

The Numerical Features of the Book of Deuteronomy

A New Approach to its Compositional Structure

Please read the [General Introduction](#)

Part IV 12,1-26,19 Moses Promulgates the Covenant Stipulations (Revised)

In my commentary (Volume II, 1990) I opted for the idea put forward by St. A. Kaufman and later also by Georg Braulik that 12-26 can be divided into **10** sections, which are based on the order of the Ten Commandments. I slightly adapted Braulik's division in light of my logotechnical analysis, as follows:

I	12:1-13:19	1 st and 2 nd commandments	50 verses	} 119 (7x17)
II	14:1-21	3 rd commandment	21 verses	
III	14:22-16:17	4 th commandment	48 verses	
IV	16:18-18:22	5 th commandment	47 verses	
V	19:1-21:9	6 th commandment	50 verses	
VI	21:10-22:12	6 th commandment	26 verses	
VII	22:13-29	7 th commandment	17 verses	
VIII	23:1-26	6 th -10 th commandments	26 verses	
IX	24:1-25:4	6 th -10 th commandments	26 verses	
X	25:5-26:19	6 th -10 th commandments	34 verses.	

The most striking feature of this division is the use of the divine name numbers, which does not seem to be a matter of coincidence. However, having revisited the text, I realized that there is a more plausible alternative based on a better insight into the function of the layout markers. The procedure I followed is to differentiate between their *delimiting* function as paragraph markers, and their function of *highlighting* certain passages within a literary unit. In order to detect the real paragraph markers, we can eliminate the following Setumahs (marked in green in the tables below): the **S** after 16,22; 18,2.5.13; 19,10; 22,3.19; 23,8a.25; 24,8.20; 25,13. In terms of material content and with due regard for the layout markers, my analysis resulted in the division of Part IV into **5** Main Sections, **17** Subsections, and **85** (5x17) Paragraphs. Each of the Main Sections has a significant number of **verses**.

1	Subsection I	12,1-13,1 One Sanctuary and One Worship of the One God P	32	} 119 (7x17)
	Subsection II	13,2-19 Examples of Apostasy and How to Deal with Them S	18	
	Subsection III	14,1-21 The Dietary Guidelines for a YHWH's Special People P	21	
	Subsection IV	14,22-15,23 The Tithes, the Sabbatical Remission and the First-born P	31	
	Subsection V	16,1-17 The Three Pilgrim-feasts S	17	
2	Subsection VI	16,18-17,13 Guidelines for Administering Justice S	18	} 68 (4x17)
	Subsection VII	17,14-18,22 The Law of the Theocratic Offices S	29	
	Subsection VIII	19,1-21 Refuge for Homicides and Guidelines Regarding False Witness S	21	
3	Subsection IX	20,1-20 Laws Concerning Warfare P	20	} 55 (5x11)
	Subsection X	21,1-23 Guidelines Concerning a Variety of Problematic Cases S	23	
	Subsection XI	22,1-12 Guidelines for Prudent Action in Domestic Matters S	12	
4	Subsection XII	22,13-29 Guidelines for Marriage and Sexual Relations S	17	} 26
	Subsection XIII	23,1-9 Forbidden Relationships S	9	
5	Subsection XIV	23,10-26 Diverse Stipulations and Provisions S	17	} 77 (7x11)
	Subsection XV	24,1-22 The Obligation to Respect Basic Rights and Do Justice S	22	
	Subsection XVI	25,1-19 Humanitarian Obligations and Provisions P	19	
	Subsection XVII	26,1-19 Two Climactic Ceremonies and Moses' Concluding Admonition S	19	

This division of the text into main- and subsections represents a logic that is not difficult to perceive. The question is, however, whether this also holds true for the subdivision of the main subsections into smaller paragraphs. What I have learned since I wrote my commentary (1982-1997) is that this is indeed the case. However, I now realize that I have not identified the legal paragraphs correctly, let alone delimited them precisely. At the time I interpreted Chapter 12 as a sort of preamble in which Moses admonishes the Israelites against the danger of the Canaanite cult practices, and assumed that the laws are only to be found from 14,1 onwards. Moreover, in my delimitation of the individual laws I erroneously regarded far too many *Setumahs* as having a highlighting function. The result was, e.g., that I took the dietary guidelines in 14,3-21 and the directions for waging war in 20,1-20 as single laws.

In what I considered at the time the real legal section, 14,1 - 26,15, I discerned **63** paragraphs which I interpreted as the prototypic number on which the **63** tractates of the Talmud were based. With hindsight, however, I was wrong despite the fact that **63** occurs no less than seven times in the book as the number of words in specific passages: 1,29-33; 4,16-19; 10,6-9; 12,1-3; 26,16-19; 17,16+18,17-20 (9+54, the words in the divine speeches and their introductions) and 32,1-6.

In search of a key-word in the book having the letter value of **63**, I found **נפש** (14+17+21+11 = **63**), 'your soul/life', which occurs **7x** in 12-26 (12,15.20a.20b.21b; 14,26a.26b; 26,16) and another **7x** in 1-11 and 27-34 (4,9.29; 6,5; 10,12; 30,2.6.10), all featuring in the 'admonitory preaching'. What Moses makes clear to the Israelites is that the keeping of YHWH's laws and loving him 'with all your heart and soul' is a matter of life and death.

Therefore, it is not surprising that **נפש** occurs **7+7** times and that **בכל-לבבך ובכל-נפשך** is also to be found **7x** (4,29; 6,5; 10,12; 26,16; 30,2.6.10)! The plural form occurs only 2x (11,13 and 13,4).

