

Figures of Speech

Simile - Identified by words **like** or **as**. A simile is used to state an equivalence between two things.

Example: *He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of waters.* **Psalms 1:3**

Metaphor - Identified by saying something **is** something else.

Example: *All flesh is grass.* **Isaiah 40:6** When Jesus stated “*This is My body*” in Matthew 26:26 he used a metaphor. Another example is “*I am the bread of life.*” **John 6:35**

(Conversely, *All flesh is as grass* in **I Peter 1:24** is a simile.)

Allegory - An allegory is an “extended” metaphor. John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress* is the classic example in the English Language. **Isaiah 5** presents a metaphor.

Example: “*For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.*” **Isaiah 5:7**

Paradox - A seeming contradiction.

Example: “*For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*” **Matthew 16:25**

Irony - expresses a thought in such a way as to mean the opposite of what is being said.

Example: “*And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.*” **I Kings 18:27**

“*And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he [Micaiah] said, Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand.*”

And the king [king Ahab] said to him [Micaiah], How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD?" II Chronicles 18:14,15

Personification - When something inanimate or abstract is given personality.

*"Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; **neither shall thine eye pity him**, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him." Deuteronomy 13:8*

*"The field is wasted, **the land mourneth**; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, **the oil languisheth**." Joel 1:10*

*"They fought from heaven; **the stars in their courses fought against Sisera**." Judges 5:20*

Hyperbole - An expression that says more than is literally meant.

Example: *"Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; **the cities are great and walled up to heaven**; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there." Deuteronomy 1:28*

Metonymy - When cause is put for effect, when effect is used for cause, name is used for content etc...

Examples:

Cause/Effect - *"And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall **the sword go through your land**." (Sword substitutes war)*

Effect/Cause - *"...**Two nations** are in thy womb..." (Nations substituted for Infants)*

Name/Content - *"And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation **come to this house**, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham." (House is substituted for the contents of the house..ie the people.*