

Janus Parallelism

written by Alfred Persson | August 15, 2000

Janus Parallelism. This type of parallelism hinges on the use of a single word with two different meanings, one of which forms a parallel with what precedes and the other with what follows. Thus, by virtue of a double entendre, the parallelism faces in both directions. Berlin, A. (1992). Parallelism. In D. N. Freedman (Ed.), *The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary* (Vol. 5, p. 157). New York: Doubleday.

Awareness of Janus Parallelism was lost until Hebrew expert Cyrus Gordon rediscovered them in 1978 (*New Directions, BASP* 15, pp. 59-60). The apostles Matthew and John, experts in Hebrew Scripture would be very familiar with them.

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