Note especially the bracketing technique in Part IV where the **85** (5x**17**) words in the opening verses (12,1-4) form an inclusion with the **17** words in the concluding verse (26,19).

In my commentary I understood the **63** words in 12,1-3 as forming an inclusion with the **63** in 26,16-19, and interpreted the number **63** (which I found at the time in the number of paragraphs) as signifying the admonitory preaching (*vermanende wetsprediking*). The inclusion may still hold true, but there are definitely not **63** paragraphs in Part IV, because, much to my astonishment, when I counted them after my division of the text into smaller units, I came to **85** (5x**17**) paragraphs.

For the sake of convenience and in order to let the reader get a clear picture of the subsections, I present the results of the computerized count in this case not in a single uninterrupted table but in subsections. I did not change the original ongoing verse- and word-count, nor that of the occurrences of God's name. The number of words in each subsection and paragraph has been duly registered.

In this case I do not deem it necessary to present the entire Hebrew text separately; it must suffice to limit myself to the tables containing the results of the counting and displaying the general architecture of the text – compare in this respect [Exodus 25-31](#).

As always, I shall mark in **bold face** the verses highlighted by the divine name numbers. In the fifteen chapters of Part IV no less than 281 of the 345 verses (81%) and 4058 of the 5243 words (77%) are highlighted by **17** and **26** or their multiples. This extremely high density of emphasized passages is most appropriate for the Statutes and Ordinances positioned in pride of place at the centre of the book.

To mention only some of the most salient features:

- Part IV has **68 (4x17)** words in the initial verses (12,1-4) and **85 (5x17)** at the end (26,15-19).
- Chapter 12, which deals with the centralization of the cult, has **520 (2x26)** words and contains **26** occurrences of the divine name.
- In addition, 12,1-16,17 is made up of **119 (7x17)** verses and **1819 (107x17)** words.
- Subsection II, 13,2-19, has **312 (12x26)** words and Subsection IV, 14,22-15,23, has **494 (19x26)** words.
- The Guidelines for Waging War, §§36-37 (20,10-20), have altogether **170** words.
- Moreover, Chapter 25, which deals with Humanitarian Obligations and Provisions, is emphasized by the fact that it is made up of **260** words. This is additional evidence demonstrating the outspoken humanitarian character of the deuteronomic laws.
- And finally, as Duane Christensen has discovered (private communication), the laws themselves are made up of altogether **340 (20x17) verses**. When Part IV, Deut 12–26, as a whole is examined in detail, it is interesting to note that 12:1 and 26:16-19 function as an inclusion. Part IV opens with: “*These are the statutes and the judgments, which you shall be careful to do in the land*” (12:1), and concludes with: “*This day YHWH your God is commanding you to do these statutes and judgments; and you shall be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul...*” (26:16-19). Sandwiched between these passages, as a frame, we find **340 (2x10x17) verses**:

$$\underline{12,1} \text{ (1 verse)} + \underline{12,2-26,15} \text{ [340 (20x17) verses]} + \underline{26,16-19} \text{ (4 verses)} = 345 \text{ verses.}$$

What follows is an overview of the numerical features of the five main sections and my observations. In the last column of the table below the **85** paragraphs are marked in blue in Column 7.

Subsection I 12,1-13,1 Worship at One Sanctuary and the Rules for Offerings

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents of the highlighted verses
1	Dt 12,1	21+	84	1	21	§1 <u>12,1-4</u> Moses proclaims the laws: Demolish all pagan sanctuaries! Compare the 63 words in <u>26,16-19</u> . The initial paragraph has 68 (4x17) words.
2	Dt 12,2	24+	88		45	
3	Dt 12,3	18+	83		63	
4	Dt 12,4	5/68 (4x17)	20	2	68 (4x17)	
5	Dt 12,5	18	65	3	86	§2 <u>12,4-7</u> To worship, resort to the one sanctuary chosen by YHWH!
6	Dt 12,6	14	76		100	
7	Dt 12,7	15	64	4-5	115/47	
8	Dt 12,8	12	43		127	§3 <u>12,8-12</u> There you must bring all your gifts and perform your religious ceremonies! <u>12,10</u> special emphasis on being settled: 17 w.
9	Dt 12,9	14	46	6	141	
10	Dt 12,10	17	76	7	158	
11	Dt 12,11	29	120	8-9	187	
12	Dt 12,12	18	85	10	205/90	
13	Dt 12,13	9+	31		214	§4 <u>12,13-19</u> The rules for offerings and sacrifices at the central sanctuary <u>12,13-14</u> special emphasis on the one place: 26 w. On no account must they eat blood. They must eat their tithes before God: 26 words.
14	Dt 12,14	17/26	60	11	231	
15	Dt 12,15	20	79	12	251	
16	Dt 12,16	8+	28		259	
17	Dt 12,17	18/26	80		277	

18	Dt 12,18	27	109	13-15	304		
19	Dt 12,19	10	31		314/109	S	
20	Dt 12,20	22	78	16	336	§5 12,20-28 The rules for profane slaughter: you are free to kill for food. They must strictly refrain from eating blood: it should be poured on the ground. The blood of offerings must be poured on the altar at the sanctuary. Obeying the rules is for their own good. 12,1-28 has altogether 459 (27x17) words.	
21	Dt 12,21	25	97	17-18	361		
22	Dt 12,22	13	51		374		
23	Dt 12,23	14+	45		388		
24	Dt 12,24	6+	24		394		
25	Dt 12,25	12+	48	19	406		
26	Dt 12,26	13+	47	20	419		
27	Dt 12,27	17+	69	21-22	436		
28	Dt 12,28	23/85(5x17)	89	23	459/145		S
29	Dt 12,29	17	65	24	476		§6 12,29-31 You must take care not to be ensnared by the indigenous nations! 12,1-31 has altogether 520 (20x26) words.
30	Dt 12,30	22	88		498		
31	Dt 12,31	22	82	25-26	520/61		
32	Dt 13,1	16	56		536/16	P	§7 13,1 Do not change anything in the law!
32	12,1-13,1	536	2107	26x	536		

