



## If I had a brontosaurus

If I had a brontosaurus  
I would name him Morris or Horace;  
But if suddenly one day he had a lot of little brontosauri  
I would change his name to Laurie.

(by Shel Silverstein)

### I. Introduction: The use and usefulness of poetry

A. Purpose

B. Value

### II. Overview of Hebrew Poetry & Wisdom

A. Discovery

1. Where do we find Hebrew poetry?
2. Where do we find Wisdom literature?
3. What's the difference (in Hebrew poetry & Hebrew wisdom literature)?

B. Distinctives

1. The human perspective (*getting into someone's shoes*)
2. Contemporary relevance
3. Hermeneutic difficulties

### III. Hebrew Poetry & Wisdom

A. What are features of English poetry?

## Piano Man

by Billy Joel

It's nine o'clock on a Saturday  
The regular crowd shuffles in  
There's an old man sittin' next to me  
Makin' love to his tonic and gin  
He says, "Son can you play me a memory?  
I'm not really sure how it goes  
But it's sad and it's sweet and I knew it complete  
When I wore a younger man's clothes"

*Chorus: Sing us a song, you're the piano man  
Sing us a song tonight*

*Well, we're all in the mood for a melody  
And you've got us feelin' alright*

Now John at the bar is a friend of mine  
He gets me my drinks for free  
And he's quick with a joke,  
Or to light up your smoke  
But there's some place that he'd rather be  
He says, "Bill, I believe this is killing me"  
As a smile ran away from his face  
"Well, I'm sure that I could be a movie star  
If I could get out of this place"

Now Paul is a real estate novelist  
Who never had time for a wife  
And he's talkin' with Davy, who's still in the navy  
And probably will be for life  
And the waitress is practicing politics  
As the businessmen slowly get stoned  
Yes, they're sharing a drink they call loneliness  
But it's better than drinkin' alone

*Chorus*

It's a pretty good crowd for a Saturday  
And the manager gives me a smile  
'Cause he knows that it's me  
They've been comin' to see  
To forget about life for a while  
And the piano, it sounds like a carnival  
And the microphone smells like a beer  
And they sit at the bar and put bread in my jar  
And say man what are you doin' here?

*Chorus*

B. Features of Hebrew poetry & wisdom

1. Acrostic
2. Alliteration (*can get lost in translations*)
3. Parallelism
  
4. Refrains
  
5. Chiasm
  
6. Figures of speech
  - a. Rawsness
  
  - b. Hyperbole
  
  - c. Simile
  
  - d. Metaphor
  
  - e. Allegory

C. Application of Poetry

1. Purpose of Hebrew poetry
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How to use Hebrew poetry

D. Application of Wisdom literature

1. Purpose of Wisdom literature
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How to use Wisdom literature

**Chiasm in Psalm 100**

- A Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
- B Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
- C Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- B Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
- A For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

*Additional Notes*