

The Chiasm of 1 and 2 Kings¹

A chiasm is a literary structure where the themes of the first section of a passage are repeated in reverse order in the second. Typically whatever is in the center of the chiasm is what is being emphasized. In 1-2 Kings, the emphasis is on the Omrid Dynasty (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 11).

A Solomon and the United Kingdom (1 Kings 1-11)

B Separation of the Northern Kingdom (1 Kings 12)

C Kings of Israel and Judah (1 Kings 13-16)

D The Omrid Dynasty (1 Kings 17- 2 Kings11)

C' Kings of Israel and Judah (2 Kings 12-16)

B' Fall of the Northern Kingdom (2 Kings17)

A' Kingdom of Judah Alone (2 Kings 18-25)

¹ Bruce K. Waltke and Charles Yu, *An Old Testament Theology: An Exegetical, Canonical, and Thematic Approach* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007), 693.