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# advance in the word - Rehtorical structure: inclusio – 11/12/18

**RHETORICAL STRUCTURE: INCLUSIO**

Your book shelf probably has "bookends" that hold your books upright and nicely packed upon the shelf maximizing the space. One bookend is at one end of the row of books and the other at the opposite end. "Inclusio" is the rhetorical structure used by authors to highlight a major thought or emphasize a vital point they are trying to make. For instance, the Bible begins and ends with a wedding. At the opening of Genesis Adam and Eve become husband and wife (one end of the Bible). Revelation concludes with a wedding between Christ and His Bride the Church (the opposite end). In between there are numerous references to weddings and marriage language used throughout. Covenant, faithfulness, fidelity, commitment, love and so on are themes from bookend to bookend.

The Gospel of Mark opens in verse one with a statement about the "Son of God" and then climaxes as to the identity of Jesus in chapter fifteen with a statement by a Roman centurion, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" Again, this is the "inclusio" structure meant to highlight the Son of God theme throughout the Gospel. On an even smaller scale chapters eight to ten in the Gospel of Mark uses stories of two blind men to create the inclusio structure and teach on the spiritual blindness of the disciples in between the story of two men who were physically blind (until Jesus healed them). As you study God's word look for repetition that points to "inclusio" and dig deeper as to the meaning the author and God wants you to discover.