

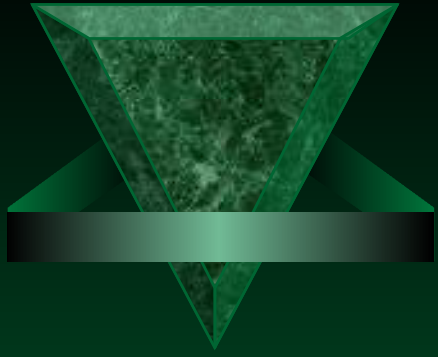


Biblical interpretation

And the Apocrypha



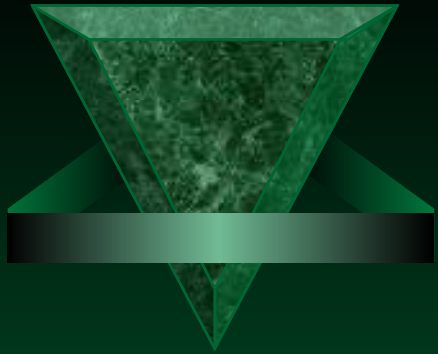
- ✓ After you have studied all appropriate contexts, read your data several times and summarize what you discovered. This summary should be one concise paragraph; so practice writing it in order to pack as much of the data into an understandable paragraph. Remember to write it so that you can understand its meaning even at a later time or so that anyone else can understand its meaning.



Literary Type

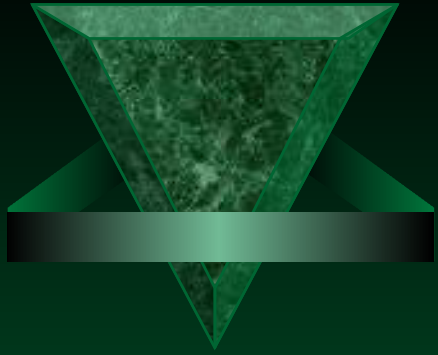
Identifying the Literary Type:

- ✓ Identify the passage by its literary type—poetry, parable (and related types), prophecy, or ordinary writing style (ie., none of the first three categories)



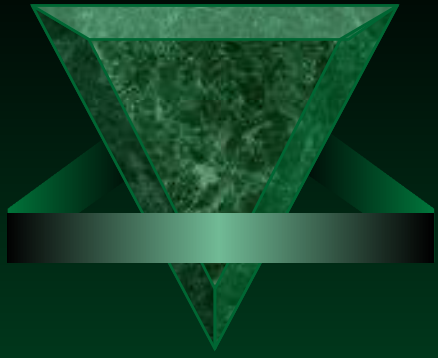
Poetry

- ✓ Poetry-with the right Study Bible, poetry will be easy to identify as long as you check first to see that it isn't a quote from some earlier source. Poetry will look like modern poetry does.
- ✓ Poetry maybe classified according to type (laments, ie., sorrow; thanksgiving; joy& praise; appeals for help; etc.).



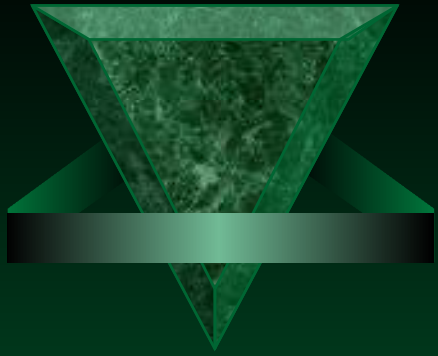
Poetry

- Hebrew poetry is usually characterized by parallelism, which means there are certain relationships among the lines—such as the first two lines may express a parallel or contrasting thought
- Poetry paints word pictures. That means it's more interested in getting a visual and/or audible image across than in being concerned about details.