Observation 1 Subsections I-V, [12,1-16,17](#), constitute a coherent subgroup of 23 paragraphs dealing with the most fundamental obligations of the Israelites as a people holy to YHWH. They are linked together, rounded off, and finalized by having altogether **119** (7x17) verses and **1819** (107x17) words. See below Observation 6.

Apart from the fact that Chapter 12 as a whole has **520** (20x26) words and that there are **26** occurrences of the divine name, specific verses are extra focused on because they are made up of **17** or **26** words (or a multiple of either): vs [1-47](#) (§1), [13-14](#), [16-17](#), [23-28](#), and [29](#).

Observation 2 The prohibition to change anything in Moses' words ([13,1](#)) was clearly intended to be part and parcel of the preceding text, as shown by the strong layout marker **P** after [13,1](#). Despite this, the prohibition is not included in the finalized **520**-word text of [12,1-31](#). As a result of this, it stands out as being of special importance, because it deals with the immutability of legal obligations.

Subsection II [13,2-19](#) Examples of Apostasy and How to Deal with Them

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents	
33	Dt 13,2	12+	41		548	§8 13,2-6 Beware of false prophets! They must not listen to false prophets or to dreamers for they preach rebellion. They must be put to death. 13,2-5 emphasized by 68 (4x17) words.	
34	Dt 13,3	15+	61		563		
35	Dt 13,4	26+	101	27-28	589		
36	Dt 13,5	15/68(4x17)	69	29	604		
37	Dt 13,6	32	127	30-31	636/100		
38	Dt 13,7	27+	94		663	§9 13,7-12 Do not spare apostates! Even when it concerns relatives who try to lead the people astray. 13,7-10 emphasized by 68 (4x17) words.	
39	Dt 13,8	14+	60		677		
40	Dt 13,9	15+	52		692		
41	Dt 13,10	12/68(4x17)	47		704		
42	Dt 13,11	14	63	32	718		
43	Dt 13,12	11	47		729/93		S

44	Dt 13,13	12+	41	33	741	§10 <u>13,13-19</u> Look out for miscreants! They lead people astray and must be put to death. Apostate cities should be layed under the ban together with everything in them. All things should be burned as a complete offering to YHWH. <u>13,13-19</u> emphasized by 119 (7x17) words.
45	Dt 13,14	17+	72		758	
46	Dt 13,15	12+	54		770	
47	Dt 13,16	18+	57		788	
48	Dt 13,17	23+	79	34	811	
49	Dt 13,18	19+	77	35	830	
50	Dt 13,19	18/119(7x17)	71	36-37	848/119	S
18	13,2-19	312(12x26)	1213	11x	312(12x26)	Total: 312 (12x26) words.

Observation 3 The passages which are additionally highlighted and therefore receive extra emphasis speak for themselves, but note especially that Subsection II as a whole is made up of **312 (12x26)** words and that §10, 13,13-19, dealing with the ban to be laid on apostate cities, has **119 (7x17)** words.

Subsection III 14,1-21 The Dietary Guidelines for YHWH's Special People

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents
51	Dt 14,1	12+	50	38	860	§11 <u>14,1-2</u> You are God's special people!
52	Dt 14,2	19+	66	39-40	879/31	
53	Dt 14,3	4+	13		883	§12 <u>14,3-8</u> Do not eat abominable things! The animals they may eat.
54	Dt 14,4	9+	33		892	
55	Dt 14,5	7/51(3x17)+	30		899	
56	Dt 14,6	13+	52		912	
57	Dt 14,7	26+	98		938	
58	Dt 14,8	17+	62		955/76	
59	Dt 14,9	12+	42		967	§13 <u>14,9-10</u> Fish you may or may not eat. <u>14,1-10</u> (§§11-13) has 130 (5x26) words.
60	Dt 14,10	11/130(5x26)	38		978/23	
61	Dt 14,11	4	15		982	§14 <u>14,11-21</u> Clean and unclean birds.
62	Dt 14,12	8	32		990	
63	Dt 14,13	5	22		995	
64	Dt 14,14	4	13		999	
65	Dt 14,15	10	37		1009	
66	Dt 14,16	5	22		1014	
67	Dt 14,17	5	20		1019	
68	Dt 14,18	5	32		1024	
69	Dt 14,19	8	26		1032	
70	Dt 14,20	4	14		1036	
71	Dt 14,21	23	82	41	1059/81	
21	14,1-21	211	799(47x17)	4x	211	Total: 211 words and 799 (47x17) letters.

Observation 4 The fact that 14,1-10 (§§11-13) are made up of **130 (5x26)** words gives special emphasis to the guidelines concerning the eating of animals and birds. This is not surprising; after all, the most important sources of meat consumption were animals and birds.

