

JOSH BANKS

The Use of the Inclusio in

*Biblical
Writings*



Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. The use of the inclusio in Biblical writings. © Copyright. Josh Banks 2020, Dazzle Teaching Resources. All rights reserved. Contents and/or cover may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without the express written consent of the publisher.



The use of the inclusio in Biblical writings.

Since the Biblical writers didn't have punctuation marks, they often used the inclusio to show where a paragraph began and where it ended. The inclusio is a pattern in which a paragraph ends in a similar fashion to how it began.

For instance, observe Numbers 4:24-28:

Numbers 24-28

24 THIS IS THE SERVICE OF THE FAMILIES OF THE GERSHONITES, in serving and carrying: 25 They shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle and the tabernacle of meeting with its covering, the covering of badger skins that is on it, the screen for the door of the tabernacle of meeting, 26 the screen for the door of the gate of the court, the hangings of the court which are around the tabernacle and altar, and their cords, all the furnishings for their service and all that is made for these things: so shall they serve. 27 "Aaron and his sons shall assign all the service of the sons of the Gershonites, all their tasks and all their service. And you shall appoint to them all their tasks as their duty. 28 THIS IS THE SERVICE OF THE FAMILIES OF THE SONS OF GERSHON (similar to vs. 24 – to show that the paragraph had ended) in the tabernacle of meeting. And their duties shall be under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

By ending vs. 28 with similar words as vs. 24, the author intended that verses 24-28 be read as a WHOLE paragraph.

Other examples of the use of inclusio by the Biblical authors include:

Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:17 – Matt. 7:12)

In Jesus' famous discourse concerning the Law, His statements begin the phrase: "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." (vs. 15). He continues this same line of thought till chap. 7:12 where He ends by saying: "...for this is the

Law and the Prophets."

This is to inform the reader that Matt. 5:17 – Matt. 7:12 were to be understood as a whole discourse (don't be distracted by the chapters and verses. They are not original to the text). The repetition of similar words/phrases is to show that the same theme flows through till the end of the "paragraph."

Hebrews 7.

Observe that vs 1 & vv. 9-10 begin and end similarly;

1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, WHO MET ABRAHAM returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

9 Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, 10 for he was still in the loins of his father WHEN MELCHIZEDEK MET HIM.

When similar phrases are repeated like this at the beginning and at the end, it's to explain that the author intended to show that the paragraph had ended. So, the writer of HEBREWS intended that Hebrews 7:1-10 be read as a paragraph.

This shows that the Bible was intended by its writers to be read as a composite whole. The chapters and verses (which were not part of the original writings) are beneficial for easy referencing and memorization, however, the exegete must not think that verses alone provide Truth. Not until the WHOLE BODY OF WRITINGS are read TOGETHER, do we get a FULL picture of what the author(s) intended to pass across.

"Dazzle" (verb) or "dazzling" (adjective) is a property of very bright and overwhelming light — the sort that takes your attention off everything else and has you gazing with awe. For us, Christ Jesus is that Light (John 8:12, 2 Corin. 4:3-6, Rev. 21:23) & it is all about Him! In a world full of so much darkness, we live to reveal the knowledge of Christ to all men & light them up with His revelation. We do so by getting them saved, filled with the Holy Ghost, meeting their needs via the power of God & getting them to grow in the Gospel of His Grace.

This is the Dazzle mission. This is what God called us to do & we are convinced about the same. We envision ignorance and spiritual blindness dispelled and men in every part of the world full of the glorious light found in the knowledge of Christ.

