

ROLAND MEYNET, *Treatise on Biblical Rhetoric*

The fruit of a long history dating back at least more than three hundred years and, on the part of its author, of some fifty years of research and analysis of texts of both the Old and New Testaments, this work sets out to present systematically and in depth the principles of biblical rhetoric.

Belonging to the cultural area of the Semitic world, biblical rhetoric differs from Greco-Latin rhetoric, of which the modern West is the direct heir. However, it applies not only to texts written in Hebrew or Aramaic, but also to the Greek books of the Old and New Testaments. Knowledge of the laws of this specific rhetoric is essential for a better understanding of the biblical writings.

The Treatise is divided into three parts: Composition, Context and Interpretation. The first part sets out the relationships between all the linguistic elements used to construct texts, followed by the successive levels of their organisation, afterwards the figures of composition and finally the rules of rewriting.

The part devoted to context looks first at intratext, and even more importantly at intertextual relationships, before examining the function of the centre of concentric compositions and proposing rules for rewriting synoptic texts.

The third part first shows the usefulness of biblical rhetoric for establishing the text, its translation, its divisions and its punctuation. A presentation of the five hermeneutical rules for interpreting texts based on their composition follows. Next comes the role of intertextuality, which is often decisive in shedding light on these texts. The section concludes with a reflection on the gift of interpretation.

The first chapter traces the "history" of the discovery of biblical rhetoric. It is indeed indispensable to know the authors of the research and discoveries we have inherited.

This work is a grammar; it is accompanied by the book Exercises of Biblical Rhetorical, which provides practical exercises for anyone who desires to learn the craft.

THE AUTHOR: Roland Meynet, a Jesuit, worked for many years in the Middle East: fourteen years at Saint Joseph University of Beirut and six at the Biblical Institute in Jerusalem. He then taught biblical theology for thirty years at the Faculty of Theology of the Gregorian University in Rome. A founding member of the International Society for the Study of Biblical and Semitic Rhetoric, he is currently its President.



PEETERS-LEUVEN

ISBN 978-90-429-5484-7



Treatise on Biblical Rhetoric

Roland Meynet



PONTIFICIA UNIVERSITAS GREGORIANA  
RHETORICA BIBLICA ET SEMITICA

Roland Meynet

# TREATISE ON BIBLICAL RHETORIC

PEETERS

31. ROLAND MEYNET, *Qohélet*, Peeters, Leuven 2021.
32. ROLAND MEYNET, *The Psalter: Book One (Ps 1–41)*, Peeters, Leuven 2021.
33. ROLAND MEYNET, *The Psalter: Book Two (Ps 42/43–72)*, Peeters, Leuven 2021.
34. ROLAND MEYNET, *Comment ? Les Lamentations de Jérémie*, Peeters, Leuven 2021.
35. ROLAND MEYNET, *The Psalter: Book Three (Ps 73–89)*, Peeters, Leuven 2021.
36. ROLAND MEYNET, *Ruth*, Peeters, Leuven 2022.
37. ROLAND MEYNET, *The Psalter: Book Four (Ps 90–106)*, Peeters, Leuven 2022.
38. ROLAND MEYNET, *The Psalter: Book Five (Ps 107–150)*, Peeters, Leuven 2022.
39. ROLAND MEYNET, *L'Un et l'autre Livre d'Esther*, Peeters, Leuven 2022.
40. ROLAND MEYNET, *L'ensemble des Cinq Rouleaux. Cinq femmes ensemble*, Peeters, Leuven 2022.
41. ROLAND MEYNET, *The Psalter. The Whole of the Book of Praises*, Peeters, Leuven 2022.
42. FRANCESCO GRAZIANO – ROLAND MEYNET – BERNARD WITEK, ed., *Studi dell'ottavo convegno RBS. International Studies on Biblical and Semitic Rhetoric*, Peeters, Leuven 2023.
43. ROLAND MEYNET, *Les Actes des apôtres*, Peeters, Leuven 2024.
44. ROLAND MEYNET, *Jésus Christ accomplit les Écritures*, Peeters, Leuven 2024.
45. ROLAND MEYNET, *L'évangile de Marc. Deuxième édition revue et augmentée*, Peeters, Leuven 2025.
46. ROLAND MEYNET, *Il Salterio. Primo libro (Sal 1–41)*, Peeters, Leuven 2025.
47. ROLAND MEYNET, *Il Salterio. Secondo libro (Sal 42/43–72)*, Peeters, Leuven 2025.
48. ROLAND MEYNET, *Il Salterio. Terzo libro (Sal 73–89)*, Peeters, Leuven 2026.
49. ROLAND MEYNET, *Il Salterio. Quarto libro (Sal 90–106)*, Peeters, Leuven 2026.
50. ROLAND MEYNET, *Il Salterio. Quinto libro (Sal 107–150)*, Peeters, Leuven 2027.
51. ROLAND MEYNET, *Il Salterio. L'insieme del libro delle lodi*, Peeters, Leuven 2027.
52. ROLAND MEYNET, *Treatise on Biblical Rhetoric. Second Complete English Edition*, Peeters, Leuven 2025.
53. ROLAND MEYNET – JACEK ONISZCZUK, *Exercises of Biblical Rhetorical Analysis*, Peeters, Leuven 2025.