Subsection IV 14,22-15,23 The Tithes, the Sabbatical Remission and the First-born

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents
72	Dt 14,22	10+	34		1069	§15 14,22-27 The tithing laws The entire paragraph is highlighted by its 104 (4x26) words to stress its importance.
73	Dt 14,23	25+	103	42-43	1094	
74	Dt 14,24	23+	81	44-45	1117	
75	Dt 14,25	13+	51	46	1130	
76	Dt 14,26	22+	91	47	1152	
77	Dt 14,27	11/104(4x26)	40		1163/104 S	
78	Dt 14,28	12	49		1175	§16 14,28-29 The tithes for those who have no harvest of their own.
79	Dt 14,29	24	96	48	1199/36 S	
80	Dt 15,1	5+	18		1204	§17 15,1-6 Remission of debts at the end of every 7th year. YHWH's year of remission proclaimed: 26 w. Obeying God's laws is a prerequisite!: 17 w.
81	Dt 15,2	21/26	69	49	1225	
82	Dt 15,3	10	33		1235	
83	Dt 15,4	18	62	50-51	1253	
84	Dt 15,5	17	62	52	1270	
85	Dt 15,6	19	72	53	1289/90 S	
86	Dt 15,7	24+	87	54	1313	§18 15,7-11 You must care for the poor! The entire paragraph is highlighted by its 104 (4x26) words.
87	Dt 15,8	13+	44		1326	
88	Dt 15,9	28+	99	55	1354	
89	Dt 15,10	20+	70	56	1374	
90	Dt 15,11	19/104(4x26)	71		1393/104 S	
91	Dt 15,12	15+	61		1408	
92	Dt 15,13	7+	29		1415	§19 15,12-18 The setting free of slaves 15,12-15 emphasized by 51 (3x17) words. 15,17-18 emphasized by 34 (2x17) words.
93	Dt 15,14	12/34(2x17)+	50	57	1427	
94	Dt 15,15	17/51(3x17)	62	58	1444	
95	Dt 15,16	15	46		1459	
96	Dt 15,17	14+	54		1473	
97	Dt 15,18	20/34(2x17)	74	59	1493/100 P	
98	Dt 15,19	18+	72	60	1511	§20 15,19-23 The law of the first-born The entire paragraph is highlighted except v. 23: the prohibition to eat blood. Until this point: 102 (6x17) verses.
99	Dt 15,20	12+	50	61-62	1523	
100	Dt 15,21	14+	45	63	1537	
101	Dt 15,22	7/51(3x17)	35		1544	
102	Dt 15,23	9	29		1553/60 P	
31	14,22-15,23	494 (19x26)	1839	22x	494 (19x26)	

Observation 5 Apart from the fact that the whole subsection is made up of **494 (19x26)** words, special stress is laid on the tithe laws (§15 with its **104 [5x26]** words), and the care for the poor (§18 with its **104 [5x26]** words). In the law of the first-born (§20), the prohibition to eat blood (v. 23) falls outside the preceding passage which is highlighted by its **51 (3x17)** words, whereby it stands out.

Subsection V 16,1-17 The Three Pilgrim-feasts

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents
103	Dt 16,1	16	68	64-65	1569	§21 16,1-8 Pesach and Massot Feast 16,3 emphasized by 26 words. For seven days the eating of anything leavened is forbidden in commemoration of Israel's coming out of Egypt. The passover victim should only be slaughtered in the place YHWH chooses. יהוה אלהיך 7x
104	Dt 16,2	13	50	66-67	1582	
105	Dt 16,3	26	95		1608	
106	Dt 16,4	18	65		1626	
107	Dt 16,5	12	42	68	1638	
108	Dt 16,6	20	72	69	1658	
109	Dt 16,7	12	53	70	1670	
110	Dt 16,8	12	51	71	1682/129 S	
111	Dt 16,9	11	42		1693	
112	Dt 16,10	14	56	72-73	1707	
113	Dt 16,11	25	108	74-75	1732	§22 16,9-12 The Feast of Weeks Time for a freewill offering to YHWH in proportion to his blessing in the land.
114	Dt 16,12	10	41		1742/60 P	
115	Dt 16,13	9+	36		1751	§23 16,13-17 The Feast of Tabernacles The entire paragraph is highlighted except v. 17 which deals with the gifts in proportion to YHWH's blessing. 16,13-16 emphasized by 68 (4x17) words.
116	Dt 16,14	13+	61		1764	
117	Dt 16,15	21+	84	76-78	1785	
118	Dt 16,16	25/68(4x17)	97	79-80	1810	
119	Dt 16,17	9	33	81	1819/77 S	
17	16,1-17	266	1054	18x	266	
119	12,1-16,17	1819 (107x17)	7012	81x	1819 (107x17)	
						1054 (62x17) letters.
						12,1-16,17 sealed by 119 vs; 1819 words.

Observation 6 In §21 the prohibition to eat anything leavened during the Pesach-Massot feast (v. 3) is especially emphasized. In §23 the provision that the gifts should be in proportion to YHWH's blessing (v. 17) is not emphasized considering what has already been said in §22.

Most significant about this Subsection is that it is made up of **17** verses and **1054 (62x17)** letters.

The epithet **יהוה אלהיך** is woven **7x** into §21 (16,1a.1b.2a.5b.6a.7a.8b) in order to stress the fact that the commemoration of the exodus by the Israelites is the celebration of the events by which YHWH has demonstrated that he is *their God*. See below Observation 19 and [Part III](#) Observation 9.

Subsections I-V (12,1-16,17) are sealed as a distinct unit by **119 (7x17)** verses and **1819 (107x17)** words! See page 1 above.