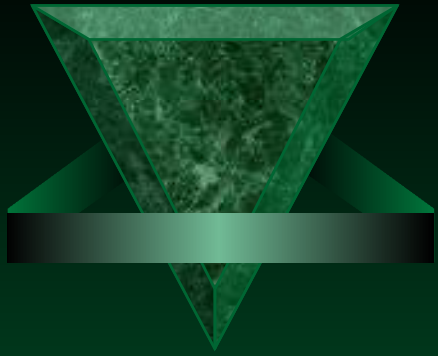
Poetry

- ▼ Therefore, do not attempt to interpret every detail in a literal manner ;some details are often present only to round off the picture. When you have read the poetry section several times in its context, then write a brief description of its word-picture. Example = Isaiah 34 (especially v. 10 with vv. 11, 13-15); etc. (What dismal changes sin can make! It turns a fruitful land into barrenness, a crowded city into a wilderness.



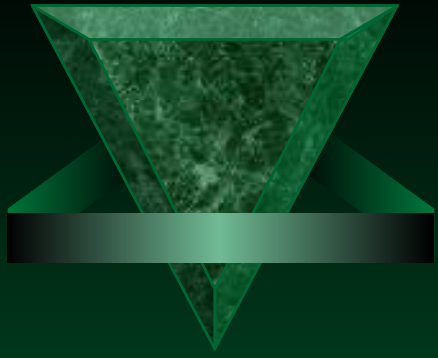
Allegory

- ✦ Allegory-used only once in Bible, the Greek in Galatians 4:24. Greek word means "to explain one thing by use of another, or different", ie., symbolic or figurative. Example = Galatians 4:21-31; see NKJV, which translates the word as "symbolic."



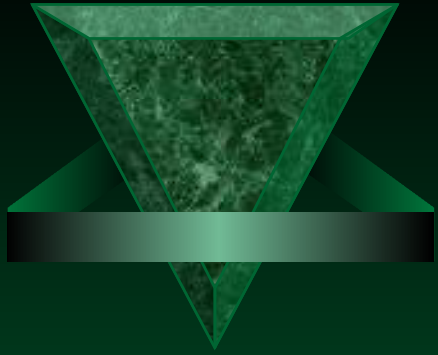
Proverbs and Parable

- ✓ Proverb, Fable, & Parable-all three have common ingredient of an extended metaphor used in a narrative to teach a spiritual point.
- ✓ Proverb is a short metaphor. Example = see book of Proverbs ;II Peter 2:22.



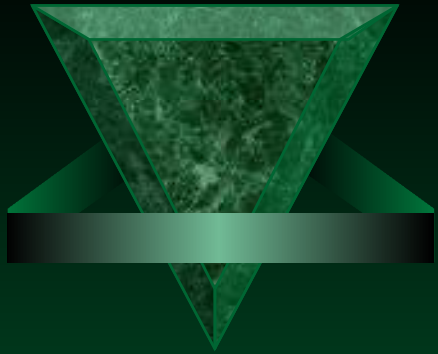
Parables, Proverbs and Allegories

- **Parables including fables, proverbs, & allegories** Parables ,etc. are told to illustrate one or two major spiritual points, which often answer a specific question or solve a specific problem. Read the context and the actual parable several times to get the major point or two.
- Then write a brief discussion which identifies the main spiritual point or points. Example = Luke 16:19-31; etc.



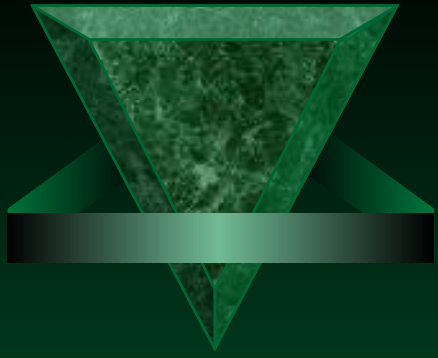
Prophecy

- ✦ Prophecy-Prophecies are classified as either general or apocalyptic. Most prophecies are general in nature, like those in most of the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, etc.; they are given in the context of a specific historical situation, and usually in a straight-forward, literal manner.



