

The Rhetorical Table of the New Testament

Writing Style: Book/Letter Structure: Sectional Structure:

Mark	abb'	(P) ABB'A' (E)	(ABB'XABB' ^{*1} /1,2,3,C,3',2',1' ^{*2})
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': (ABB')
John	abb'	ABB';X;ABB' ^{*1} / 1(p+);2;3;C;3';2';1'(+e) ^{*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' (E)	(ABB':ABB')
II Corinthians	abb'	(P) ABB';X;ABB' (E)	(ABB':ABB')
Galatians	abb'	(P) ABB';X;ABB' (E)	(ABB';ABB';ABB')
Ephesians	abb'	(P) ABB'A' (E)	(ABB';ABB';ABB')
Philippians	abb'	(P) ABB'A' (E)	(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) ABB'XABB' (E)	(ABB')
II Timothy	abb'	(P) ABB'A' (E)	(ABB')
Titus	abb'	(P) ABB' (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'	(ABB';ABB';ABB')
I Peter	abb'	(P) ABB'A'(+e)	(ABB';ABB';ABB')
II Peter	abb'	(P) ABB'(+e)	(ABB';ABB')
I John	abb'	(p+) 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)

Where, under Book/Letter Structure, A,B,B',X,1,2,3,4,5,C,5',etc. denote Sections and where, under Sectional Structure, '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, corresponding and completing development; where AA' denotes two abb' constructions in parallel; where 'X' is a central turning point; where (P) is an independent abb' Prologue/Letter Introductory Greeting; where (+Intr.) is specifically an Introduction to the Theme of the work; where (E) is an independent abb' Epilogue/Letter Closing Greeting; where (p+) and (+e) are, in turn, incorporated Prologues and Epilogues.

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

For John and Mark: ^{*1} for literary form and ^{*2} for subsidiary contents' parallels (a Homeric tapestry of the two).

Numerically: Mark can be characterised as a 4x7 scheme, John as a 7x12 scheme and Revelation as a 7x7 scheme; Matthew, Luke and Acts as 11-part, 1-5C5-1, chiasms; and Romans and Hebrews as 5-part chiasms (intentionally structured to the Law's 5 sections, which are in chiasm as the Pentateuch's Hebrew reveals).

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', seven are Letters)
2nd)	6x	ABB';X;ABB'	(one 'Book', three 'Letters')
3rd)	5x	ABB'	(all are 'Letters')
4th)	3x	1;2;3;4;5;C;5';4';3';2';1'	('Books' only, no 'Letters')
5th)	2x	1;2;C;2';1'	('Letters' only)
	2x	AA'	('Letters' only)
7th)	1x	1;2;3;C;3';2';1'	('Book' only)

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

1st)	13x	ABB' (and ABB';ABB';ABB', which is sectionally ABB')
2nd)	8x	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	abb'xabb': abb'xabb' / 1,2,3,4,5,6,7:1,2,3,4,5,6,7 for the 14:14:14 sections

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, six another, five another and so on. Thirteen books commonly employ one sectional structural form, eight 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 focus and '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.