

If you weren't in the room when the Two Witnesses were discussed, their identity will appear strange to you. I'll be glad to repeat the Two Witnesses at the end of this session for any who need it.

Now on to tonight's subject. BIFIDS and CHIASMS. It's an important subject because understanding them is the key to really understanding Daniel and Revelation.

Hebrew poetry is parallel in nature. A Hebrew poet would write something one way and then repeat the same idea later using different words. Here is an example:

Isa 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

1st half: For my thoughts ---- God's thoughts
are not your thoughts ---- Man's thoughts

2nd half: neither are your ways ---- Man's ways
My ways, sayeth the Lord — God's ways

In the same way, some prophetic books are divided into two almost equal parts. Those two parts cover the same subjects but in different words. This literary style is called the BIFID.

In Daniel, the BIFID is apparent.

Dan 2:4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, .

Chapters 2 through 7 of Daniel are written in High Syriac (the court language of the Babylonians) while chapters 8 through 12 are written in Hebrew.

Now that's important, but why did God have Daniel write in two languages?

1: Because the book had two different audiences, the Gentile kingdoms that would rule the Holy Land into the far future.

2: and the future of the Jewish people during that same "Time of the Gentiles."

The two sections of Daniel's bifidic book were about the SAME TIME! From 606BC until 1967AD, as can be proven in another study.

Luke 21:24 And they (the Jews) shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

. . . and that's exactly what happened. The Jews lost control of the Holy land in 606BC They also lost Jerusalem in 586BC and in 70AD were dispersed throughout the nations. The Jews did not gain control of the city again until the Six Day War of 1967.

Because we can see these events in history, it is now apparent that the "Time of Gentiles" is Jesus' term for the time Gentiles controlled the Holy Land and Jerusalem.

Chs 8 through 12 tells the Jews about what is going to happen spiritually in the Holy Land while the Gentiles rule there. They also give a different picture of the Time of the Gentiles, including the coming of Messiah and His death.

So the BIFID in Daniel shows us a series of repetitive prophecies about the SAME TIME.

But there is another Hebrew form in Daniel we need to understand if we are going to understand Revelation. The CHIASM. Here is a simple example of that style of writing:

Psa 68:15- 16 The hill of God *is* as the hill of Bashan; an high hill as the hill of Bashan. Why leap ye, ye high hills? *this is* the hill *which* God desireth to dwell in.

- A. The hill of God *is* as the hill of Bashan (God's hill)
- B. an high hill as the hill of Bashan (high hill)
- B. Why leap ye, ye high hills? (high hill)
- A. *this is* the hill *which* God desireth to dwell in (God's hill.)

That AB=BA up and down stepladder is a CHIASM (pronounced *kee-ah-zum*). Chiasms appear throughout Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation.

Here a chiasm from the New Testament, but it's three-step ABC=CBA. The text is shortened for clarity, but the full version can be found in Mark 5:3-5

- A: Who had his dwelling among the tombs (Tombs)
- B: and no man could bind him, (Subdue him)
- C: no, not with chains: (Chains)
- C: he had been bound with chains, (Chains)
- B: neither could any man tame him. (Subdue him)
- A: And always he was in the tombs (Tombs)

In the ABC=CBA chiasm, there were not six subjects. There were only three, about three conditions. Those conditions were just repeated in different words.

I know the following will be a mouthful to believe, but it's the key to understanding Revelation.

Both Daniel and Revelation are bifidic and both are chiasmic so they both contain prophecies that are repetitive and parallel !!!

Daniel contains ten parallel prophecies about the Time of the Gentiles (stated in different ways). Here is Daniel's the first Chiasm:

- A. ch.2 The Great Image -- 4 Gentile Nations
- B. ch.3 The Fiery Furnace -- God's People in Tribulation
- C. ch.4 King goes Insane -- Gentile King Judged
- C. ch.5 Belshazzar Killed -- Gentile King Judged
- B. ch.6 The Lion's Den-- God's People in Tribulation
- A. ch.7The Four Beasts -- 4 Gentile Nations

Something as complex as a chiasm doesn't happen by accident, but what does it mean?

Well, chiasms are repetitive, so it appears that the Lord is telling us that Daniel is a series of repetitive prophecies and to give us a central message . . .

During the time of the Gentiles there will be four major empires -- and their descendants -- who will rule in the Holy Land.

During that time, God's people will suffer great persecution. But at the end, God will judge those nations that have made His land a desolation and made captives of His people.

Revelation contains twelve parallel prophecies, primarily about the Christian Era (stated in different ways). And it is Bifidic . . .

Chapters 2-11 In the first half Jesus figuratively prophesies about the Christian Era.
Chapters 12-20 In the second half John prophesies about the nations of this world.
Here is one way to prove it . . .

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

That is the Last Trumpet. At the last trumpet, time is no more (Rev 10:6-7) and we are in the eternal kingdom of God. The Last trumpet blows in Revelation 11:15 so Rev 11:15 is the end of this age!

Revelation 12-20 repeats the Christian Era, but it a different view of the subject.

Rev 10:11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Note the "again" (a repeat), but this repeat will be about "nations, and tongues, and kings."

The same bifidic and chiasmic form appears in Revelation so Revelation is also a series of parallel prophecies about the Christian Era. Here is the 1st Chiasm:

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| A: ch 2-3 | The Seven churches | (The Church) |
| B: ch 6 | The Seven Seals | (World Judged) |
| C: ch 7:1-8 | The 144,000 | (Jewish People) |
| C: ch 7:9-14 | The Great Multitude | (NT Saints) |
| B: ch 8-9 | The Seven Trumpets | (World Judged) |
| C: ch 11: | The Two Witnesses | (The Church) |

As was true in Daniel, Revelation also has a message within the chiasm:

During the Christian Era there will be seven church periods and seven different kinds of churches. The Jews and the Church will be God's Two Witnesses on Earth.

Trials, plagues, famines, tribulation and wars will take place. But the saints, both Jew and Gentile, will be saved out of it, and in the fulness of time, God will set up His eternal kingdom.

Each of the 12 figurative prophecies in Revelation spans the Christian Era and each needs to be studied in detail, but that will be the subject for another nights. <smile>

So the 2nd half of Revelation is NOT about the Antichrist. <smile> Though much more complex than the first Chiasm, here is Revelation's 2nd Chiasm:

| | | | |
|----|----------|----------------------------|---|
| A. | ch 12 | -- Woman with 12 Stars | (All of Israel, OT and NT) |
| B. | ch 13-14 | -- Leopard-Lion-Bear Beast | (Satanic Kingdom) |
| Ba | (14) | the Jews & the Church | during the reign of that beast. |
| C. | ch 15 | -- Song of Moses and Lamb | (Victory for the Redeemed) |
| C. | ch 16 | -- Bowls of Wrath | (Wrath for the wicked) |
| B. | ch 17-19 | -- Seven-Headed Beast | (Satanic kingdoms) |
| Ba | (18) | Babylon and all the lost | during the Scarlet Beast's reign |
| Bb | (19) | King of kings, Destruction | of the wicked, the end of Scarlet beast |
| A. | ch 20 | -- The "thousand" years | (the Church) |

This will eventually be more detailed in future studies, but that's the basic story for now.