



## Main Literary Relations of the Bible

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1. Comparison – the association of like things. The unity of Hebrews 5:1-10 is based on the use of this law. Note the “so also” in verse 5.
2. Contrast – the association of opposites. Romans chapter 4 utilizes contrast.
3. Repetition – the reiteration of the same terms, phrases, clauses, etc. In Leviticus the term “holy” is repeated many times.
4. Continuity – the repeated use of similar terms, phrases, clauses, etc. In the law of repetition the recurring factors are exactly the same, whereas in continuity they merely more or less alike. The series of parables in Luke 15 is an example of the latter.
5. Continuation\* – the extended treatment of a particular aspect; the carrying through to its completion of a idea or series of events. This law is sometimes related to that of continuity, but it involves extension rather than recurrence. One of the relations between Genesis 13-14 and Genesis 18-19 is that of continuation.
6. Climax – the arrangement of material in such a way as to progress from the lesser to the greater and ultimately to the greatest. The book of Exodus is arranged climactically, with the high point coming in 40:34-35.
7. Cruciality – the utilization of the principle of the pivot. The subject matter is arranged to that it turns around or upon some one factor. II Samuel uses the law of cruciality, with chapters 11-12 forming the pivotal point which changes the direction of the history recorded there.
8. Interchange\* - the exchanging or alternation of certain elements. Interchange is often employed to strengthen contrasts or comparisons. The opening chapters of I Samuel contain alternating contrasts between Hannah and her son Samuel, and Eli and his sons. Luke also uses interchange in chapters 1-2.
9. Particularization and Generalization – the movement from the general to the particular, and from the particular to the general. Matthew 6:1-18 is an example of particularization, and James 2 an example of generalization.
10. Causation and Substantiation – the progression from cause to effect and from effect to cause. Romans 1:18-32 is an excellent illustration of causation, and Romans 8:18-30 of substantiation.
11. Instrumentation – the setting forth of the means to and end as well as the end itself. Instrumentation thus involves the factor of purpose. The gospel of John, in view of the author’s statement in 20:30-31, exemplifies this law. The signs recorded in the book are a means to an end, namely, belief in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, in order to make possible eternal life.