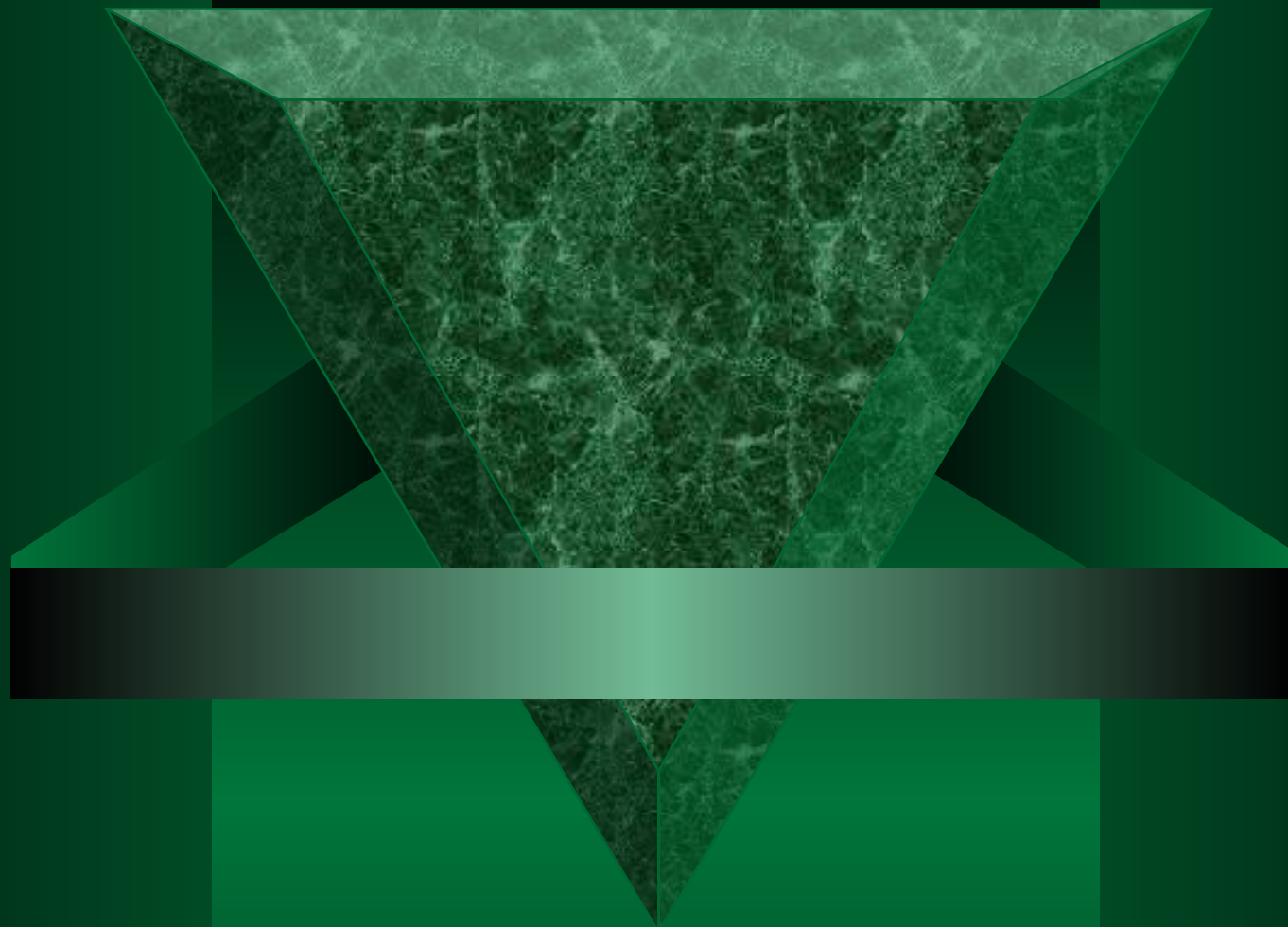
Conditional Prophecy

- ✦ A conditional prophecy is one in which its fulfillment depends upon the behavior of those who are the subject of the prophecy. Example = Jonah 3:4. The principle which makes Jonah's prophecy a conditional one is identified in Jeremiah 18:7-10-- which describes a type of covenant relationship in that God promises a blessing or a curse to a group of people, but will reverse Himself depending up on the response of those people.

