

Chiasm for John 1:1-2

Repetition with variety: There are four clauses of equality with four nouns.

God is the subject once and the object twice.

The four clauses are complementary chiasms of the nouns in different formulas.

Here are the four nouns (with and without definite articles and prepositions) expressed as letters:

a: 'in beginning' – with preposition but no definite article

b: 'The Word' – with definite article

c: 'with The God' – with both preposition (making God the direct object) and definite article

b': 'same' – without definite article, meaning 'The Word'

c': 'God' – without definite article and the subject

Here is this long sentence in formulas:

$$a = b$$

$$b = c$$

$$c' = b$$

$$b' = a:c$$

Notice:

The second two formulas taken together are in chiastic relationship to the first two formulas.

The third formula is the second formula reversed,

but with 'God' alone, without the preposition or definite article.

The fourth formula is the first formula reversed,

but with 'same' and no article substituting for 'The Word'

and concluding with the additional phrase on the right hand side:

'with The God'.

Both changes are theologically significant:

The lack of the definite article for 'God' in the third formula means that God is more than 'The Word' but that 'The Word' is fully God, all of what God is.

By describing 'The Word' and 'same' (The Word) as 'with The God' in both the first and last formula indicates that although The Word is fully God, The Word is also distinct from God, 'face-to-face' with God.

Together, these two observations are the ground of the doctrine of the trinity nature of God: namely, God is one AND more than one 'person'.

And, the fact that the clause 'with The God' is tacked on to the fourth formula, makes a powerful statement of the distinction of persons within the godhead.