

# Advanced Chiasm Examples

Jeremy Lloyd Conlin

January 28, 2026

## Replacement Nesting Example

Notice how the nested chiasm “replaces” the D level:

**A:** Level A  
**B:** Level B  
**C:** Level C  
**D.a:** Nested first (becomes D.a)  
**D.b:** Nested second (becomes D.b)  
**D.c:** Nested third (becomes D.c)  
**D.c’:** Nested third returns  
**D.b’:** Nested second returns  
**D.a’:** Nested first returns  
**C’:** Level C returns  
**B’:** Level B returns  
**A’:** Level A returns

## Multiple Nested Levels

A structure with multiple nesting levels:

**A:** Top level A  
**B:** Top level B  
**C.a:** Second level a (B.a)  
**C.b:** Second level b (B.b)  
**C.c.i:** Third level i (B.b.i)  
**C.c.ii:** Third level ii (B.b.ii)  
**C.c.ii’:** Third level ii returns  
**C.c.i’:** Third level i returns  
**C.b’:** Second level b returns  
**C.a’:** Second level a returns  
**B’:** Top level B returns  
**A’:** Top level A returns

## Literary Example: Psalm-like Structure

A chiastic structure common in Hebrew poetry:

**A:** Blessed is the man  
**B:** who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
**C:** nor stands in the way of sinners,  
**D:** nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
**E:** but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
**D’:** and on his law he meditates day and night.  
**C’:** He is like a tree planted by streams of water

**B':** that yields its fruit in its season,  
**A':** and its leaf does not wither.

## Historical Narrative Example

A chiastic structure in narrative form:

**A:** The people gathered in the city  
**B:** The king proclaimed a new law  
**C:** The elders assembled to discuss  
**D:** The prophet spoke words of warning  
**E.a:** "Hear, O people,  
**E.b:** the word of the Lord:  
**E.c:** Turn from your wicked ways  
**E.c':** and return to righteousness  
**E.b':** before judgment comes  
**E.a':** upon this generation."  
**D':** The people considered the prophet's words  
**C':** The elders debated late into the night  
**B':** The king issued a decree of repentance  
**A':** The people rejoiced and returned home