

Noticing the Important Things

1. Repetition of Words or Phrases
 - a. 1 John 2:15-17
 - b. In poetry: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Psalm 136
 - c. Isaiah 6:3
 - d. Repetition usually means emphasis
 - e. Can also give clues about structure
2. Comparison / Simile
 - a. In poetry - Psalm 1:2
 - b. Through metaphor - John 3:3-5
 - c. Through simile - John 3:14
3. Contrasts / Juxtaposition
 - a. In poetry - Psalm 1:6, Proverbs 14:31
 - b. Using “but” - Matt 5, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 5:8
4. Lists
 - a. Matthew 1
 - b. Galatians 5:22-23
 - c. What is being listed, what order is the list in, and why?
5. Figures of Speech
 - a. Frequent in Poetry or Parables
 - b. Isaiah 40:31, Ps 18:2
 - c. Matthew 15:4; 1 Corinthians 3:6
 - d. Know the difference between literal and figurative
6. Structure
 - a. Chiasm - Genesis 11:1-9
 - b. Inclusio - Mark 11:12-25
7. Other Links Between Phrases and Words
 - a. Cause / Effect - Romans 12:2, Psalm 13:6
 - b. Questions / Answers - Romans 6:1-2, Mark 2:7-11 (And rest of Chapter)
 - c. Dialogue - Habakkuk 1:1-11

Observation: Things to Look For

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- a. 1 John 2:15-17
- b. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
- c. Psalm 136
- d. Isaiah 6:3

2. Comparison / Simile

- a. Psalm 1:2
- b. John 3:3-5
- c. John 3:14

3. Contrasts / Juxtaposition

- a. Psalm 1:6
- b. Proverbs 14:31
- c. Matt 5
- d. Romans 6:23
- e. Ephesians 5:8

4. Lists

- a. Matthew 1
- b. Galatians 5:22-23

5. Figures of Speech

- a. Isaiah 40:31
- b. Ps 18:2
- c. Matthew 15:4
- d. 1 Corinthians 3:6

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- a. Chiasm - Genesis 11:1-9
- b. Inclusio - Mark 11:12-25

7. Other Links Between Phrases/Words

- a. Cause / Effect - Romans 12:2, Psalm 13:6
- b. Questions / Answers - Romans 6:1-2, Mark 2:7-11
- c. Dialogue - Habakkuk 1:1-11

For a full list, see J. Scott Duvall and J. Daniel Hays, *Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible*, Fourth Edition (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020), 95–97.