

# Literary Styles & Devices Used in the Bible

**Narrative** (Story Telling–Historical)  
in a prosaic style (i.e., everyday speech)

**Genealogical** (lines of family descent)

**Exposition** ( Explanation of law,  
theology, ethics – e.g. Deuteronomy)

**Statutory** (Commandments/Law)

**Poetic**

*(Meter, rhythm, and alphabetic matching)*

**Philosophical** (Job, Ecclesiastes)

**Proverbial**

*(Moral/Wise Precepts)*

*Different  
Styles for  
the Sake of  
Variety,  
Conveying  
Truth More  
Effectively to  
Various  
Mindsets  
and Back-  
grounds*

**Prophetic** (foretelling)

**Symbolic**

**Sermonic**

**Parabolic**

*(Extended Word Pictures)*

**Epistolary** (Letters)

*Same Set  
of Truths  
Reiterated and  
Elaborated  
Upon in a  
Progressive  
Sense from  
Genesis to  
Revelation*