

11. Numerical Features of Joshua 1-8 and 24

The present sample survey of the numerical features of the book of Joshua seems to suggest that it is not as meticulously planned numerically as the books of the Pentateuch. However, there is ample evidence to show that the two divine name numbers **17** and **26** have been used to give prominence to certain crucial passages in the story of the occupation of the land. Since these numbers represent the divine name, they symbolically signify YHWH's presence, particularly in the events highlighted in this way. I expect that a comprehensive logotechnical analysis of the whole book will confirm the conclusion based on the sample survey.

In addition, it is interesting to note that the numerical values of the key-names Rahab (**30** = 20 + 8 + 2), Jericho (**54** = 10 + 20 + 10 + 8 + 6) and Joshua (**58** = 10 + 5 + 6 + 21 + 16) appear in specific sections of the text in chapters 2-6. For this intriguing technique, see my book *Numerical Secrets of the Bible*, pp. 135-140 and the General [Introduction](#) to Logotechnical Analysis, pp. 13-15.

Joshua 1

1:5	YHWH's pledge to Joshua not to fail or forsake him	17
1:16-17	The people's pledge to Joshua to obey him	26
1:18	Whoever disobeys him shall be put to death	17

Joshua 2

2:1	Joshua sends two spies to view Jericho in particular	26 (17a + 9b)
2:9	Rahab declares that YHWH has given the land to Israel	17
2:10	Rahab refers to YHWH's great deeds in Israel's history	26
2:11-12	Rahab acknowledges YHWH and asks for a favour	39 (26 + 13)¹
2:13	Rahab's request to save alive her family	17
2:8-13	All words spoken by Rahab	99 (9 x 11)
2:14-16	The pledge of the spies and Rahab's response	51 (3 x 17)
2:23-24	The spies return and tell Joshua what has befallen them	30 (17 + 13)²
2:8-24	Number of words in the episode of Rahab's salvific act	286 (11 x 26)

¹ The number **39** is made up of **26** and **13** ('*echad* = 'one') and represents YHWH's uniqueness (v. 11!).

² The number **30** represents the numerical value of **Rahab** (20 + 8 + 2). See notes 5 and 6.

Joshua 3

3:1-4	Joshua's officers command the Israelites to set out	68 (4 x 17)
3:1-8	The number of words in the introductory formulae	17
3:1-8	The number of words in the four speeches	85 (5 x 17)
3:1-17	Words in the narrative (112) and introductions (24)	136 (8 x 17)

Passage	Narrative	Introductions	Speeches	Total
3:1-4	24	4	40	68 (4 x 17)
3:5	-	4	7	11
3:6	7	5	7	19
3:7-8	-	4	31	35
Total: 3:1-8	31	17	85 (5 x 17)	133
3:9	-	5	7	12
3:10-13	-	2	65	67
3:14-17	81	-	-	81
Total: 3:1-17	112	24	157	293

Joshua 4

4:1-3	YHWH speaks to Joshua about the 12 stones and the 12 men	34 (2 x 17)
4:1-14	The story of the 12 stones and the passing through the Jordan	255 (15x17)
4:1-24	Total number of words in this chapter	390 ³
4:1-24	All words spoken by YHWH	43 (34 + 9)

Joshua 5

5:2-5	YHWH commands Joshua to circumcise the Israelites	61 (51 +10) ⁴
5:7-8	The circumcising is done and the Israelites wait to heal	26
5:10-12	They celebrate Pesach and eat of the produce of the land	42 (6 x 7)
5:13-15	Joshua meets the commander of YHWH's army	66 (6 x 11)
5:10-15	Words describing events on the eve of the capture of Jericho	108 (2x54) ⁵
5:1-15	Words in the introductions: 22 ; words in the speeches: 44 (16 + 9 + 19)	

Joshua 6

6:1-5	Total number of words	77 (7 x 11)
6:1-5	All words spoken by YHWH	63 (7 x 9)
6:6-7	Total number of words	33 (3 x 11)
6:6-7	All words spoken by Joshua	22 (2 x 11)
6:12-15	Total number of words	66 (6 x 11)
6:16	Joshua's proclamation: Shout! YHWH has given you the city!	17
6:18	Joshua warns the people not to take anything for themselves	17
6:21	The Israelites utterly destroy all in the city	17
6:26	Joshua's oath: cursed be the man that rebuilds Jericho	17
6:25-27	Recapitulation of Joshua's famous deeds	58 ⁶

³ See note 1 above.