Subsection VI 16,18-17,13 Guidelines for Administering Justice

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents
120	Dt 16,18	17	64	82	1836	§24 16,18-20 The appointment of judges 16,18-19 highlighted by 17 and 17.
121	Dt 16,19	17	61		1853	
122	Dt 16,20	13	46	83	1866/47 S	
123	Dt 16,21	13	40	84	1879 S	§25 16,21-17,1 Guidelines for the altar Both Ss draw attention to what follows.
124	Dt 16,22	8+	28	85	1887 S	
125	Dt 17,1	18/26	60	86-87	1905/39 S	
126	Dt 17,2	22+	80	88-89	1927	§26 17,2-7 Normal criminal procedure The entire paragraph is highlighted by 51 and 52 words. 16,18-17,7 §§24-26 676 (26x26) letters
127	Dt 17,3	16+	62		1943	
128	Dt 17,4	13/51(3x17)	56		1956	
129	Dt 17,5	24+	83		1980	
130	Dt 17,6	15+	44		1995	
131	Dt 17,7	13/52(2x26)	52		2008/103 P	
132	Dt 17,8	26	94	90	2034	
133	Dt 17,9	16	62		2050	§27 17,8-13 The central higher court 17,8 emphasized by 26 words. What is highlighted is that the Israelites should act on the pronouncement of the Levitical priests at the central court. 17,10-13 emphasized by 51 (3x17) words.
134	Dt 17,10	18+	66	91	2068	
135	Dt 17,11	20+	70		2088	
136	Dt 17,12	23+	85	92	2111	
137	Dt 17,13	7/68(4x17)	28		2118/110 S	
18	16,18-17,13	299	1081	11x	299	

Observation 7 The Subsection is rounded off and finalized by 68 (4x17) words.

The S after 16,22 serves to direct special attention to 17,1. See above the Introduction, p. 1.

Subsections VI-VIII, 16,18-19,21, constitute another coherent subgroup of 11 paragraphs, which deal in this case with the administering of justice. In much the same way as Subsections I-V, which have 119 (7x17) verses, **Subsections VI-VIII** are bound together and finalized by 18+29+21=68 (4x17) verses. Moreover, Subsections VI-VII, 16,18-18,22, dealing with the administration of justice and the theocratic offices respectively, are linked together by 34 (2x17) instances of the divine name (11+23=34).

Subsection VII 17,14-18,22 The Law of the Theocratic Offices

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents
138	Dt 17,14	20	75	93	2138	<p>§28 17,14-20 The law of the king</p> <p>The king may not acquire many horses and wives lest his heart turns away. He must make a copy of 'this law' and read from it and learn to fear God.</p> <p>* For 93, see Observation 8.</p>
139	Dt 17,15	24	83	94	2162	
140	Dt 17,16	22	77	95	2184	
141	Dt 17,17	13	43		2197	
142	Dt 17,18	16 93*	62		2213	
143	Dt 17,19	23	85	96	2236	
144	Dt 17,20	19	81		2255/137 S	
145	Dt 18,1	15	59	97	2270	<p>§29 18,1-8 The law of the priests</p> <p>Seven things to be given to the priest: the shoulder, the cheeks, the stomach, grain, wine, oil, first fleece of the flock.</p> <p>The Levites must not be discriminated.</p>
146	Dt 18,2	12	42	98	2282 S	
147	Dt 18,3	18	67		2300	
148	Dt 18,4	9	37		2309	
149	Dt 18,5	15	54	99-100	2324 S	
150	Dt 18,6	20	68	101	2344	
151	Dt 18,7	11	44	102-103	2355	
152	Dt 18,8	7	28		2362/107 S	
153	Dt 18,9	16	55	104	2378	<p>§30 18,9-22 The law of the prophets</p> <p>18,10-12 Burning children and practising divination forbidden: 34 (2x17) words. This S draws special attention to v. 14.</p> <p>18,16 Reference to Horeb: 26 words.</p> <p>18,17-19 YHWH spoke about a true prophet who speaks in his name: 34 (2x17) words. 16,18-18,20 2600 letters.</p> <p>How to distinguish false prophecy from true prophecy.</p> <p>and 1638 (63x26) letters.</p>
154	Dt 18,10	12+	46		2390	
155	Dt 18,11	8+	31		2398	
156	Dt 18,12	14/34(2x17)	57	105-106	2412	
157	Dt 18,13	5	19	107	2417 S	
158	Dt 18,14	19	68	108	2436	
159	Dt 18,15	10	43	109	2446	
160	Dt 18,16	26	91	110-111	2472	
161	Dt 18,17	6+	25	112	2478	
162	Dt 18,18	15+	58		2493	
163	Dt 18,19	13/34(2x17)	46		2506	
164	Dt 18,20	20	75		2526	
165	Dt 18,21	11	38	113	2537	
166	Dt 18,22	22	81	114-115	2559/197 S	
29	17,14-18,22	441	1638	23x	441 words	

Observation 8 In the law of the king, §28, special emphasis is laid on the prohibition forbidding the king to acquire many horses, wives and great quantities of silver and gold for himself (17,17) and ordering him to make a copy of 'this law' (17,18-20). It is intriguing to note that 17,16-20 has **93** words, the letter value of התורה הזאת, 'this law', precisely divided into **35** words in 17,16-17 (הזאת = 5+7+1+22 = **35**) and **58** in 17,18-20 (התורה = 5+22+6+20+5 = **58**). For similar cases, see Observations 10, 12, and 19.

