

### Possible chiastic structure of the Lord's prayer

|    | Matthew reference | Lord's prayer  | Explanation references | Explanation   |
|----|-------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| A  | 6:9 - 10          | Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be <b>thy</b> name. <b>Thy kingdom come.</b> <b>Thy</b> will be done in earth, as <i>it is</i> in heaven. | 1 Chronicles 29:10     | The model prayer teaches us – as David did to first and last give the praise to God - our father. The pronouns are about God: ‘Thy’ name, ‘Thy’ kingdom come, ‘Thy’ will be done.   |
| B  | 6:11              | Give us this day our daily bread.  | Matthew 4:4            | All we should ask for is our daily bread. If we are focused on our needs and not our wants then we are less likely to enter into temptation. Israel in the wilderness were given bread each day at a time (except for the 7th day)  |
| C  | 6:12              | And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.   | Matthew 6:14 - 16      | Critical to us being forgiven our sins is our need to forgive others. It is the only point the Lord specifically expands upon after he has finished the prayer (Matthew 6:14:15).   |
| B' | 6:13              | And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:   | Matthew 4:3            | The Lord Jesus' first temptation in the wilderness was to turn stones into bread and his answer was a reference back to Deuteronomy 8. In this reference to temptation we have another echo of Israel in the wilderness and their dependence on the guidance of God.  |
| A' | 6:13              | For <b>thine is the kingdom,</b> and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.   | 1 Chronicles 29:11     | The prayer concludes with a re-focused on the Father: ‘thine is...’ – not us. His is the power – even to forgive sins. His is the glory – however tempting it may be for us to want it now, we need to overcome that temptation, because it is for God. In the narrative around the prayer the Lord continually addresses the need for us to not seek the praise of men but the ‘reward of our father which is in heaven’ (Matt 6:1-2). |