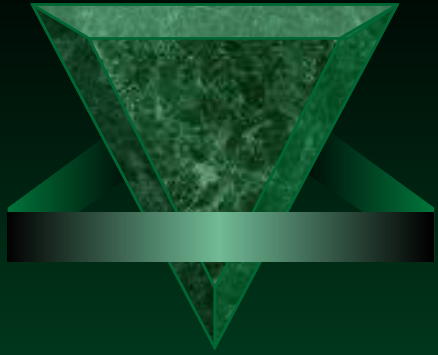


General Prophecy (blended)

- a blended ,or telescoped, prophecy is one in which a second fulfillment is either stated or implied in the actual prophecy, and which is fulfilled at a far later time (usually end-time) than the original fulfillment.
- Examples= Isaiah 14:3-23 (king of Babylon to Lucifer to Babylon);

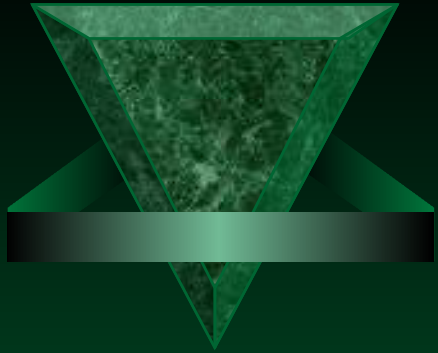


The Apocrypha



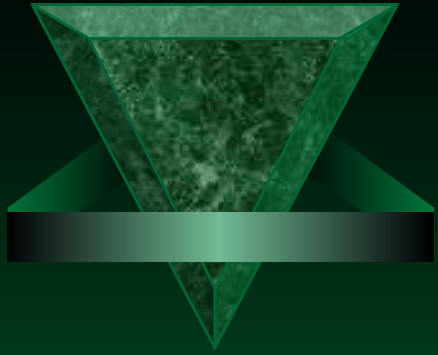
Apocalyptic Prophecies

- Apocalyptic prophecies, like the Greek word for "apocalyptic" (the book of Revelation in Greek is called "Apocalypse"), which means that which is unveiled or revealed, are characterized by at least three distinguishing features:



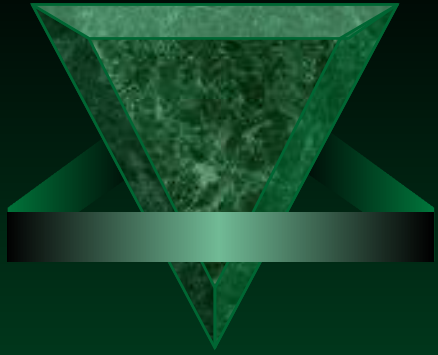
Apocalyptic Prophecies

- ▼ (1) based directly on visions and/or prophetic dreams, which are referred to in the writing of the prophecy
- ▼ (2) much obvious symbolism ,some of it often bizarre
- ▼ (3) portrays the universal struggle between good and evil, and focuses on the final triumph of good over evil in the last days.



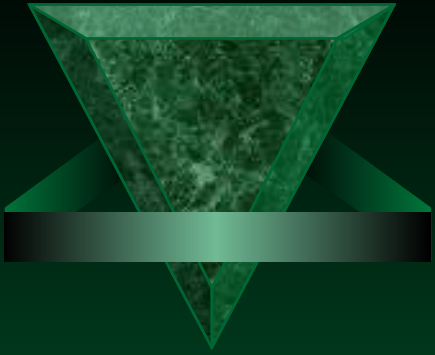
Apocalyptic Prophecies

- ✦ If these three features are not present in a prophecy, then it is a general prophecy. Examples of apocalyptic prophecies = books of Daniel and Revelation.

