Chiasmus

a Have faith in God

b Repent of your sins

c Receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost

b` You will have changed your ways (repentance)

a` Trust in God (have faith)

OR (using the opposite or negative)

a Have faith in God.

b Repent of your sins.

c Receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

b` Or adhere to your sinful ways.

a` And trust in the arm of flesh.

The most important part of the chiasmus is the central or middle point. It is the focus of the entire chiasmus (line **c** in the examples above). The "going out" or end part can be a repeat of the "going in" or beginning part, or it can be the **opposite**, as in the second example above. A chiasmus may contain other "embedded" chiasmi within itself. The term comes from the Greek letter chi (pronounced "key") — P. The format is similar to a cross, or at least half of it.

The entire book of 1 Nephi is a chiasmus:

a 1 Ne 1 — The mercy of God.

b 1 Ne 2 — Set celestial goals

c 1 Ne 3:1--5:9 — What is faith?

d 1 Ne 5:10--6:6 — God's direction necessary

e 1 Ne 7:1-22 — Marriage in the covenant

f 1 Ne 8-10 — Lehi's dream—about Christ

f` 1 Ne 11-15 — Nephi's vision—about Christ.

e` 1 Ne 16:7-8 — Marriage in the covenant.

d` 1 Ne 16:9--17:6 — God's direction necessary.

c` 1 Ne 17:7--18:4 — What is faith?

b` 1 Ne 18:5-25 — Set celestial goals.

a` 1 Ne 19-22 — The mercy of God.