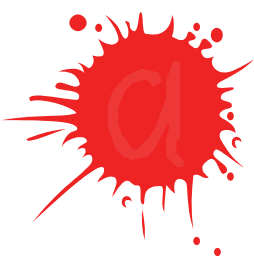
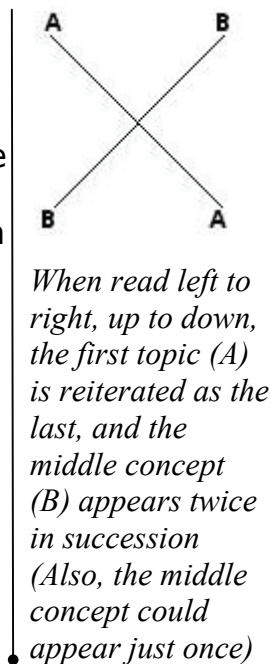


**Chiastic Structure**—is a literary structure used most notably in the Torah in those passages attributed to the priestly source. The structure is comprised of concepts or ideas in an order ABC...CBA so that the first concept that comes up is also the last, the second is the second to last, and so on. Also, a chiastic structure can also be of the form ABBAABB...ABBA.

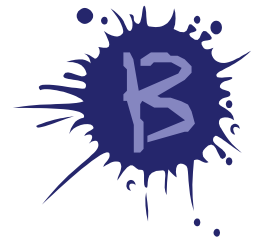


### The ABC...CBA Chiastic Structure

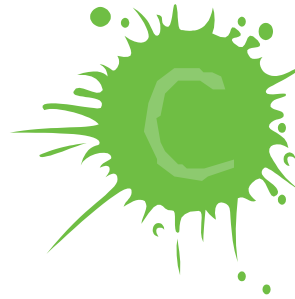
This kind of chiastic structure is used **to give emphasis to the middle concept**, i.e., the concept that appears either twice in succession or only appears once. Also, it shows that the other ideas are all leading up to the middle idea or concept. A notable example is the chiastic structure running from the middle of the Book of Exodus through the end of the Book of Leviticus. The structure begins with the covenant made between Yahweh and the People of Israel at Mount Sinai, as described in the Torah, and ends with the Admonition from Yahweh to Israel if they will not follow his laws, which is also a covenant. The main ideas are in the middle of Leviticus, from chapter 11 through chapter 20. Those chapters deal with the holiness in the Tabernacle and the



holiness of the land of Israel in general. The chiastic structure points the reader to the central idea, that of the expected holiness of Yahweh's people in what they do. The idea behind the structure is that if Israel keeps the covenant and all the laws around the central concept, they will be rewarded with a sense of holiness in their Tabernacle and in their land in general.



**Genesis 1:14-16** <sup>14</sup> Then Elohim said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be **for signs**, and **for seasons**, and **for days and years**"; <sup>15</sup> and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. <sup>16</sup> And Elohim made the two great lights, **the greater light to govern the day**, and **the lesser light to govern the night**; *He made the stars also.*



**A for signs—OT**

**C greater light to govern the day**

**B for seasons—Moedim**

**B the lesser light to govern the night**

**C for days and years—Yom & Shanah**

**A He made the stars also**