Klaas Eikelenboom has discovered that 16,18-18,20 (from the appointment of judges to YHWH's speech about false prophets) has **2600** letters; and that 18,21-34,5 (from Moses' criterion for judging false and true prophecy to his death 'according to YHWH's word') has **24310 (187 [11x17] x 130 [5x26])** letters.

This is all the more intriguing in light of the fact that the book of Deuteronomy as a whole (BHS/Codex L) has **54910 (323 [19x17] x 170)** letters.

Observation 9 In his long address in Part IV (12-26) Moses cites only two divine speeches, in 17,16b and 18,17-20, which conclude a string of **10** in 4-26 – see Observation 3 in Part II. The first speech (17,16b) is an utterance which Moses ascribes to YHWH addressing the Israelites in order to remind his audience of what is said in Ex 13,17 and 14,13 about returning to Egypt.

וַיֹּהֲוֶה אֱמֹר לָכֶם לֹא תִסְפֹּן לָשׁוּב בְּדֶרֶךְ הַזֶּה עוֹד:	And YHWH said to you: (3 + 6 = 9 words) “You must never return that way again”.
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The second speech in 18,17-20, is *addressed to Moses* and introduced as usual by the stereotyped formula **וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי**, ‘And YHWH said to me’:

<p style="text-align: center;">17 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי 3 הִיטִיבֹו אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְוּ: 3 18 נִבְיָא אֲקִים לָהֶם מִקִּרְבֵּי אַחֵיהֶם כְּמֹדֶךָ 6 וְנִסְתִּי דִבְרֵי בְּפִי וְדִבַּר אֲלֵיהֶם אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר אֶצְוֶנִי: 9 19 וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִשְׁמַע אֶל־דִּבְרֵי אֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר בְּשְׁמִי 10 אֲנֹכִי אֲדַרְשׁ מֵעַמּוֹ: 3 20 אֵךְ הַנִּבְיָא אֲשֶׁר יִזְיֵד לְדַבֵּר דְּבַר בְּשְׁמִי אֵת אֲשֶׁר לֹא־צִוִּיתִיו לְדַבֵּר וְאֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר בְּשֵׁם אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים 17 וּמַת הַנִּבְיָא הֵהוּא: 3 Altogether 51 (3x17) words spoken.</p>	<p>¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: ‘They are right in what they have said.¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.’ NRSV (3 + 51 = 54)</p>
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The fact that the law of the prophets is not presented as an ordinary precept proclaimed by Moses, but as a divine decree proclaimed by YHWH himself, demonstrates its importance. The use of words directly attributed to YHWH is a literary device in Deuteronomy for enhancing the status of certain utterances of Moses. The introductory formula **וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי** is to be found no less than **12x**: 1,42; 2,2.9.31; 3,2.26; 5,28; 9,12.13; 10,11; 18,17; 34,4.

In the present case the words attributed to YHWH are extra emphasized by the fact that the speech is made up of **51 (3x17)** words. It deals with the crucial idea that Moses was the first true prophet, and with the succession of true prophets who will continue to fulfil Moses’ role as covenant mediator. Moreover, it raises the contemporary tricky issue of false prophecy and how to assess it in order to identify a false prophet. Any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who has not been commissioned by YHWH, should be killed.

In vs 21-22 Moses advises the people, in his own words, how to decide that a certain prophecy is false: the criterion is whether it comes true or not. This decision can only be made with hindsight.

Subsection VIII 19,1-21 Refuge for Homicides and Guidelines Regarding False Witness

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents	
167	Dt 19,1	17	70	116-117	2576	§31 <u>19,1-7</u> Three cities of refuge 19,1 After the occupation of the land: 17 w.	
168	Dt 19,2	12	45	118	2588		
169	Dt 19,3	16	59	119	2604		
170	Dt 19,4	19	61		2623		
171	Dt 19,5	27	96		2650		
172	Dt 19,6	26	88		2676		
173	Dt 19,7	9	30		2685/126 S		19,6 A city of refuge must be within reach of the manslayer: 26 words.
174	Dt 19,8	18	} 60*	66	120	2703	§32 <u>19,8-13</u> Additional cities of refuge * For 60 , see Observation 10. For the S , see Observation 6. A murderer taking refuge must be killed: 17 .
175	Dt 19,9	27		100	121	2730	
176	Dt 19,10	15		53	122	2745 S	
177	Dt 19,11	17	58		2762		
178	Dt 19,12	12	44		2774		
179	Dt 19,13	10	37		2784/99 S		
180	Dt 19,14	17 words	65	123	2801/17 S	§33 <u>19,14</u> Do not move boundary stones: 17	
181	Dt 19,15	24	74		2825	§34 <u>19,15-21</u> False witness in court A witness giving false evidence against his fellow must be treated as he intended to treat his fellow: 34 (2x 17) words.	
182	Dt 19,16	8	25		2833		
183	Dt 19,17	15+	64	124	2848		
184	Dt 19,18	10+	38		2858		
185	Dt 19,19	9/34(2x17)	38		2867		
186	Dt 19,20	11	48		2878		
187	Dt 19,21	13	42		2891/90 S		
21	19,1-21	332	1201	9x	332	Total: 332 words.	

Observation 10 Subsection VIII concludes the second main section 16,18-19,21, which are rounded off and finalized by means of their **68** (4x**17**) verses (18+29+21 = **68**). At the same time it marks the end of Subsections I-VIII (12,1-19,21), rounded off and finalized by their total number of **187** (11x**17**) verses and **34** paragraphs. See the table on page 1 above.

