

The Symmetrical Chronology of the *Iliad*

<i>Days</i>	<i>Events</i>	<i>Lines</i>
1	Khryseis seized	1.1 - 1.52
9	Plague; Akhaisians burn dead bodies	1.53
1	Akhilleus angered; Chryseis is returned	1.54 - 1.475
12	Gods visit Ethiopians, then return	1.476 - 1.492
1	Thetis makes appeal to Zeus	1.493 - 1.611
1	First duel; Diomedes; second duel	2.1 - 7.380
1	Truce and burials; Akhaisians build wall	7.381 - 7.482
1	Trojans attack, encamp outside city	8.1 - 8.565
Night	Embassy to Akhilleus; Dolon's foray	9.1 - 10.579
1	Great battle; Hektor kills Patroklos	11.1 - 18.616
1	Akhilleus kills Hektor	19.1 - 23.107
1	Patroklos is buried	23.108 - 23.225
1	Funeral games	23.226 - 23.11
12	Hektor's body abused, then returned	23.12 - 24.692
1	Priam returns; Hektor is mourned	24.693 - 24.783
9	Trojans gather wood, burn Hektor's body	24.784 - 24.787
1	Hektor buried	24.788 - 24.804

Note: This is one of the simplest of many possible versions of this chart; the detailed chronology of the poem is the subject of much scholarly debate.

The Temporal Mirror of Books 1 and 24

Book 1	Book 24
<i>Read down</i>	<i>Read up</i>
1 Plague and corpse-burning in Akhaian camp	5 Burning and funeral of Hektor in Troy
2 Quarrel; Akhilleus surrenders Briseis	4 Reconciliation; Akhilleus returns Hektor
<i>a</i> <i>Thetis visits Akhilleus, who is lamenting</i>	<i>b</i> <i>Priam visits Akhilleus with treasure</i>
3 Akhilleus asks Thetis to appeal to Zeus	3 Thetis gives Zeus's command to Akhilleus
<i>b</i> <i>Odysseus journeys to Khryses with treasure</i>	<i>a</i> <i>Thetis visits Akhilleus, who is lamenting</i>
4 Thetis makes her appeal to Zeus	2 Zeus makes his command to Thetis
5 Quarrel among the gods	1 Quarrel among the gods

Note: The poem was divided into twenty-four books a few centuries after it was composed, but many of the divisions correspond to breaks in the narrative. The events in books 1 and 24 are notably symmetrical.

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