

I. The Characteristics of Hebrew Poetry.

A. Peculiar Vocabulary.

There are several Hebrew words which occur most frequently and in some cases exclusively in poetry.

1. $\pi \text{ } \text{דָּבָר}$ n.f., word, speech, utterance.

-Found only in poetry, especially Job.
-Is common in Aramaic.

Psa. 139:4 "Even before there is a word on my tongue."

-Would expect the synonym דָּבָר n.m., speech, word.

2. $\pi \text{ } \text{דָּרֶךְ}$ n.m., way, path.

-Found mostly in poetry, but also in Aramaic.

Psa. 139:3 "Thou dost winnow my path and my lying down...."

-Synonym for דֶּרֶךְ n.m., way, road, distance, journey, manner.

3. עָלֵי is an unabbreviated form of the preposition עַל .
^used only in poetry

Meanings: Upon, on the ground of, according to, on account of, on behalf of, concerning, beside, in addition to, together with, beyond, above, over, by, on to, towards, to, against.

Gen. 49:17 "Dan will be a serpent in the path...."

Psa. 32:5 "I will confess concerning my sin to the LORD...."

4. אֲשֶׁר "which" (m or f), or "this."

-Rare in prose, common in poetry where it has one of the following functions:

- a. A relative pronoun for either gender.

Psa. 32:8 "... in the way which you should go."

-Expect the usual term אֲשֶׁר .