The **60** words of vs 8-10 represent the letter value of the key-words **דָּם נָקִי**, ‘innocent blood’ (19, 10): 4+13+14+19+10 = **60**. Moreover, the **107** words of 19,14-21 (§§33-34) represent the letter value of the key-words **וּבְעֵרְתָּ הָרָע**, ‘and get rid of the wickedness’(19, 19): 6+2+16+20+22+5+20+16 = **107**. For similar cases, see above Observation 8 and below Observations 12 and 19.

The terse prohibition (§33) to move a boundary stone stands out by being emphasized with **17** words.

In the other paragraphs three aspects are highlighted: in 19,6 (**26** words), the requirement that a city of refuge must be within reach throughout the country, in 19,11 (**17** words), the directive that a murderer who tries to take refuge in a city of refuge must be killed, and in 19,17-19 (**34** words), the guideline that whoever gives false witness against his fellow in court must be treated as he intended to treat his fellow.

Subsection IX 20,1-20 Laws Concerning Warfare

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents
188	Dt 20,1	21	74	125	2912	§35 <u>20,1-9</u> The speech before battle Persons who have legitimate reasons can be excused from military service: a man that has betrothed a woman, a man who is fearful and fainthearted: 85 (5x17) words.
189	Dt 20,2	9	35		2921	
190	Dt 20,3	20	81		2941	
191	Dt 20,4	11	46	126	2952	
192	Dt 20,5	22+	82		2974	
193	Dt 20,6	16+	60		2990	
194	Dt 20,7	16+	59		3006	
195	Dt 20,8	20+	74		3026	
196	Dt 20,9	11/85(5x17)	43		3037/146 S	
197	Dt 20,10	9	34		3046	§36 <u>20,10-18</u> Guidelines for waging war <u>20,13-18</u> Treatment of captives: 85 words. This rule applies only to cities at a great distance, not to the Canaanite cities. The inhabitants of Canaan must be utterly destroyed so that they may not teach their practices to the Israelites.
198	Dt 20,11	15	52		3061	
199	Dt 20,12	9	34		3070	
200	Dt 20,13	10+	38	127	3080	
201	Dt 20,14	21+	74	128	3101	
202	Dt 20,15	13+	46		3114	
203	Dt 20,16	14+	48	129	3128	
204	Dt 20,17	13+	61	130	3141	
205	Dt 20,18	14/85(5x17)	62	131	3155/118 S	
206	Dt 20,19	29+	102		3184	§37 <u>20,19-20</u> Spare the fruit trees!: 52 words. <u>20,10-20</u> 170 words, 624 (24x26) letters.
207	Dt 20,20	23/52(2x26)	73		3207/52 P	
20	20,1-20	316	1178	7x	316	

Observation 11 Subsections IX-XI, 20,1-22,12, constitute a third subgroup of paragraphs belonging together; the 16 laws deal with warfare and domestic matters.

In §35 (20,1-9) two crucial matters are highlighted: the speech by the priest and the proclamation by the officers of people's legitimate right to be excused from taking part in battle: 20,5-9 (**85** [5x17] words).

The entire text of §§36-37 (20,10-20), the guidelines for waging war without destroying fruit trees and the command to annihilate the Canaanite peoples, are highlighted by means of their **170** (10x17) words and **624** (24x26) letters. Special significance and extra emphasis are attached to §37 (20,19-20, the prohibition to destroy trees that yield fruit) by means of its **52** (2x26) words.

Subsection X 21,1-23 Guidelines Concerning a Variety of Problematic Cases

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents
208	Dt 21,1	16	55	132	3223	<p>§38 21,1-9 The undetected murderer The elders and judges of the city where the dead body is found must determine the city nearest to the corpse. Then the local Levitical priests must perform the ceremony of the ritual killing of the young heifer and the local elders must solemnly declare their blamelessness. 16+119 words, 494 (19x26) letters.</p>
209	Dt 21,2	9+	40		3232	
210	Dt 21,3	19+	65		3251	
211	Dt 21,4	20+	70		3271	
212	Dt 21,5	20+	72	133-134	3291	
213	Dt 21,6	14+	56		3305	
214	Dt 21,7	11+	40		3316	
215	Dt 21,8	16+	57	135	3332	
216	Dt 21,9	10/119(7x17)	39/494	136	3342/135* S	
217	Dt 21,10	11	45	137	3353	
218	Dt 21,11	10	37		3363	
219	Dt 21,12	10	39		3373	
220	Dt 21,13	22	86		3395	
221	Dt 21,14	17	61		3412/70 S	
222	Dt 21,15	18	79		3430	<p>§40 21,15-17 The right of primogeniture</p>
223	Dt 21,16	20	68		3450	
224	Dt 21,17	21	67		3471/59 S	
225	Dt 21,18	17	65		3488	
226	Dt 21,19	12	45		3500	
227	Dt 21,20	13+	50		3513	
228	Dt 21,21	13/26	56		3526/55 S	<p>§42 21,22-23 The exposure of a corpse</p>
229	Dt 21,22	11	38		3537	
230	Dt 21,23	24	86	138	3561/35 S	
23	21,1-23	354	1316	7x	354	Total: 354 words.

Observation 12 In §38, the 119 (7x17) words in 21,2-9 lay special emphasis on what the inhabitants of a city must do to propitiate God when a dead body is found in the open field, and also on the specific duties of the Levitical priests of the nearest city.

* The 135 words of 21,1-9 represent the letter value of הָרֵם הַנְּקִי מִקִּרְבֶּךָ, ‘the innocent blood in your midst’ (v 9): 5+4+13+5+14+19+10+13+19+20+2+11=135. For similar cases, see Observations 8, 10 and 19.

