

The Central Section of Luke's Gospel, 9.43b-19.48:

'Literary structural interest in this Gospel has been shown by scholars over the years: consider the more recent contributions of Bailey, Goulder and Talbert, in particular for their readings of Luke's Central Section. Almost all scholars believe the section begins at 9.51. A strong case, however, can be put for 9.43b. The introductory pieces to the opening and closing parts that frame the teaching of the Central Section would exhibit a significant dualism: compare 9.43b-45 and 18.31-35. The Central Section would then be defined as 9.43b-19.48, 'Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem and its Temple', where the opening part ('His Setting out', 9.43b-10.24) and the closing part ('His Arriving', 18.31-19.48) frame the Central Section's centrally-placed teachings.

'Centrally-placed lies a chiasm of parts 1-5,C,5'-1', 'Jesus' Teachings on the Way':

- 1, 10.25-42 Inheriting eternal life: law and love;
- 2, 11.1-13 Prayer: right praying, persistence, Holy Spirit is given;
- 3, 11.14-12.12 The Kingdom of God: what is internal is important;
- 4, 12.13-48 Earthly and Heavenly riches; the coming of the Son of Man;
- 5, 12.49-13.9 Divisions, warning and prudence, repentance;
- C, 13.10-14.24 A Sabbath healing, kingdom and entry (13.10-30),
Jesus is to die in Jerusalem, his lament for it (13.31-35),
A Sabbath healing, banqueting in the kingdom (14.1-24);
- 5', 14.25-15.32 Divisions, warning and prudence, repentance;
- 4', 16.1-31 Earthly and Heavenly riches: the coming judgement;
- 3', 17.1-37 The kingdom of God is 'within', not coming with signs;
- 2', 18.1-17 Prayer: persistence, right praying, receiving the kingdom;
- 1', 18.18-30 Inheriting eternal life: law and love.

(All the parts 1-5 and 5'-1' are constructed of three parts in the style of ABB'.)

'Given this composition, the question is raised as to the composition of the whole gospel. It is itself similarly arranged, as a chiasm of 1-5,C,5'-1' Sections. It is after all how Luke's genealogy is also arranged! ^[87]'

So reads an insert (almost verbatim) that I placed in January in Wikipedia on the Gospel of Luke, under 'Content Summary: Literary Structure'. The reference there is to my book *Sliced Bread...*, published in 1988. My Book (in CD-ROM) *New Testament: New Testimony... (4th Edition)*, published in February 2013, presents Luke's Gospel in the Greek text, rhetorically analysed, fully parsed and (as with all the NT books) all up to date revisions.

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