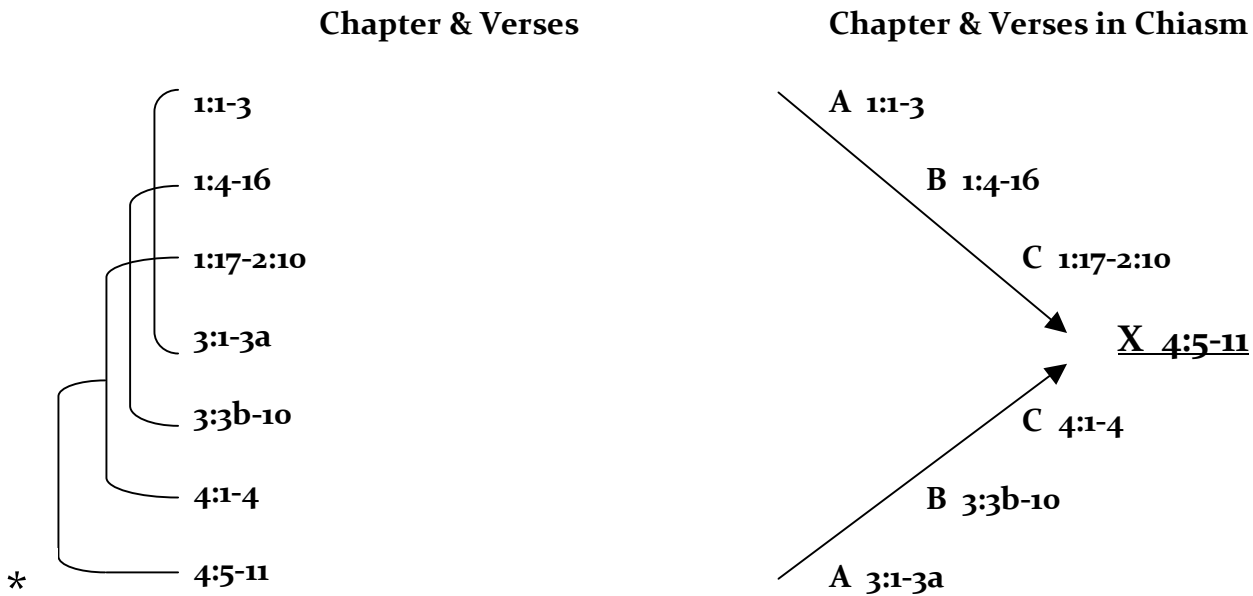


# Literary Structure of the Book of Jonah

Bible 7: Old Testament Survey, Mr. Farrelly

The Following is *one* possible *chiastic*\* structure of the book of Jonah.

\*A chiasm is a literary device employed by both Hebrews and Greeks that derives its name from the Greek letter *chi* which looks like an “X”. It is a cross-like arrangement of concepts, words, or narrative patterns that arranged in such a way as to direct the reader to the center wherein is found the meaning or message of the literary text.



(Brackets display the parallel episodes of the narrative by which we are meant to compare and contrast. The asterisk shows the main point of the narrative.)

(The arrows help show the literary thrust of the narrative of the whole book. The “X” indicates the climax of the book and in this case, perhaps the main idea.)

The Following Chart is from the English Standard Version Study Bible

## Seven Episodes in Jonah

(7) Jonah’s lesson about compassion (4:5–11) <i>“Should not I pity Nineveh . . . ?”</i>	
(3) Jonah’s grateful prayer (1:17–2:10) <i>How does Jonah respond to God’s grace toward him?</i>	(6) Jonah’s angry prayer (4:1–4) <i>How does Jonah respond to God’s grace toward others?</i>
(2) Jonah and the pagan sailors (1:4–16) <i>How responsive are the pagan sailors?</i>	(5) Jonah and the pagan Ninevites (3:3b–10) <i>How responsive are the pagan Ninevites?</i>
(1) Jonah’s commissioning and flight (1:1–3) <i>What will happen to Jonah?</i>	(4) Jonah’s recommissioning and compliance (3:1–3a) <i>What will happen to the Ninevites?</i>