

-14-

A Structural Analysis of the Whole Sermon - a Proposal

The previous two chapters brought us very close to an analysis that could “work” for the whole passage. The main problem as I saw it lay in the final part of the sermon where the expression, “God having raised up the Child of Him”, near the start of verse 26 appeared to belong thematically to the section labelled X` but by word count to the section labelled Z`.

In this chapter I will be proposing a simple way of integrating, and expanding, these results by suggesting that the whole section labelled Z` , (and not just the single expression in the previous paragraph), should be seen simultaneously as i) corresponding to Z as well as ii) being incorporated into X` and hence being part of the correspondence between X` and X.

This move allows the structural analysis presented in this chapter for the sermon as a whole. Part of the “rationale” for such a “compression” - by which the section labelled Z` does “double duty” as it were - could be the time constraints placed on Peter with the arrival of the hostile religious authorities (described in Acts 4:1-3).

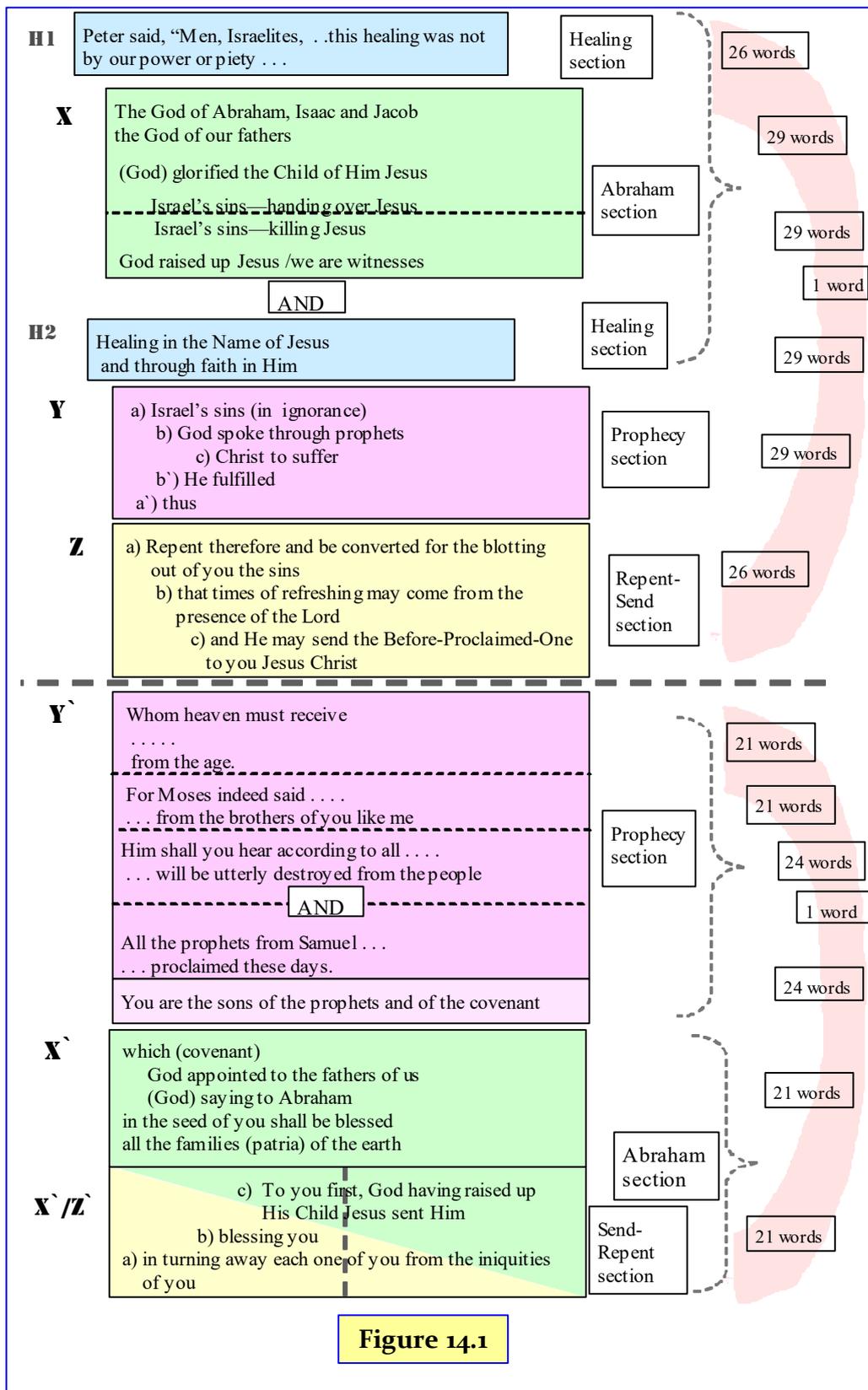
The proposed structural pattern for the whole sermon is shown in Figure 14.1 on the next page:

