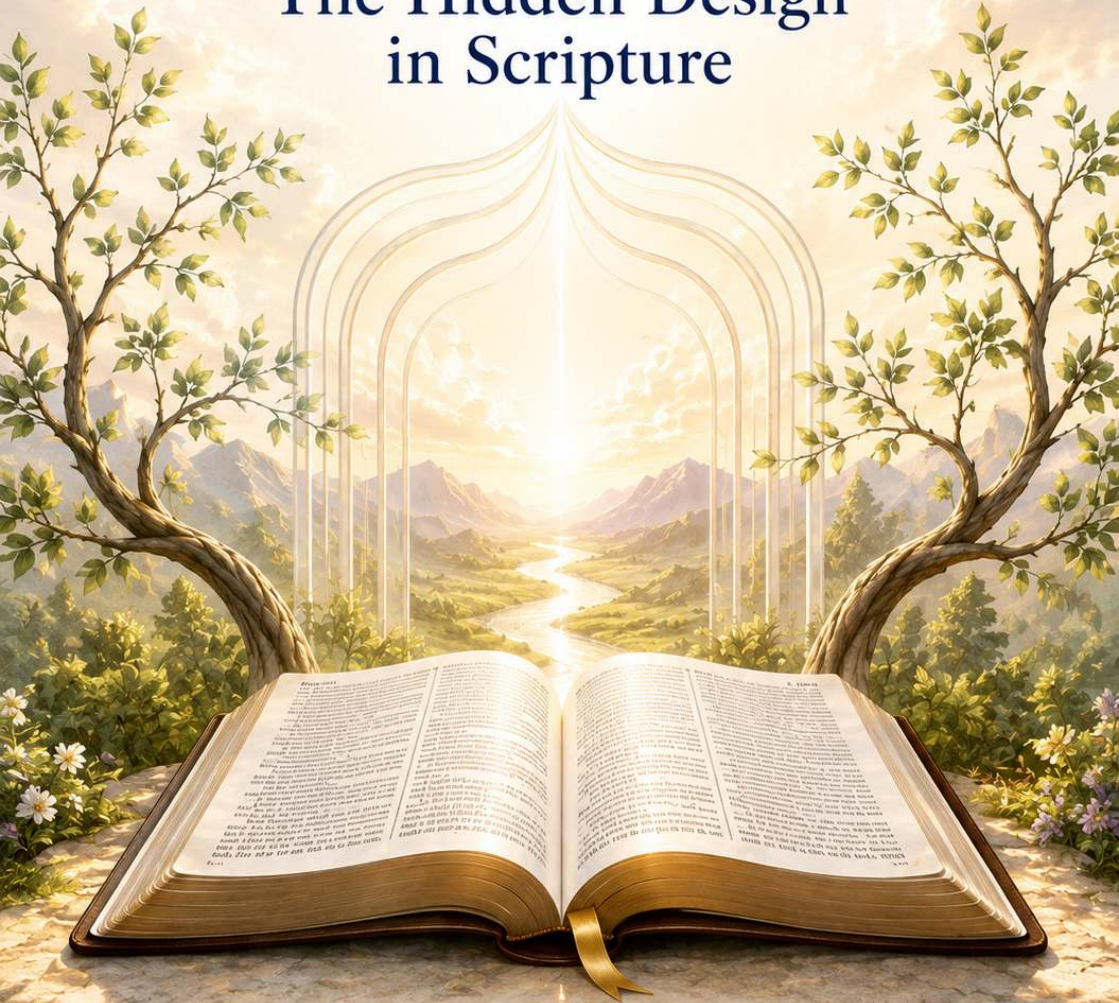


CHIASM

The Hidden Design in Scripture



*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,
But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*

— PROVERBS 25:2 —

— AMRIT NATHAN —

— — — — —
Your word is a lamp
to my feet
And a light to my path.

— — — — —
PSALM 119:105 (NKJV) — — — — —



WHAT IS A CHIASM?

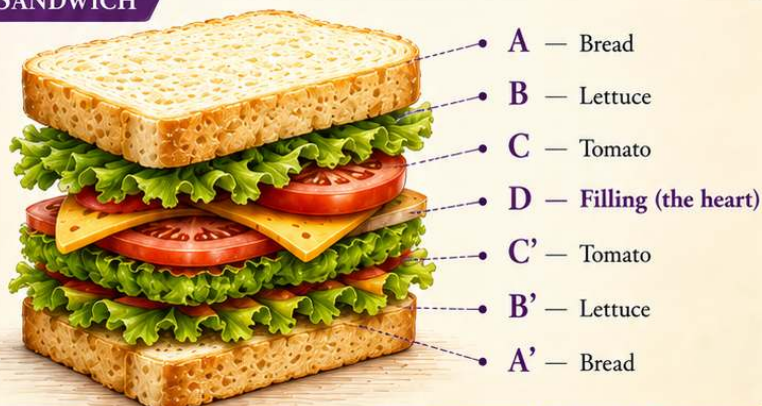
Sometimes Scripture arranges words or ideas so that the beginning corresponds with the ending, while the thoughts between them return in reverse order.

This literary structure is called a chiasm.

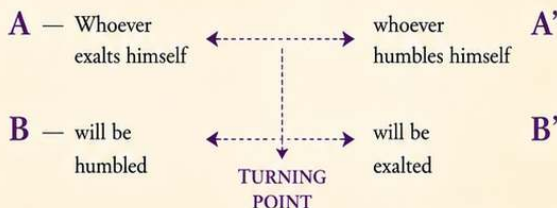
An easy way to understand it is as a **Literary Sandwich**.

THE LITERARY SANDWICH

Just as the layers of a sandwich correspond on either side of its filling, the parts of a chiasm can correspond on either side of its centre.



SEE IT IN SCRIPTURE



The ideas correspond like the layers of a sandwich, with a turning point at the centre.

HOW TO LOOK FOR A CHIASM



1. REPETITION

Look for words or ideas that appear again.



2. CORRESPONDENCE

Ask if a thought near the beginning matches one near the end.



3. REVERSAL

Notice if the order begins to reverse and move back.



**Do not force the pattern.
Let the text reveal it.**

SEE IT GROW

Scripture itself reveals the Literary Sandwich.

A SIMPLE CHIASM

Mark 2:27 (NKJV)

*"The Sabbath was made for man,
and not man for the Sabbath."*

A — THE SABBATH
B — was made for MAN
B' — and not MAN for
A' — the SABBATH

A complete chiasm can sometimes appear within a single sentence.

DO YOU SEE IT?

Sabbath ↔ Sabbath
Man ↔ Man

BUT THE PATTERN CAN GROW...

A LARGER CHIASM

Isaiah 6:9–10 (NKJV)

*"And he said: 'Go, and tell
this people:*

*'Keep on hearing, but
do not understand;
Keep on seeing, but
do not perceive.'*

*Make the heart of this
people dull,
And their ears heavy,
And shut their eyes;
Lest they see with their
eyes, And hear with
their ears, And understand
with their heart, And
return and be healed."*

A — EYES
B — EARS
C — HEART
C' — HEART
B' — EARS
A' — EYES

Look carefully.

What began
with the
EYES
returns to the
EYES.

The EARS
correspond
with the
EARS.

At the centre
we find the
HEART.

THE LITERARY SANDWICH HAS GROWN
FROM TWO CORRESPONDING LAYERS TO THREE.

The pattern can be simple or it can be extended.
Every chiasm has a centre and corresponding parts
that balance on each side.

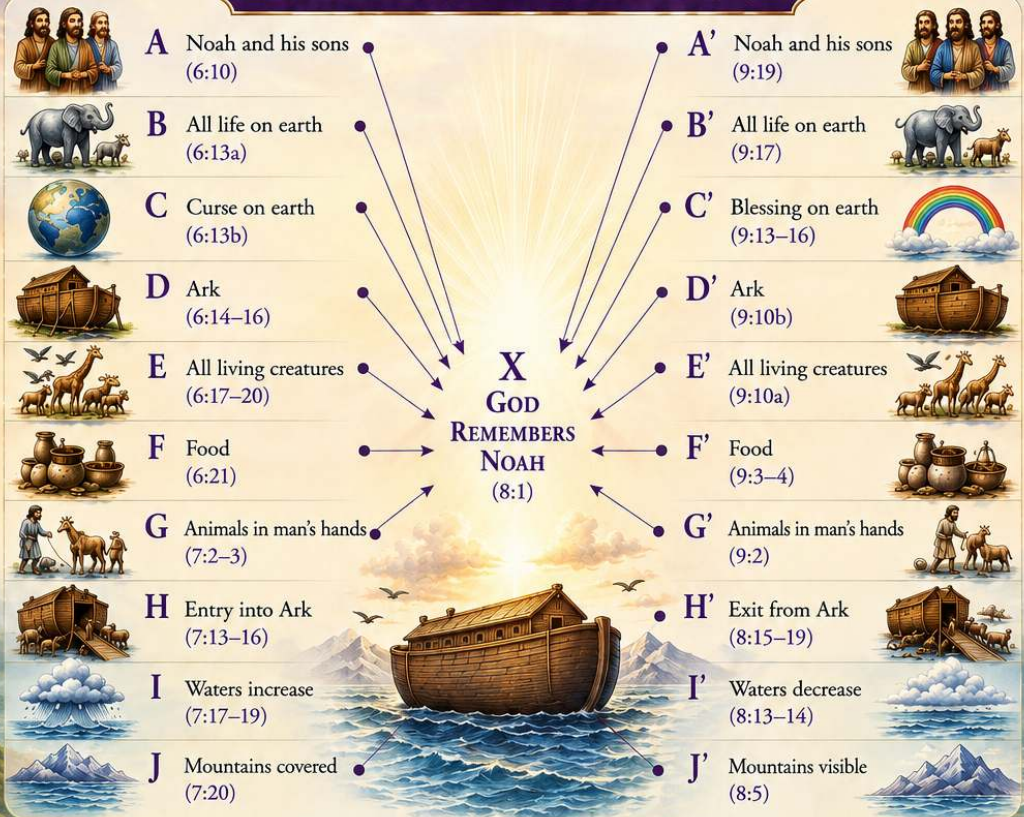
A —
B —
C —
B' —
A' —



THE PATTERN CAN SPAN A STORY

We began with a chiasm contained in a single sentence.
But the same literary structure can extend across an entire biblical narrative.

THE FLOOD – GENESIS 6–9



WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER?

The story moves from Noah and his family, through the judgment of the Flood, steadily inward.



Then
"God remembered Noah."
(8:1)



From that point, the movement reverses: the waters decrease, the earth reappears, Noah leaves the Ark, and the narrative moves outward again.

The centre was not chosen by us. The structure of the narrative led us there.



From a single saying of Yahshua to a story spanning several chapters, the mirror pattern can appear in remarkably different forms.

There are many more waiting to be noticed.



Now close this booklet... and open your Bible.

EXAMPLES OF CHIASM IN SCRIPTURE

1. THE FIVE SIGNS — MARK 16:17,18



C



SPIRIT LEVEL (CENTRE)
 Authority over the serpent.
 Highest sign — the heart of the chiasm.

They shall take up serpents;

B



SOUL LEVEL (SIDES)
 The soul level includes our mind, will and emotions. Signs of divine protection and expression.

They shall speak with *new tongues*;
 and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them.

A



FLESH LEVEL (BASE)
 The outer level is the physical realm. Believers act in the world with power to expel evil and bring healing.

They cast out devils;
 they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

**SPIRIT
(CENTRE)**

**SOUL
(SIDES)**

**FLESH
(BASE)**

MARK 16:17,18 (NKJV)

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.



FIVE SIGNS. PERFECT SYMMETRY.
THE CENTRE DECLARES THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY OVER THE SERPENT.

EXAMPLES OF CHIASM IN SCRIPTURE

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS — EXODUS 20:1-17

LAW OF THE SPIRIT (SINGULAR)

The commandments 1-3
reveal our relationship
with God.

They are singular in nature,
focused on worship,
love and reverence
toward the Creator.

The Law reveals a divine order.
The Sabbath stands at the centre,
balancing the Law of the Spirit
and the Law of the Flesh.

LAW OF THE FLESH (DUAL)

The commandments 5-10
reveal our relationship
with others.

They are dual in nature,
governing how we live
in society and community.

4

3

5&6

CENTRE (PEAK)

4. Remember
the Sabbath day,
to keep it holy.
(Rest in the LORD)

3. You shall not take
the name of the LORD
your God in vain.
(Honour God's Name)



5. Honour your father
and your mother.
6. You shall not
murder.



2. You shall not
make for yourself
a carved image.
(Worship God Alone)



The Sabbath — God's sign
of His covenant.
The heart of the Law.

7&8

7. You shall not
commit adultery.
8. You shall
not steal.



1. You shall have
no other gods
before Me.
(Love God)



9. You shall not bear
false witness.
10. You shall
not covet.



CONCLUSION

The Ten Commandments form a perfect chiasm
with the Sabbath at the centre.
On the left, the Law of the Spirit
reveals our duty to God.
On the right, the Law of the Flesh
reveals our duty to others.
When the heart loves God (1-4),
it will naturally love others (5-10).

GOD'S LAW IS PERFECT, CONVERTING THE SOUL;
THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD IS SURE, MAKING WISE THE SIMPLE.
— PSALM 19:7 (NKJV)

EZEKIEL 36:26–27

(NKJV)

*26 A new heart also will I give you,
and a new spirit will I put within you;
and I will take away
the stony heart out of your flesh,
and I will give you a heart of flesh.*

*27 I will put My Spirit within you
and cause you to walk in My statutes,
and you will keep My judgments
and do them.*