

Rev. Robert C. Lewis • Glendale Baptist Church • Houston, Texas • quicknotes.org • 2008
with Rachel Tavera

QUESTIONS

(Introduces Second Question)
LIST OF SPIRITUAL ENEMIES

OVERWHELMING SPIRITUAL VICTORY

Point of Turning

LIST OF SPIRITUAL ENEMIES

FAILURE OF SPIRITUAL ATTACKS

(Reason for Failure Added for Emphasis)

1. The *subject* of the entire section in which this inverted parallelism occurs is spiritual warfare (Romans 8:31–39).
2. In verse 36 we find *metonymy of the adjunct* in which the possession is put for the possessor; that is, offensive spiritual weapons are put for the persons or fallen angels who cause tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword, death, and slaughter.
3. The *center* emphasizes the possibility and divine expectation of a complete rout of all spiritual enemies. *E.g.*, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7b).
4. The *point of turning* just past the center moves from posing questions in A and B to answering those questions in B’ and A’.
5. The correlative conjunctions οὐτε...οὐτε (“neither...nor”) in B’ introduce *couplets* and *merisms* (a totality expressed by two contrasting parts, such as life and death).
6. Expansions are added to the ends of B (quote about death by the sword from Psalm 44:22), B’ (comprehensive statement), and C’ (positional truth) for emphasis.
7. *Main point*: All spiritual attacks that try to separate us from the love of Christ and the love of God will fail. The reason for their failure is appended to the end of the inverted parallelism for emphasis: God’s love for us is based on our position in Christ and not on our success or failure in spiritual warfare. Paul’s answer (B’ and A’) to the two questions (A and B) is strong support for the doctrine of eternal security.