Notes:

1) The diagram is colour-coded: the “healing sections”, H₁ and H₂, are in blue—although they can (and will) also be considered to be subsumed within the first of the two green coloured Abraham” sections i.e. to be included within X. The prophecy sections are purple and the “repent-send” sections are yellow.

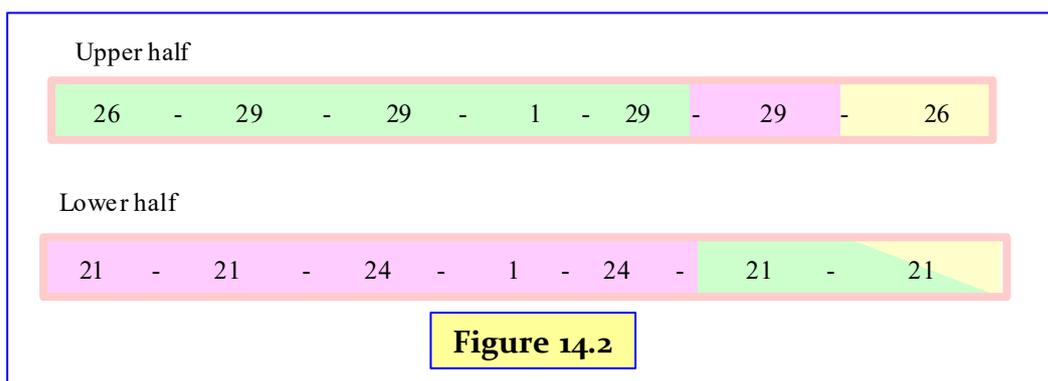
2) The “send/repent” section at the bottom of the diagram is coloured both yellow and green. This is an attempt to represent its role as simultaneously an extension of the of Abrahamic section, X`, (green) and also as a “send-receive” section in its own right, Z`).

3) The structure of the sermon in this analysis is a combination of chiastic and panel elements. The chiastic aspect is the pattern X- Y // Y` - X`



for the upper and lower Abrahamic and prophetic sections. The panel aspect is the linear pattern obtained when we combine the Abrahamic and prophetic sections in each half: The pattern now is of an “Abrahamic/prophetic” unit followed by a “send-receive” unit in each half of the structure— (X/Y) - Z // (Y'/X') - Z'. We note that *within* this linear pattern there are chiasmic elements—thus (X/Y) and (Y'/X') correspond chiasmically and Z(a, b, c) corresponds chiasmically with Z' (c, b, a).

4) The word count aspects have been looked at in the last chapter where we noted that the word count *patterns* of the upper and lower halves are the same, (indicated by the curved pink shapes on the right of Figure 14.1), even though there are differences in the absolute numbers of words. Interestingly, the proportion (and distribution of that proportion) of the pattern occupied by “extended X” in the upper half is the same as for Y' in the lower half as shown below (Figure 14.2). The pattern continues with Y and Z in the upper half and X' and X'/Z' in the lower half.



Having arrived, in Figure 14.1, at a definitive structural analysis (i.e. “definitive” in the context of the present work—not definitive in any absolute sense!) now look again at various sections both individually, and in relation to each other, and this will be the work of the next two chapters.

