11. Numerical Features of Joshua 1-8 and 24

The present sample survey of the numerical features of the book of Joshua might suggest that it is not as meticulously planned numerically as the books of the Pentateuch. Quite the contrary, however, there is abundant 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**)

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[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** (15x**17**)
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** (2x**54**)[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]

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[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 bij 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 *atnach*	
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 *atnach*.	

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 adresses 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 Of the **99** words, **68** (4 x **17**) stand before *atnach*	**99** (9 x **11**)
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 Exod. 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 *atnach*	
24:1-33	Of the 574 words in the chapter **221** (**13** x **17**) stand after *atnach*.	

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[7] See note 6 above.
[8] Compare the story of the battle against Amalek in Exod. 17:8-16.
[9] See note 1 above.