

## *Interpretation Tools*

### **Connective Terms indicating Grammatical Relationships**

Local or geographical: where, from, there	Emphatic: indeed, only
Reason or cause: because, for, since	Result or effect: so, then, therefore, thus
Purpose: in order that, so that	Series: first of all, last of all, or
Contrast: although, but, much more, nevertheless, otherwise, yet	
Comparison: also, as, as – so, just as – so, likewise, so also	
Temporal or chronological: after, as before, now, then, until when, while	
Condition: if (“If ” is the protasis; “Then ” is the apodosis)	

### **Literary Features**

#### **Literary Relationships**

Comparison – association of like things
Contrast – difference between things
Identification – meaning of something is established by being equated with something else
Generalization – one to many
Particularization – many to one
Repetition – recurrence of the same terms, phrases, clauses, statements, or terms in a word family
Continuity – similar (but not identical) terms, phrases, clauses, statements, or events
Interchange – alternation of elements (persons, places, things, events, ideas) that occur in a series
Progression – extension or development of a particular item in a certain direction
Completion – progression of events or ideas to a conclusion or resolution
Climax – series of advancing events or ideas, with focus on the highest or greatest point
Pivot – movement to a crucial point on which subject matter turns in the other direction
Instrumentality – means by which an end or result is achieved
Argumentation – rationale given as justification, substantiation, or corroboration
Cause-Effect – from source to reason or result (causation)
Effect-Cause – from result to source or reason (substantiation)
Explanation or clarification – event or idea followed by illustration or interpretation
Grounds-Conclusion – argument with a logical conclusion
Preparation or Introduction – background or setting for events or persons
Summarization – survey of material that has been, or is about to be, presented
Complementation – two halves; two paired items as counterparts; forms include: question/answer, promise/fulfillment, prediction/fulfillment, problem/solution

#### **Information**

Biography (persons); Geography (locations); Chronology (time); History (events); Ideology (ideas)

### **Figures of Speech**

Allegory –	an extended metaphor
Euphemism –	a term substituted for one that would be more harsh, distasteful, or unpleasant
Hyperbole –	a conscious exaggeration for effect
Irony (sarcasm) –	words used to denote the opposite of what the speaker intends
Simile –	explicit comparison using words such as “like” or “as”
Subtext –	a portion of text influencing structure and/or meaning of another text
Synecdoche –	part stands for the whole
Metalepsis –	citing or echoing another text, including its context
Metaphor –	implicit comparison not using words such as “like” or “as” ; one thing described by another
Metonymy –	using one thing for another because the two are closely associated
Parable –	an extended simile
Personification –	a thing, quality, or idea that is represented as a person or human trait

Sources include: Robert Traina’s *Methodical Bible Study*, Susan Bubbers’ *A Scriptural Theology...*, and Grant Osborne’s *Hermeneutical Spiral*