

The Arrangement of Homer's *Iliad*

'For many hundreds of years*, critics of Homer failed to see that the *Iliad* had as subtle and controlled a pattern as the one on a Greek geometric vase. The whole work is one of balanced contrasts,' says Andrew Sinclair. 'The use of words in subtle and recurrent patterns, as well as the complex formation of the whole, point irresistibly to the genius of one man... Without understanding the complexity of the *Iliad*, there can be no understanding of Homer himself.' (*Homer's Iliad*, Tr. WHD Rouse, Intro. & Appr. Andrew Sinclair, Heron Books, Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd, London)

The chart below includes observations of my own which show that the arrangement of the work is more than a simple chiasm, P 1,2,3,C,3',2',1', E. The main narrative is best represented by ABB'XABB', where A is introductory, B is the first development and B' is the second and concluding development, where A represents Day 1, B Day 2 and B' Day 3 and where, each side of the central Turning Point, designated X, across these two sub-series, the 'beginnings' of these Days are replicated.

literary designations	divisions of the 24 'Books'	52 'Days' in the telling	thematic contents and details - in simple parallel	literary annotations	thematic contents and details - in chiasm
Prologue:	Book 1	Days 1, 9, 1, 12		P	Treatment of Chryses Burning of the Achaian ships 'Dawn showed her rosy fingers... purple'
Complication:	Books 2-3	Day 1	Beginning with night – Zeus could not sleep	A 1	Meeting between Menelaos & Paris
	Books 4-7	Day 2	Beginning with Zeus and Hera	B 2	The arming of Paris
	Book 8	Day 3	Beginning with 'dawn spreading her saffron robe'	B' 3	The battle wavers to and fro
Turning Point:	Book 9			X C	Envoys are sent to Achillês
Dénouement:	Books 10-14	Day 1	Beginning with night – Agamemnon could not sleep	A 3'	How the battle turned
	Books 15-18	Day 2	Beginning with Zeus and Hera	B 2'	The arming of Patroclus
	Books 19-23	Day 3	Beginning with 'dawn in her saffron robe'	B' 1'	Meeting between Hector & Achillês
Epilogue:	Book 24	Days 12, 1, 9, 1		E	Treatment of Priam Burning of Hector's body 'Dawn showed her rosy fingers... purple'

* For many hundreds of years, NT critics too have failed to see the same, say, in 'Mark' or 'John', or, indeed, in any of the NT Books.