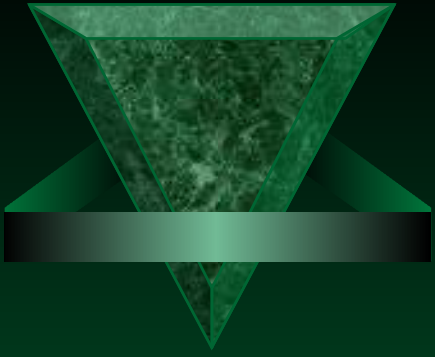


Apocalyptic Prophecies

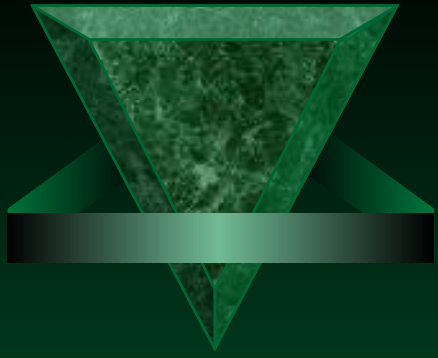
- ✦ Because apocalyptic prophecy is essentially limited to the books of Daniel and Revelation, and parts of Ezekiel and Zechariah, it's reasonable to expect that there will sometimes be parallels or identical (or similar) symbols in another apocalyptic prophecy than the one you're studying.



- ✦ "The Jewish canon, or the Hebrew Bible, was universally received, while the Apocrypha added to the Greek version of the Septuagint were only in a general way accounted as books suitable for church reading, and thus as a middle class between canonical and strictly apocryphal (pseudonymous) writings

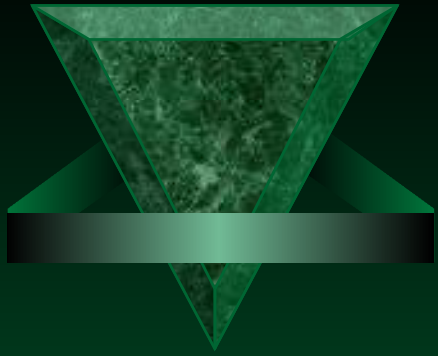


- ✦ while they have great historical value, and fill the gap between the Old Testament and the New, They all originated after the cessation of prophecy, and they cannot therefore be regarded as inspired, nor are they ever cited by Christ or the apostles"



Reasons why the Apocrypha is not inspired

- ✦ The Roman Catholic Church did not officially canonize the Apocrypha until the Council of Trent (1546 AD). This was in part because the Apocrypha contained material which supported certain Catholic doctrines, such as purgatory, praying for the dead, and the treasury of merit.



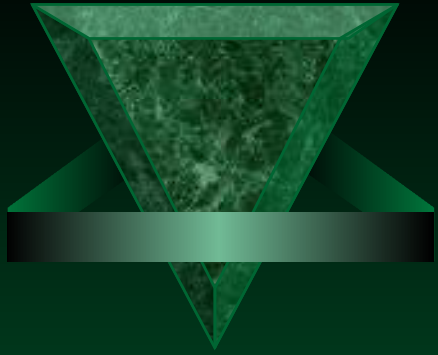
Reasons why the Apocrypha is not inspired

- ✦ Not one of them is in the Hebrew language, which was alone used by the inspired historians and poets of the Old Testament.
- ✦ Not one of the writers lays any claim to inspiration.



