

Hermeneutics 2 Lesson 8

The Synthetic Principle

Theme: The Synthetic Principle is one method to systematically study scripture.

Introduction: Some people are opposed to the systematic study of Scripture because they say that it is not spiritual. This is not the case at all. Thomas Lea comments on this subject by asking, "Are you A systematic shopper whenever you purchase an expensive item such as a car? A systematic shopper will examine a prospective car for gasoline mileage ratings, safety features, appearance, size, and resale value. A systematic shopper will analyze the total cost of the car and, if necessary, the cost of financing the car. A systematic shopper will check consumer reports, the opinions of friends, and the advice of a skilled mechanic. After checking the desirability of a car from all of these angles, the systematic shopper will then decide which car to purchase. An inexpensive car may not have a good safety record. An attractive car may be too expensive to maintain. A car with excellent gasoline ratings may be too small. Systematic shoppers will examine and analyze all of these features before deciding on which car they want." While I would agree that there is a great difference between shopping and studying the word of God there are a couple of points that we can make from this illustration. First, looking at any subject, including Scripture, in a systematic way is natural to the way our minds work. We ask questions, consider, and draw conclusions systematically. Secondly, God's Word should be approached with all our intellectual vigor. I would be ashamed to know that I put more intellectual effort into shopping than I did studying Scripture.

The Principle of Synthesis or Literary Structure is that principle under which God superintends the literary structure of the Bible so that it is constructed in introversions, or alternations, or combinations of both.

I. The Alternating Pattern.

A. Definition: When a _____ of subjects is presented in a specific order and is followed by the _____, or related group of subjects presented in the same order, this literary formation is called an ALTERNATION.

B. Visual.

A	A
B	B
C	A
D	B
A	A
B	B
C	
D	

C. Examples.

1. Book of Jonah.

A. _____ 1:1-2



- B. _____ 1:3
- C. _____ 1:4-17
- D. _____ 2:1-9
- E. _____ 2:10
- A. _____ 3:1, 2
- B. _____ 3:3-4
- C. _____ 3:5-10
- D. _____ 4:1-3
- E. _____ 4:4-11

2. I Corinthians 3:6-7:

- A. I have _____.
- B. Apollos _____.
- C. God giveth the _____.
- A. Neither is he that _____ anything.
- B. Neither he that _____.
- C. But _____ that giveth the increase.

3. II Thessalonians.

- A. Introduction. Grace and peace. 1:1-2
- B. _____ 1:3
- C. Reason. 1:3-5
- D. Obtaining of rest and glory. 1:6-10
- E. _____ for them. 1:11
- F. lame of the Lord be glorified. 1:12
- G. They gloried in Him. 1:12
- H. Admonition. 2:1-12
- B. _____ 2:13
- C. Reason. 2:13
- D. Obtaining of glory. 2:14-15
- E. _____ for Paul. 2:16-3:1
- F. Word may be glorified. 3:1
- G. Hearts directed to God's love. 3:5
- H. Admonition. 3:6-15
- A. Conclusion. Peace and Grace-3:16.18

4. John 3:20-21.

- A. Everyone that _____ evil hateth the light.
- B. Neither _____ to the light.
- C. Lest his _____ be reproved.
- A. Everyone that _____ truth.
- B. _____ to the light.
- C. That his _____ may be made manifest.

5. Joshua 4:1-9:

- A. Twelve _____—Chapter 4:1-2
- B. Twelve _____—Chapter 4:3



- C The _____—Chapter 4 4
- A. Twelve _____—Chapter 4:4
- B. Twelve _____—Chapter 4:5
- C. The _____—Chapter 4:6-7
- A. Twelve _____ (Children of Israel—Figure of Speech).
- B. Twelve _____—Chapter 4:8
- C. The _____—Chapter 4:8-9

II. The Inversion or Introversion pattern.

- A. Definition: An inversion or introversion is a writing style that includes more than four elements and therefore has additional contrasting or comparative points. Items one and six are parallel, items two and five are parallel, and items three and four are parallel.

B. Visual:

- | | |
|----|----|
| A. | A. |
| B. | B. |
| C. | C. |
| B. | C. |
| | B. |

C. Examples:

1. Flood narrative

- A. God's covenant with Noah (Gen. 6:11-22)
 - B. Noah brought in clean animals (7:1-5)
 - C. Noah brought in unclean animals (7:6-10)
 - D. Noah entered the ark (7:11-16)
 - E. The Flood rose (7:17-24)
 - F. The Flood crested, the ark rested, and God remembered Noah (8:1-5)
 - E. The Flood abated (8:6-12)
 - D. Noah exited the ark (8:13-19)
 - C. Noah sacrificed some animals (8:20-22)
 - B. Noah's diet (9:1-7)
- A. God's covenant with Noah (9:8-17)

2. Book of Daniel:

- A. Israel in _____—Chapter 1 (Tribulation in Type).
- B. Nebuchadnezzar's **Vision**—Chapter 2 (Times of Gentiles).
- C. The Fiery _____—Chapter 3 (Tribulation in Type).
- D. The Fall of _____—Chapter 4.
- D. The Fall of _____—Chapter 5.
- C. The Lion's _____—Chapter 6 (Tribulation in Type).
- B. Daniel's _____—Chapter 7-11 (Times of the Gentiles).

- A. Israel in _____—Chapter 12.

3. Romans 2:6-11:



- A. By _____
- B. _____
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
- C. _____
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
- C. _____
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
- B. _____
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

A. No _____ of persons "with God."

4. Psalm 23:

- A. _____—Supply—Verses 1-3—Spoken of "He".
- B. _____—Death—Verse 4—"Rod and Staff"—Spoken to "Thou".
- B. _____—Verse 5—"Table and Cup"—Spoken to "Thou".
- A. _____—Supply—Verse 6—"Goodness and Mercy"— Spoken of "His."

5. 1 Corinthians 1:24-25

- A. _____
- B. _____
- B. _____
- A. _____

6. Luke 1:68-78:

- A. Visitation
 - B. Salvation
 - C. Prophets
 - D. Enemies
 - E. Covenant
 - E. Oath
 - D. Enemies
 - C. Prophets
 - B. Salvation
- A. Visitation

