

# CALENDAR CHIASM

What is a Chiasm? (from <https://deeperchristian.com/bible-chiasms-explanation-and-examples/>)

Chiasm (also sometimes called chiasmus or a chiastic structure) gets its name from the Greek letter *Chi*, which looks like our letter "X." Simply, a chiasm is a literary technique that presents a concept and then repeats it back in reverse order. The typical structure is like a sandwich where you have parallel lines that repeat, echo, or explain each other as it builds to a key focal point in the passage. For example, Proverbs 6:16–19 tells us:

• **There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:**

Him:

- 1a) Haughty eyes,
  - 2a) a lying tongue,
    - 3a) And hands that shed innocent blood,
      - KEY FOCUS) A heart that devises wicked plans,
    - 3b) Feet that run rapidly to evil,
  - 2b) A false witness who utters lies,
- 1b) And one who spreads [sows] strife among brothers.

Notice how 1a and 1b expand on each other (the same haughty nature that is full of arrogance and disdain is the same that spreads strife). 2a (lying tongue) and 2b (uttering lies and a false witness) parallel each other. 3a and 3b deal with hands and feet. The focal point of the passage summarizes each line: a heart that devises wicked plans—pride, lies, and evil are produced from a wicked heart. And these are all things God hates. Such chiasms are found all throughout Scripture and can range from a single sentence (i.e., Mark 2:27) to the structure of entire books (i.e., [the book of Ruth](#)). For example, Jesus says in Mark 2:27, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." Here you see the use of "sabbath" and "man" repeated but in reverse order—giving symmetry and succinctness to the statement, thus making it more memorable. This type of structure appears to be a common teaching device in the ancient world, allowing someone to understand the structure of a statement, helping them to memorize the concept and passage easier, and providing greater insight and depth to what is said. Jesus used chiasms in many of His teachings and Paul seemed to love them as he used them in all of his letters.

