



Chiasm - A Literary Device to Emphasize Importance

(For more on chiasms, watch the sermon, [Hearing God's Voice](#).)

A chiasm is a literary device which presents ideas in a sequence, then repeats them in reverse order. The most important idea comes in the middle. Revelation 1:14-16 is a chiasm.

Revelation 1:14-16: “The hair of his head was white as wool—white as snow—and his eyes like a fiery flame. ¹⁵ His feet were like fine bronze as it is fired in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of cascading waters. ¹⁶ He had seven stars in his right hand; a sharp double-edged sword came from his mouth, and his face was shining like the sun at full strength.”

1a. Head

2a. Eyes

3a. Feet

4. Voice

3b. Hand

2b. Mouth

1b. Face

1a. and 1b. Head and face go together. His white head and shining face speak of his infinite wisdom.

2a. and 2b. Eyes and mouth are features of the head. His perfect eyes and penetrating words cleanse us of sin.

3a. and 3b. Feet and hands are body parts. His feet are purified and his hands hold the 7 stars, the messengers of the 7 churches. Jesus controls everything.

What does that leave in the middle? A voice like cascading waters drowning out all other voices vying for our attention and affection. **Through this chiasm, John shows us the importance of hearing God's voice.**

Try this with Proverbs 6:16-19 and Psalm 23.

