

Examples of Parallelism in the Pentateuch

1. Genesis 4:23-24 :

"And Lamech said unto his wives Adah and Zillah,
"Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech,
Harken unto my speech:
For I have slain a man to my wounding,
And a young man to my hurt.
If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold,
Truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold."

three sets of synonymous parallelism.

Lamech probably killed just one man - the parallel lines are stating the same thing twice.

2. The Song of Moses, Exodus 15:1-18, showing synonymous parallelism in red or pink, antithetical parallelism in blue, and chiasmic parallelism in purple

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 The LORD is my strength and song,
and he is become my salvation;

He is my God, and I will prepare Him a habitation;,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

3 The LORD is a man of war;
the LORD is his name.

4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea;
his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.

5 The depths have covered them;
they sank into the bottom as a stone.

6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power--
Thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee;

Thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together,
the floods stood upright as an heap;
and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,

- I will divide the spoil, my lust shall be satisfied upon them.
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'
- 10 Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them;
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.
- 11 Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like thee, glorious in holiness,
fearful in praises, doing wonders?
- 12 Thou stretchedst out thy right hand,
the earth swallowed them.
- 13 Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed;
Thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.
- 14 The people shall hear, and be afraid;
sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina.
- 15 Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed;
the mighty men of Moab, trembling, shall take hold upon them;
all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away.
- 16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them;
by the greatness of thine arm, they shall be as still as a stone
til thy people pass over, O LORD,
til the people pass over, which thou has purchased.
- 17 Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance,
in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in,
in the sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established.
- 18 The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

3. The Aaronic Blessing, Numbers 6:24-26 : extended synonymous parallelism

"The Lord bless thee and keep thee,
The Lord make His face to shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee:
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace."