

Literary Structures in the Bible



Forward Symmetry

Sections are repeated
in a forward direction
(i.e. ABCABC).



Inclusio

Outer elements provide a
bookend for the centre
(i.e. ABCDA).



Chiasm

Each layer is set in parallel
from the outer layer to the
centre (i.e. ABCBA).



Refrain

A repeated line or idea
throughout a section
(i.e. ABCBDB).