**Is Genesis 1 Hebrew Poetry ?**

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Short Answer: NO

Longer Answer:

YouTube Video: “Beyond Is Genesis History”

“**Why Genesis is Truly History” – Hebraist, Dr. Steve Boyd, PhD** [22 min.]

ESV Pew Bible:

Ex. 14 - Narrative / Ex. 15 - Song / Poetry pg. 56, 57

Jud. 4 - Narrative / Jud. 5 - Song / Poetry pg. 203 - 205

Gen. 49:1, 28 - 32 - Narrative / Gen. 49:2 - 27 - Poetry pg. 42, 43

Gen. 1:1 – 2:25 - Generally Narrative\* / Ps. 104 - Song / Poetry pg. 1, 2, 502

\*Gen. 1:27; 2:4, 23 - Poetic Exceptions pg. 1, 2

Though not part of the original texts, most modern translations also *clearly distinguish* these two different Hebrew **genre** from each other by the physical layout style of their respective paragraphs. (RSV, NASB, LB, MLB, NEB, ESV, NIV, NKJV)

**Hebrew poetry** is very different than English poetry. **English Poetry** is ***primarily*** characterized by **Rhyme** – the ending sound of multiple phrases, sound similar or the same. Other characteristics of both **English Poetry** and **Hebrew Poetry** are meter, rythmn and an abundance of “metaphors,” “figures of speech,” and “symbolic language.”

**Hebrew poetry**, on the other hand, is characterized ***primarily*** by 1) **couplets** (back-to-back lines that are joined by *meter* and/or an *idea*, to form a complete thought, 2) **parallelisms** (repetition in the 2nd part of what has already been expressed in the 1st part, but in different words – **Ps. 1:5; 19:1 - 4**); or 3) an **antithetical expression** in the 2nd part – **Ps. 1:6**, 4) **anadiplosis** (a device in which the last word or phrase of one clause, sentence, or line is repeated at the beginning of the next – **Ps. 121:1, 2**), and 5) **acrostics** (where each line or couplet starts with a different letter of the alphabet – 13 **Psalms**). ***None*** of these FIVE characteristics, however, are found in **Gen. 1** or **2**, ***as a whole*. *Only*** in threeindividual verses – **Gen. 1:27; 2:4, 23.**

Another, but little-known characteristic of **Hebrew poetry** is the frequent use of the **Perfect** & **Imperfect** **verb forms** (*vs.* the preponderance of **Preterit verbs** in the genre of **narrative** / **prose**). This has been shown by PhD Hebraist, Dr. Steven Boyd, ***scientifically*** (*statistical probability* of 0.9987 to 0.9999) to *clearly distinguish* Hebrew **poetry** from Hebrew **prose.**

(*“Thousands… Not Billions”* Chapter 10,Dr. Don DeYoung, 2005, Master Books – This book is available for Loan in the Class Rm. next to the Sound Booth.

The “Toledot” structure of Genesis: “These are the Generations of….” or “This is the Record of….”

Gen. 2:4 – the Heavens and the Earth; 11:27 – Terah;

5:1 – Adam; 25:12 – Ishmael;

6:9 – Noah; 25:19 – Isaac;

10:1 – Sham, Ham & Japheth; 36:1, 9 – Esau;

11:10 – Shem; 37:2 – Jacob