



Lecture # 7 Part 3

THE CHARACTER AND CONTENT OF INSPIRATION

THE NATURE OF INSPIRATION

The use of variety of expression

The use of individuality and personalities

The use of non-biblical documents

The use of nonscientific language

The use of a variety of literary devices

Finally, it should not be thought that an “**inspired**” book must have been written in one, and only one, literary mold. Man is not limited in his modes of expression, and there is no reason to suppose that God can utilize only one style or literary genre in His communication to man. The Bible reveals a number of literary devices.

Several whole books are written in *poetic style* (e.g., [Job](#), [Psalms](#), and [Proverbs](#)). The synoptic gospels are filled with *parables*. In [Galatians 4](#), Paul uses an example of an *allegory*.

The New Testament abounds with *metaphors* (e.g., [2 Corinthians 3:2–3](#); [James 3:6](#))

Metaphor:

- a) implicit comparison: the use to describe somebody or something of a word or phrase that is not meant literally but by means of a vivid comparison expresses something about him, her, or it, e.g. saying that somebody is a snake
- b) figurative language: all language that involves figures of speech or symbolism and does not literally represent real things

[2 Corinthians 3:2-3 \(NASB\)](#)

² You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

³ being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

[James 3:6 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell.

and *similes* (cf. [Matthew 20:1](#); [James 1:6](#));

Similes:

- a) figurative language drawing comparison: a figure of speech that draws a comparison between two different things, especially a phrase containing the word "like" or "as," e.g. "as white as a sheet"



Lecture # 7 Part 3

b) a figure of speech in which two unlike things are explicitly compared, as in "she is like a rose."

Matthew 20:1 (NASB)

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.

James 1:6 (NASB)

⁶ But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

Hyperboles may also be found (e.g., [Colossians 1:23](#); [John 21:25](#)).

Hyperboles:

- a) Rhetoric.-obvious and intentional exaggeration.
- b) an extravagant statement or figure of speech not intended to be taken literally, as "to wait an ..."
- c) exaggeration: deliberate and obvious exaggeration used for effect, e.g. "I could eat a million of these"

Synonyms: [exaggeration](#), [overstatement](#), [overemphasis](#), [magnification](#), [inflation](#), [embellishment](#).