

# Literary Devices:

## Parable Allegory Types Symbols

**Parable:** *(examples Luke 18- pharisee and tax collector)*

Has one central point.

Teaches one truth.

Every relevant detail reinforces the central theme.

Can have irrelevant details that do not have to be identified.

Interpretation usually follows the parable.

**Allegory:** *ex. John 15*

Can have more than one central point.

Can teach a number of truths. *(ex. Vine, vinedresser, branch with fruit, branch without fruit)*

The details may be many and varied, relating to more than one theme.

Can have irrelevant details that do not have to be identified.

Interpretation is found within the allegory.

**Types:** *ex. Romans 5:14- Adam was a pattern of the one to come.*

A prophetic symbol designated by God.

There should be some evidence of divine affirmation of the corresponding type and antitype (the word "type" for example actually used) or it is best to just show the parallels.

**Symbols:** *ex. water can represent different things in scripture*

A picture or an object that stands for or represents another thing.

## Analysis with respect to Figurative Language

**Simile:** *ex. Ps 42:1 = As the deer pants for water, so my soul pants for God.*

An expressed or stated comparison of two different things or ideas that uses connecting words *like, as, such as* or a word pair *as . . . so*.

**Metaphor:** *ex. Ephesians 6:17- sword of the spirit is the word of God...*

An implied comparison between two things that are different.

**Exaggeration or Hyperbole:** *Ps 119:20- "My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times." Matt 23:24 You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!*

A deliberate exaggeration for effect or emphasis. *(causing shock/reaction)*

**Personification:** *ex. Trees clap, mountains sing for joy*

An object is given a characteristic or attributes that belong to people.

**Irony:** *ex, 1 Cor 4:8- ... already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you!"*

A statement which says the opposite of what is meant. It is used for emphasis or effect.

