



Bible Study Methods

Lesson Two

Introduction: Reading with X-ray Vision

Every book has a skeleton hidden between its covers. Your job as an analytical reader is to find it. A book comes to you with flesh on its bare bones and clothes over its flesh. It is all dressed up. You do not have to undress it or tear the flesh off its limbs to get at the firm structure that lies under its soft surface. But you must read the book with X-ray eyes, for it is an essential part of your apprehension of any book to grasp its structure. (Mortimer Adler, How to Read a Book, 75)



I. Structural Elements

Cause and Effect — one event, concept or action that causes another.

Key Words: *therefore, so, then, as a result*

C ⇒ E

Phil. 1:12-14

Ro. 1:21-26

E ⇒ C

Psa. 100:4-5

Climax— a progression of events or ideas that climb to a certain high point before descending.

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Job 1:13-20 (Final Messenger)

2 Samuel 11 (David and Bathsheba)

Ex. 40:34-35 (Tabernacle completed, Glory of the Lord fills it)

Comparison— Two or more elements that are alike or similar.

Key Words: *like, as, too, also*

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Psa. 1:3-4

1 Cor. 5:7

Contrast— Two or more elements that are unlike or dissimilar.

Key Words: *but, yet*

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Psa. 1

Gal. 5:19-23

Explanation or Reason— The presentation of an idea followed by its explanation.

Exp:

Mk. 4:13-20

Jud. 14:4

Interchange— when action, conversation, or concept moves to another then back again.

(God ⇄ Satan ⇄ God ⇄ Satan ⇄ God)
(Heaven ⇄ Earth ⇄ Heaven ⇄ Earth)

Job 1-2

(John ⇄ Jesus ⇄ John ⇄ Jesus)

Lk. 1-2

Introduction or Summary— opening or concluding remarks on a subject or situation.

Intro:

1 Sam 3:1

Sum:
Rev. 1:19

Pivot or Hinge— a sudden change in the flow of the context; a minor climax.



2 Sam. 11-12 (David and Bathsheba)

Mt. 12 (Blasphemy of HS)

Ac. 2 (Pentecost)

Proportion— emphasis indicated by the amount of space the writer devotes to a subject.



Eph 5:22-6:4 (Familial Relationships)

Ⓟ *Husband & Wife (11 verses)*

Parent & Child (4 verses)

Purpose— a declaration of the author's intentions.



Lk. 1:1-4

Jn. 20:30-31

1 Jn. 5:13

Question and Answer— the use of questions or questions and answers.

Q&A

Mal. 1:6-10

Job 38:1ff.

Repetition— terms or phrases used two or more times.

“ (circle repeated words)
Psalm 136

Hebrews 11

Specific↔ General— progression: a single example to a general principle, or vice versa.

S ⇒ G
Rom. 14:23

G ⇒ S
Mt. 6:1-18

Jas. 2:1ff

II. Grammatical & Literary Structural Elements

Grammatical Structure

Verb and Verbal Forms (tense, number)

Subject & Object

Modifiers (adj., adv.)

Prepositional Phrases

Connectives

Literary Structure

Biographical Structure (Ex. Judges, I & II Samuel)

Geographical Structure (Ex. Exodus, Paul's journeys in Acts)

Historical / Chronological Structure (Ex. Joshua, Revelation)

Ideological Structure (Ex. Pauline Letters)

Poetic Structure (acrostic, parallelism)



Assignments:

#1 Review the Handout entitled, "The Structure of Job 1:1-2:10" This sheet has the text of Job divided into three sections. First, give each section a title that is descriptive of the contents. Second, for each section how would you subdivide the section? Draw a line showing this division. Third, give each sub-section an descriptive label.

#2 This week, as you study the Bible, participate in a Bible study or hear the Bible taught, look at the passage in light of structural elements. Mark them in your Bible. Make this a habit!!!

WEBSITE: www.drstevej.com/bsm.htm