⁴ There are **51** (3 x 17) words in the narrative and **10** in YHWH's speech.

⁵ The number **54** represents the numerical value of **Jericho** (10+20+10+8+6). See note 2 above.

⁶ The number **58** represents the numerical value of **Joshua** (10+5+6 + 21+16). See note 2 above.

Joshua 7

7:1-5	The story of the defeat at the city of Ai	104 (4 x 26)
7:1-9	Words spoken by Joshua in connection with the defeat at Ai	52 (2 x 26)
7:10-12	YHWH gives the reason for the defeat	51 (3 x 17)
7:13-15	YHWH commands Joshua to resolve the matter	66 (6 x 11)
7:16-21	Achan indicted: dialogue between Joshua and Achan	99 (9 x 11)
7:16-21	These 99 words are carefully divided into 55 before, and 44 after <i>atnach</i>	
7:16-21	Joshua speaks 18 words (v. 19), Achan 33 (vs. 20-21):	51 (3 x 17)
7:24-26	Achan is stoned to death and YHWH's anger is abated	78 (3 x 26)
7:24-26	The 78 words are divided into 52 (2 x 26) before, and 26 after <i>atnach</i> .	

Joshua 8

8:1-2	YHWH encourages Joshua and gives him new orders	42 (6 x 7)
8:2	YHWH tells Joshua how to deal with Ai and its king	17
8:4	Joshua addresses his warriors and dispatches them	17
8:11	The warriors march on and encamp north of Ai	17
8:18	YHWH commands Joshua to point the dagger to Ai (cf. v. 26)	7
8:18-20	Joshua points the dagger to Ai and the warriors capture the city	58 ⁷
8:26	Joshua holds out his hand with the dagger until Ai is destroyed	14 (2 x 7) ⁸
8:30-34	Joshua builds an altar for YHWH on Mount Ebal	99 (9 x 11)
	Of the 99 words, 68 (4 x 17) stand before <i>atnach</i>	
8:33-34	Joshua reads the words of the law before all the assembly	51 (3 x 17)
8:34	The 13 words describing the reading of the law have 51 (3 x 17) letters	
8:30-35	Total number of words in the entire passage	119 (7 x 17)

It is most intriguing to note that the story about the battle against Amalek and the building of an altar by Moses in [Exodus 17:8-16](#) is likewise made up of 119 words! The two passages are closely related, not only in terms of content, but also in terms of their numerical composition.

Joshua 24

24:1-2	Their forefathers served other gods beyond the Euphrates	39 ⁹
24:4	YHWH gave Jacob and Esau to Isaac and Esau got land	17
24:2-10	Joshua's account of events before Israel crossed the Jordan	153 (9 x 17)
24:11-12	YHWH gave the men of Jericho and 7 nations into their hand	34 (2 x 17)
24:15	Joshua appeals to the people to serve YHWH sincerely	34 (2 x 17)
24:21-22	The Israelites pledge to remain faithful to YHWH	26 (9 + 17)
24:29-30	The death and burial of Joshua	26
24:32	The bones of Joseph buried at Shechem	26
24:29-33	Of the 90 words in this passage 52 (2 x 26) stand before <i>atnach</i>	
24:1-33	Of the 574 words in the chapter 221 (13 x 17) stand after <i>atnach</i> .	

⁷ See note 6 above.

⁸ Compare the story of the battle against Amalek in [Exod. 17:8-16](#).

⁹ See note 1 above.