

Psalms 8: The Importance of Structure

Inclusio

...is a way to show emphasis by beginning and ending the same way. The main truth of Psalm 8 is stated in at its beginning and end.

v. 1
“O LORD our Lord,
how excellent *is* thy
name in all the earth!”

v. 4
“What is **man** that thou art **mindful of him**?
and the **son of man** that thou **visitest him**?”

v. 9
“O LORD our Lord,
how excellent *is* thy
name in all the earth!”

Parallelism

...describes the relationship between the lines in Hebrew poetry. Verse 8 is an example of emphasis through close repetition (“synonymous parallelism”). It’s used to slow down the reader so that our minds linger longer on the idea.