

## BIBLE PROPHECY AND PARABLES

### BASIC DEFINITIONS

1. **PROPHECY** - προφητεία – (Greek – propheteia) – the inspired declaration of divine will and purpose, a special feature of divine communication as **revelation regarding future events**, forthtelling or foretelling.
2. **APOCALUPSE** - ἀποκάλυψις – (Greek – apokalupsis) – revelation, unveiling, marked by symbols, imagery and the **expectation of an imminent cosmic cataclysm** leading to God’s millennial rule or the forecasting of the world’s end.
3. **ESCHATOLOGY** - ἐσχατολογία – (Greek – eschatologia) – **last things**; the branch of theology concerned with the **final events of world history** or of mankind
4. **FIGURE OF SPEECH** - a form of expression such as a “simile” or “metaphor” used to **convey meaning or heighten effect when comparing** one thing with another.
5. **ANALOGY** – ἀναλογία – (Greek – analogia) – **an inferred correspondence**, inference that if two or more things agree with one another in some respects they will probably agree in others; part of a system is similar to the whole of a system. Example: “the analogy between the heart and a pump” or “the human brain and a computer” (Rom. 10:9, 10)
6. **ALLEGORY** – ἀλληγορία – (Greek – allegoria) – **a story** in which symbolic or fictional figures are **used to express truths or generalizations** about human experiences. Examples: The story of Hagar and Sarah as representing the Old and New Covenants of the Bible (Gal. 4:22-31) or the fictional allegory of the tortoise and the hare.
7. **HYPERBOLE** – ὑπερβολή – (Greek – hyperbole) a figure of speech **which** uses **extravagant exaggeration**. Examples: A mile high ice cream cone. In the Bible “*the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*” (Dan. 2:35b)
8. **METAPHOR** – μετὰφορ – (Greek – metaphor) – **an implied comparison**, a figure of speech in which a word or phrase denoting one kind of object or meaning is used in place of another. Example: “He is a lovable little fuzz ball.” Jesus said, “*I am the door of the sheep.; I am the door.; I am the true vine.*” (John 10:7, 9; 15:1ff)
9. **SIMILE** – **a direct comparison**; a figure of speech comparing two unlike things that is often introduced by like or as. Example: “He is as strong **as** an ox.” Jesus said, “*I am sending you as sheep among wolves.*” (Matt. 10:16; Luke. 10:3)

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10. **SIMILITUDE** – **a visible likeness or comparison**, a transference from common knowledge, based on what people normally do. An example is found in the Parable of Leaven where a woman measures three measures of meal. Another example is the sower in the Parable of the Sower. (Matt. 13:3ff; Mark 4:3ff; Luke 8:4ff)
  
11. **STORYTYPE PARABLE** – **a transference of truth from a specific incident** based on what actually happens. Two Biblical examples of the storytype parable are the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) and the story of the rich man and Lazarus in death (Luke 16:19-31).