

# FORMS OF PROPHETIC DISCOURSE

## PROPHETIC SPEECH

<i>Class</i>	<i>Characterization</i>	<i>Components</i>	<i>Cases</i>
<b>Messenger Speech</b>	Prophet delivers words of YHWH verbatim	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Claim formula (“the word of YHWH came to...”)</li> <li>2. Commission (“go and proclaim...”)</li> <li>3. Verbatim (“thus says YHWH”)</li> <li>4. Message</li> </ol>	Jer. 2:1-2 & ff.
<b>Credential Saying</b>	Outcome will convince the audience that YHWH is God and/or vindicate the authenticity of the prophet’s claim to speak for God	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Message proclaimed</li> <li>2. Recognition formula (“and you will know that...”)</li> </ol>	Isa. 41:17-20; 49:22-26; Ezek 12:17-20; 33:23-33
<b>Disputation Speech</b>	A position is disputed by means of questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Position cited as question</li> <li>2. Position refuted</li> <li>3. Consequences explicated</li> </ol>	Isa. 40:27-31; Hag. 1:2-11; Mal. 1:2-3:21[4:3]
<b>Lawsuit Speech</b>	Argues case of covenant violation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Summons</li> <li>2. Case argued</li> <li>3. Verdict and sentence</li> </ol>	Isa. 1:2-20; Hos. 4:1-10
<b>Judgment Speech</b>	Announcement of the consequences (covenant curses) sin (individual or corporate)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Summons (“Now hear the word of YHWH”)</li> <li>2. Indictment (reasons)</li> <li>3. Verdict/Judgment (“therefore...”)</li> </ol>	<p>to persons: Isa. 22:15-25; Jer. 20:1-6; Amos 7:16-17</p> <p>to nations: Isa. 30:8-14; Mic. 3:9-12</p>
<b>Woe Oracle</b>	A charge introduced by means of the interjection “woe!” <i>hōy</i> & including an announcement of doom	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Interjection <b>וָהוּי</b> <i>hōy</i> “woe!”</li> <li>2. Charge specific audience, usually of specific infractions</li> </ol>	Isa. 5:8-24; 28; 29; 30; 31; Hab. 2:6-20
<b>Salvation Speech</b>	Announcement of impending deliverance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Description of status</li> <li>2. Announcement of deliverance</li> <li>3. Resolution</li> </ol>	Jer. 28:2-4; 31:2-6; Amos 9:7-12

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## PROPHETIC NARRATIVE

<i>Class</i>	<i>Characterization</i>	<i>Components</i>	<i>Cases</i>
<b>Call Report</b>	First person report of call & commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confrontation</li> <li>2. Introduction</li> <li>3. Commission</li> <li>4. Objection</li> <li>5. Reassurance</li> </ol>	Isa. 6; Jer 1:4-10; Ezek. 1-3; var. Amos 7:14-15
<b>Vision Report</b>	First person report of what the prophet sees and/or hears	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Claim of vision (form of <math>\text{וַיֵּרָא}</math> <i>r'h</i> )</li> <li>2. Introduction of vision (“and behold” etc.)</li> <li>3. Content of vision</li> </ol>	Amos 7:1-9; 8:1-3;
<b>Message Report</b>	Narrative of prophet’s receiving a word from YHWH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prophetic word formula (“the word which came to X from YHWH...”)</li> <li>2. Description of situation</li> </ol>	Jer. 21:1-2; 32:1-5; 34:1; Hos 1:1
<b>Mime Report</b>	Narrative description of the prophet’s acting out a message	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commission to act</li> <li>2. Description of act</li> <li>3. Interpretation of act</li> </ol>	Isa. 7:3; 8:1-4; 20:1-6; Jer. 13:1-11; 16:1-9; Hos. 1; 3
<b>Biography</b>	Third person biographic vignette		Jer. 26:1-24; 28:1-17

For further discussion, see C. Westermann, *Basic Forms of Prophetic Speech*. Louisville, Westminster/John Knox: 1991. M. Sweeney, “The Genres of Prophetic Literature” in *Isaiah 1-39*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.