enough to our own understanding that we do not need to say much about it...in fact, when most of us read the New Testament we are not even aware it is there unless we are using a study Bible that alerts us to such things. But in the Old Testament it is very different.

A. Notes on the Poetic Sections

1. Much of the prophetic literature is in a poetic mode. To see this touched on in dramatic fashion, consult the commentary on Isaiah by F. C. Jennings. There are also considerable poetic segments in the historic accounts (the Song of Moses and Miriam, the Song of Deborah, etc)
2. But the more formal poetic sections are the books of poetry: Job, Psalms, Proverbs. These are the demonstrable poetic sections and need the greatest attention. Some poetry is found in almost all of the other books....the Hebrews were a singing people.
3. In my discussions I will use some common terms that are not all equally popular with the scholars but they are of historic identification and we can use them...as we like

B. A word about Hebrew Poetry.