

6. The interpretation of figurative language.

a. Get the picture depicted by the figure clearly in mind.

-Use BDB and other refs to get the literal meaning.

b. Determine precisely the idea which is conveyed by the picture.

Psa. 32:7-9 given above. In exegesis we must remember to tie the verses together in their context.

-In verse 6, safety is promised to believers who confess their sin.

-In verse 7, David professes faith and trust in God for his safety and security from chastisement.

-Thus verses 7-9 show us how to avoid future punishment due to unconfessed sin by warning us to heed our consciences.

D. Parallelism.

1. Kinds of Parallelism.

a. Synonymous Parallelism.

In a synonymous parallelism, the idea expressed in the second line repeats the idea expressed in the first line in different words. Sometimes a synonymous parallelism has more than two lines.

-Note the parallelism is in thought, not in words.

-There need not be the same number of words in each line.

1) Psa. 25:4 "Your ways cause me to know ..."
"Your paths teach me"

2) Psa. 121:5 "The LORD is your keeper,"
"The LORD is your shade upon your right hand."

3) Psa. 32:1,2a "O the happiness of the man whose:
a. Transgression is forgiven.
b. Sin is covered.
c. Iniquity is not imputed."

-Note the parallel here to Exodus 34:7.

-These 3 lines repeat the parallelism, using different figures to express the same thought.