

The Primary Results

of a Full Parsing and Rhetorical Analysis of the Books of the New Testament

The Literature of the New Testament: Writing Style and Structures: An Introductory Summary

	Style:	Book/Letter Structure:	Sectional Structure:
Mark	abb'	(P) ABB'A' (E)	(ABB'XABB')
Matthew	abb' (aa' & abb'a')	1(p+);2;3;4;5;C;5';4';3';2';1'(+e)	(14s=2(abb'xabb')); 2 & 2': (3x14)
Luke	abb'	1(p+);2;3;4;5;C;5';4';3';2';1'(+e)	(ABA'); 1 & 1': (ABB')
Acts	abb'	1(p+);2;3;4;5;C;5';4';3';2';1'(+e)	(ABA'); 1 & 1': (AA')
John	abb'	1(p+);2;3;C;3';2';1'(+e)* ¹ also: ABB',X,ABB'* ²	(ABB';ABB':ABB';ABB')
Romans	abb'	(P+Intr.) 1;2;C;2';1' (E)	(ABB';ABB';ABB')
I Corinthians	abb'	(P) ABB';X;ABB' (N) (E)	(ABB':ABB')
II Corinthians	abb'	(P) ABB';X;ABB' (N) (E)	(ABB':ABB')
Galatians	abb'	(P) ABB'A' (E)	(ABB';ABB';ABB')
Ephesians	abb'	(P) ABB'A' (E)	(ABB';ABB';ABB')
Philippians	abb'	(P) 1;2;C;2';1' (E)	(ABB':ABB')
Colossians	abb'	(P) ABB' (E)	(ABB';ABB')
I Thessalonians	abb'	(P) A:A' (E)	(ABB';ABB';ABB')
II Thessalonians	abb'	(P) A:A' (E)	(ABB':ABB')
I Timothy	abb'	(P) 1;2;3;C;3';2';1' (E)	(ABB':ABB')
II Timothy	abb'	(P) ABB'A' (E)	(ABB')
Titus	abb'	(P) ABB' (N) (E)	(ABB':ABB')
Philemon	abb'	(P) ABB' (E)	(abb':abb')
Hebrews	abb'	1(p+);2;C;2';1'(+e)	(ABB':ABB')
James	abb'	(P) ABB'A' (E)	(ABB';ABB';ABB')
I Peter	abb'	(P) ABB'A'+e	(ABB';ABB';ABB')
II Peter	abb'	(P) ABB'+e	(AA')
I John	abb'	ABB'A'	(ABB';ABB';ABB')
II John	abb'	(P) ABB' (E)	(abb')
III John	abb'	(P) ABB'A' (E)	(abb')
Jude	abb'	(P) ABB';X;ABB' (E)	(abb')
Revelation	abb'	(P) 1;2;3;C;3';2';1' (E)	(Intr., 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)

Notes:

Where 'A' generally* signifies the presence of a lower level ABB' (or abb') formation (likewise also B, B' and X); where ABB' (and abb') are three-part progressions, where A is introductory, B is the first development and B' is the second and concluding development; where AA' denotes two abb' constructions in parallel; where 'X'/x' is a central turning point; where (P) is an independent Prologue/Letter Introductory Greeting; where (+Intr.) is specifically an Introduction to the Theme of the work; where (E) is an independent Epilogue/Letter Closing Greeting; where (p+) and (+e) are, in turn, incorporated Prologues and Epilogues; and where (N) represents 'Notes of a Business or Personal kind'.

*The exceptions on A,B,B' and X above are In Mark, Luke and Acts, where the sub-sections are variable composites of ABB' and AA' elements.

John: *¹ for contents' parallels and *² for literary form (a tapestry of the two).

Summaries of the Book and Letter Structures, their Sectional Structures and their Frequency of Use

Book/Letter Structures: seven types, in order of frequency of use

1st)	8x	ABB'A'	(one is a 'Book')
2nd)	5x	ABB'	(all are 'Letters')
3rd)	4x	ABB';X;ABB'	(one 'Book', three 'Letters')
4th)	3x	1;2;3;4;5;C;5';4';3';2';1'	('Books' only, no 'Letters')
	3x	1;2;C;2';1'	('Letters' only)
6th)	2x	AA'	('Letters' only)
	2x	1;2;3;C;3';2';1'	('Books')

Sectional Structures: seven types, in order of frequency of use

1st)	11x	ABB' (and ABB';ABB';ABB', which is sectionally ABB')
2nd)	10x	ABB':ABB' (and AA', which represents abb':abb')
3rd)	2x	ABA'
4th)	1x	ABB';ABB':ABB';ABB'
	1x	ABB';X;ABB'
	1x	Intr., 1,2,3,4,5,6,7
	1x	1,2,3,4,5,6,7:1,2,3,4,5,6,7 / abb'xabb': abb'xabb'

All the books demonstrate, to my satisfaction at least, that the New Testament writers employed the very same writing style as each other, of *abb'*. (It is true of Matthew in the clear majority of pieces, but in some shorter 'teachings' he does significantly use also a number of *aa'* and *abb'a'* presentations.)

Further, to me, all the books demonstrate the employment of book structure (seven types only) and book sectional structure (similarly, seven types in all). Eight books commonly employ one book structural form, five another, four another and so on. Eleven books commonly employ one sectional structural form, ten books another, two another and so on.

I conclude, firstly, that all the writers knew about the range of structures that were available to them. Secondly, I conclude that they were able also to identify the ones that other writers had used before them. Thirdly, it can be said of the writers that they were competent to choose the structures that they thought best suited their purposes: for presenting the contents they wanted to present; and for expressing, or adding, 'meaning' to what it was that they were wanting to say. Without doubt, the discovery of style and structure enhances our reading and interpretation of these books. We can now speak of their clarity and their aesthetic. We can also *accurately* discern their function, for the first time ever.

Given the fact that the New Testament comprises twenty-seven books, it has to be said that the book structures and sectional structures employed are remarkably few in number. Or put the other way about, the repetition of their use is really quite significant.