

Read the examples of Psalms that use a Chiastic format, then choose one of the recommended chapters to map out on your own.

A chiasm is a literary structure used by many writers in Scripture.

In chiasmus, a sequence of ideas is presented and then repeated in reverse order.

They may use exact phrases, key words, subject matter or contrasting ideas (opposites).

EXAMPLES:

Kennedy's famous line:

- A. Ask not what your **country**
- B. can do for **you**,
- B. ask what **you**
- A. can do for your **country**.

Jesus' words in Matthew 23:12:

- A. Whoever **exalts** themselves
- B. will be **humbled**,
- B. and those who **humble** themselves
- A. will be **exalted**.

PSALM 1

A. RIGHTEOUS MAN IS BLESSED

1 How **blessed** is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.

B. RIGHTEOUS MAN DOESN'T STAND WITH SINNERS

Nor **stand** in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.

C. RIGHTEOUS MAN IS LIKE A TREE

3 He will be **like a tree** *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

C. WICKED MAN IS LIKE CHAFF

4 The wicked are not so, But they are **like chaff** which the wind drives away.

B. WICKED MAN WILL NOT STAND WITH THE RIGHTEOUS

5 Therefore the wicked will not **stand** in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

A. WICKED MAN WILL PERISH

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will **perish**.

PSALM 4

A. (V. 1) PRAYER

B. (V. 2) QUESTION

C. (V. 3-5) INSTRUCTION

B. (V. 6a) QUESTION

A. (V 6b-8) PRAYER