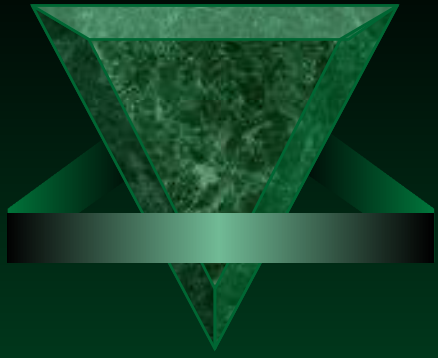
Reasons why the Apocrypha is not inspired

- ✦ These books were never acknowledged as sacred Scriptures by the Jewish Church, and therefore were never sanctioned by our Lord.
- ✦ They were not allowed a place among the sacred books, during the first four centuries of the Christian Church.



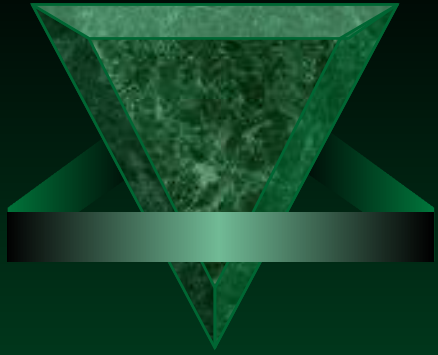
Reasons why the Apocrypha is not inspired

- ✦ They contain fabulous statements, and statements which contradict not only the canonical Scriptures, but themselves; as when, in the two Books of Maccabees, Antiochus Epiphanes is made to die three different deaths in as many different places.
- ✦ The Apocrypha inculcates doctrines at variance with the Bible, such as prayers for the dead and sinless perfection.



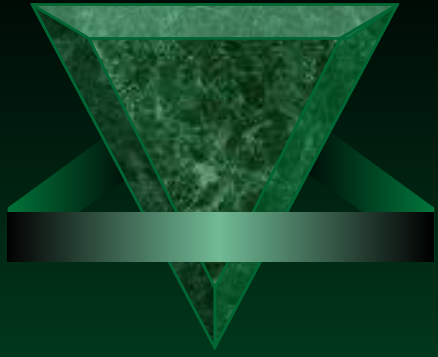
Reasons why the Apocrypha is not inspired

- The apocrypha contains offensive materials unbecoming of God as authorship.
- Ecclesiasticus 25:19 Any iniquity is insignificant compared to a wife's iniquity.
- Ecclesiasticus 25:24 From a woman sin had its beginning. Because of her we all die.
- Ecclesiasticus 22:3 It is a disgrace to be the father of an undisciplined, and the birth of a daughter is a loss.



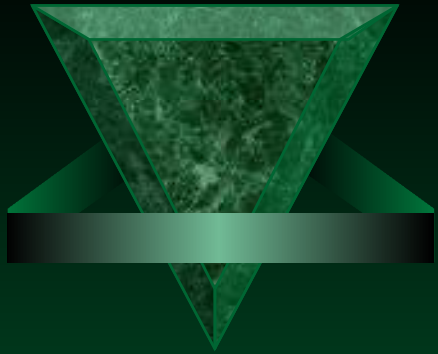
Reasons why the Apocrypha is not inspired

- The apocryphal books themselves make reference to what we call the Silent 400 years, where there was no prophets of God to write inspired materials.
- And they laid up the stones in the mountain of the temple in a convenient place, till there should come a prophet, and give answer concerning them. (1 Maccabees 4:46)



Reasons why the Apocrypha is not inspired

- And there was a great tribulation in Israel, such as was not since the day, that there was no prophet seen in Israel. (1 Maccabees 9:27)
- And that the Jews, and their priests, had consented that he should be their prince, and high priest for ever, till there should arise a faithful prophet. (1 Maccabees 14:41)



Reasons why the Apocrypha is not inspired

- ✦ Josephus rejected the apocryphal books as inspired and this reflected Jewish thought at the time of Jesus.
- ✦ The Manual of Discipline in the Dead Sea Scrolls rejected the apocrypha as inspired.
- ✦ There are reputed to be 263 quotations and 370 allusions to the Old Testament in the New Testament and not one of them refers to the Apocryphal books.