Figures Of Speech Used In The Bible Explained And Illustrated
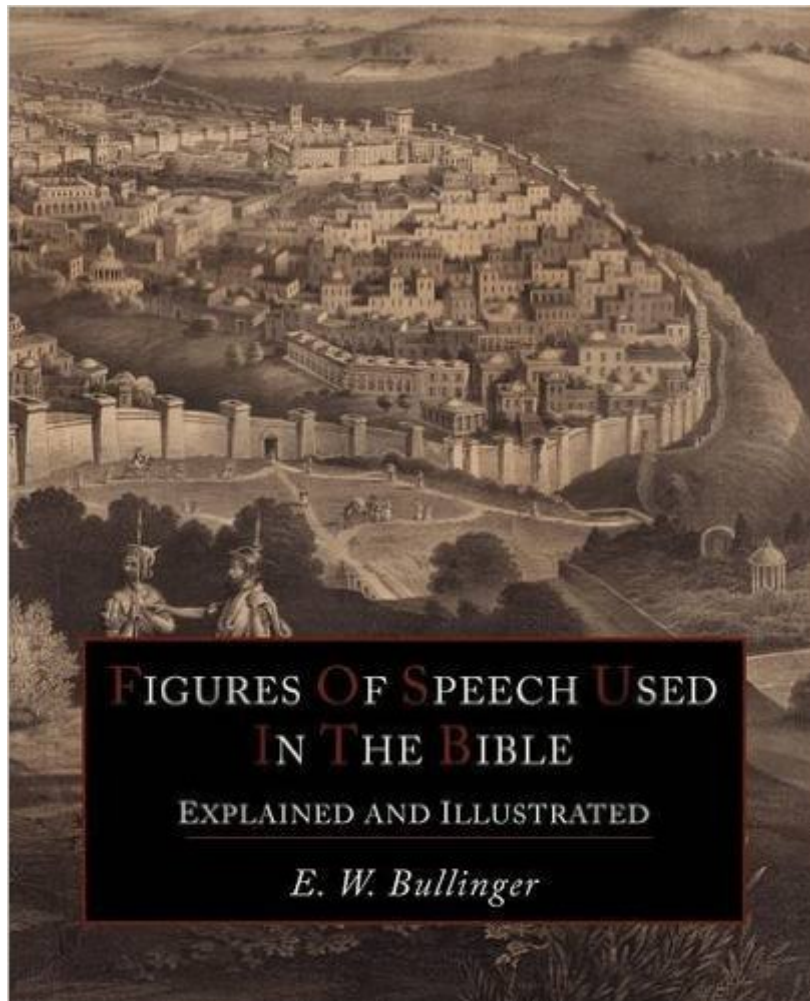
FIGURES OF SPEECH USED
IN THE BIBLE
EXPLAINED AND ILLUSTRATED

E. W. Bullinger

Synopsis

2011 Reprint of 1898 Edition. Full facsimile of the original edition, not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. Many consider Bullinger's handbook to be the best one on the subject. According to Walter Kaiser, "this book should be on every exegete's shelf alongside the Greek and Hebrew lexicons and grammars." Bullinger sets out 217 distinct figures of speech present in Scripture. He gives for each the pronunciation and etymology of its name, and then a number of passages of Scripture in which it appears, accompanied by a full explanation. In all, nearly eight thousand passages are thus cited.

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Customer Reviews

Bullinger's massive classifications of figures of speech used in the Bible provides a wealth of help in interpretation. When I am studying a difficult verse, I often use the Scripture index in Bullinger's work to find out if figurative language might come into play. Not only does Bullinger address figures that we commonly think of (exaggeration/hyperbole, etc.), but he divides them into subcategories -- and includes classifications of figures one would not ordinarily detect through a casual reading of Biblical texts.This is not meant for reading or even studying through (though it is fascinating to thumb through it), but is more or less a very useful reference work. I would label it as an essential book for pastors and Bible teachers.As an evangelical pastor of 24 years, I give this book two thumbs up.

One of the most useful of Bible study tools, "Figures of Speech Used in the Bible" should be in personal library of anyone who is serious about Bible study. The writers of the Bible often used figures of speech that were common during their time. In fact we often use figures of speech in our everyday conversations without paying much attention to it but we do expect others to understand that we were speaking figuratively and not literally. For example, if we were to say someone is "big as a barn" we would not expect anyone to seriously think they were forty feet long, eighteen feet tall and twenty feet wide. By taking such figures of speech literally it is easy to be lead astray into false doctrines. The other thing the book is particularly valuable for is literary analysis. The beauty of literature sometimes is its use of various literary devices. Introverted parallelism is an example of a literary device included in the book. This is where two or more items are listed in one order and then in the reverse order. For example Exodus 9:31 where it reads "And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was bolled." First the order is flax and then barley and then the order changes to barley and then flax. Of course there are a lot of other literary devices such as acrostics, sentences that start or end with the same words, a chapter where each verse starts with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet, or Psalms 69 where there are 22 groups of eight verses where each of the eight verses in that group all start with the same letter. Whether it is examining these details of the Bible as literature or preventing an exegetic mistake by not understanding a figure of speech, "Figures of Speech Used in the Bible" is highly recommended and should be owned by all Bible students.

This book has become a favorite reference in my Biblical studies. It's thorough, well organized, and easy to use. I'm not in agreement with all of Bullinger's theological views, particularly his dispensational perspective on the structure of bilbical revelation; but his scholarly insight on how scripture uses figures of speech has proven to be extremely valuable in helping me gain a deeper and more clear understanding of God's word. I consider this to be one of the better resources on my bookshelf. It's a great companion with Strong's Concordance, and my Hebrew and Greek lexicons. It should, however, be used in a discerning manner.

I have the hard copy of this book and love it. I was thrilled to see that it is available for the Kindle and immediately purchased it so that I could always have a copy with me. However, there is no table of contents and the book's index isn't "clickable". Essentially this leaves this electronic copy of the book nearly useless. This is a huge reference book and without a way to navigate its practically impossible to use. What a disappointment.

Bullinger's is an excellent Bible study tool. The book is balanced and has a long history of use in the Christian community. I bought it to replace an older copy.This book is for Bible teachers, Pastors, and above. It is a bit involved for anyone not involved in deep, continous study of the word. It is not an "easy to read book." It is more like a dictionary where you can look up passages or specific figures of speech and see how they are used in the Bible.I highly recommend it.

This book, along with Preaching from the Types and Metaphors of the Bible (Keach), and The Typology of Scripture (Fairbairn), make up my trio of favorite books on Figures, Metaphors, and Typologies of the Bible. No Bible study you do will truly be complete without checking the notes on your verses in this book. It is really that important, that insightful, and that well researched. The doctrine between the lines is also helpful and sound. This is (hands down), the single best book to study polysyndeton and asyndeton examples in the Bible. Excellent book!

This book catalogs and shows how God utilizes over 200 types of figures of speech to call attention to what He views as most vital in His Word. No other work approaches the scope and knowledge that Bullinger had in this field.

Figures of Speech Used in the Bible is an excellent example of Bullinger's thorough and exacting examination of Bible details, which greatly assist in understanding all the spiritual messages in the Bible. I love Bullinger's works. He is one of the greatest researchers I've ever had the pleasure to use in my studies. Many times his key word descriptions help open my understanding down deep. He brings the language in the Bible to the place where it is alive with revelations. Thanks, my dear Bible lover, E. W. Bullinger.

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