

December 24 A.M. “Sustaining Our Faith Through Theology” (Psalm 8)

[8:1, 9]

Frame/inclusion

LORD . . . Lord (Yahweh/I am . . . Master/Lord)

[8:1] earth, heavens: merism [Gen 1:1]

Unusual structure of this praise hymn: No call to praise.

[8:2]

[1 Cor 1:26–29]

[2 Cor 12:9]

[8:3-4]

Affirming parallelism

What is man?

[8:5-6]

[Gen 1:26 image and likeness]

Crowned him with glory and honor

[8:6-8]

Romans 8:19–21

[8:9]

Inclusio: Back to the beginning, but now a fuller meaning

Conclusion: But what about Christmas?

[Heb 2:6–8]

[Heb 2:9]

[Rev 5:9–10]

[Romans 16:20]

The Biblical Poet's Toolbox

-*Inclusio*: Similar material at the beginning and ending of a section, making a frame or envelope around the section.

Example: "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth" is the beginning and ending of Psalm 8.

-*Merism*: Contrasting words are used to express completeness or totality.

Example: "In his hand are the depths of the earth,

And the mountain peaks belong to him. [*everything on the vertical axis*]

The sea is his, for he made it,
And his hands formed the dry land." [*everything on the horizontal axis*]
(Ps 95:4–5)

-Parallelism: Two lines, usually about the same length, where the first line says something and the second line says something that is related. (Sometimes three lines are parallel.)

Example of **Affirming parallelism** (the second line say something similar):

“But his delight is in the law of the Lord
And on his law he meditates day and night.” (Ps 1:2)

Example of **Opposing parallelism** (the second line says something opposite):

“Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
But he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness will surround him.” (Ps 32:10)