In §39, the provision (21,14) that a female captive must not be treated as a slave and sold for gain is highlighted (17 words).

In §41, the guideline for dealing with a disobedient son, it is the stating of the case in 21,18 (17 words) and the declaration of the culprit’s elders in 21,20-21 (26 words) that are especially emphasized.

Subsection XI 22,1-12 Guidelines for Prudent Action in Domestic Matters

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	ידוה	Sum Words	Contents
231	Dt 22,1	14+	50		3575	§43 22,1-4 Care for lost things The passage about lost animals or things is highlighted: 51 (3x 17) w. This is not the case with the helping of a fallen animal.
232	Dt 22,2	19+	67		3594	
233	Dt 22,3	18/51(3x17)	72		3612 S	
234	Dt 22,4	14	51		3626/65 S	
235	Dt 22,5	18	58	139	3644/18 P	§44 22,5 Transvestism
236	Dt 22,6	26	89		3670	§45 22,6-7 Sparing a mother-bird: 17 words.
237	Dt 22,7	13	45		3683/39 S	A case of bird protection.
238	Dt 22,8	15	54		3698/15 S	§46 22,8 A parapet along the roof
239	Dt 22,9	12+	47		3710/12 S	§47 22,9 No other crop in your vineyard
240	Dt 22,10	5/17	19		3715/5 S	§48 22,10 Do not yoke an ox and an ass: 17 w.
241	Dt 22,11	6	24		3721/6 S	§49 22,11 Do not mix wool and flax
242	Dt 22,12	10	36		3731/10 S	§50 22,12 Make twisted tassels.
12	22,1-12	170	612	1x	170 (10x17)	170 words and 612 (36x17) letters.

Observation 13 For the function of the **S** see Observation 6.

The entire Subsection is highlighted by the fact that it is made up of **170** words and **612** (36x**17**) letters. Moreover, by means of **51** (3x**17**) words, additional stress is laid on a specific passage in §43, [22,1-3](#), dealing with the bringing back of lost property to the owner.

Extra emphasis is also laid on [22,6](#) in §45 by means of **26** words.

Subsection XII 22,13-29 Guidelines for Marriage and Sexual Relations

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוד	Sum Words	Contents
243	Dt 22,13	7+	23		3738	§51 22,13-21 A bride's loss of virginity Vs 13-17 The presentation of this problematic case and the father's role in reaching a verdict are highlighted: 68 (2x17) words (34a+34b).
244	Dt 22,14	19/26+	73		3757	
245	Dt 22,15	12+	48		3769	
246	Dt 22,16	12+	45		3781	
247	Dt 22,17	18/68(4x17)	74		3799	
248	Dt 22,18	8	31		3807	
249	Dt 22,19	22	79		3829 S	
250	Dt 22,20	9	33		3838	See Observation 6.
251	Dt 22,21	22	90		3860/129 S	129= 78a+51b . She must be stoned.
252	Dt 22,22	19	68		3879/19 S	§52 22,22 Adultery Both shall die.
253	Dt 22,23	11+	42		3890	§53 22,23-24 Sex with a betrothed girl in the town Both shall die.
254	Dt 22,24	31+	110		3921/42 S	
255	Dt 22,25	18+	66		3939	§54 22,25-27 Sex with a betrothed girl in the country The girl is innocent; the man shall die.
256	Dt 22,26	19+	63		3958	
257	Dt 22,27	9+	35		3967/46 S	
258	Dt 22,28	12+	44		3979	§55 22,28-29 Sex with a girl who is not pledged in marriage Forced marriage.
259	Dt 22,29	19/119(7x17)	67		3998/31 S	
17	22,13-29	267	991	None	267	22,23-29 §§53-55 Altogether 119 words.

Observation 14 This subsection, together with subsection XIII, constitutes a fourth main section of laws linked together, [22,13-29](#) + [23,1-9](#), consisting of altogether **10** paragraphs dealing with marriage and sexual relationships. This main section is finalized by having altogether **26** (17+9) verses.

It is noteworthy that the **68** words of [22,13-17](#) are divided by *atnach* into **34a** + **34b**, and that the 129 words of §51 are divided into **78a** + **51b**.

Moreover, in §§53-55 ([22,23-29](#)) the entire text is highlighted by its **119** (7x17) words.

Finally, since Subsection XII as a whole deals with the social position of a virgin, it is not surprising to find that נערה, 'virgin', occurs 2x7 times ([15a](#).[15b](#).[16](#).[19](#).[20](#).[21](#).[23](#).[24](#).[25](#).[26a\(2x\)](#).[27](#).[28](#).[29](#)).

Subsection XIII 23,1-9 Forbidden Relationships

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהודה	Sum Words	Contents
260	Dt 23,1	10	31		4008/10 S	§56 23,1 Marrying your father's wife
261	Dt 23,2	8	29	140	4016/8 S	§57 23,2 A man with genital defects
262	Dt 23,3	13	42	141-142	4029/13 S	§58 23,3 A bastard and his descendants
263	Dt 23,4	16	56	143-144	4045	§59 23,4-7 Ammonites and Moabites These three categories are excluded from the cultic assembly.
264	Dt 23,5	22	84		4067	
265	Dt 23,6	18	68	145-147	4085	
266	Dt 23,7	7	26		4092/63 S	
267a	Dt 23,8a	6	19		4198 S	§60 23,8-9 Edomites and Egyptians
267b	Dt 23,8b	7+	23		4105	Not to be regarded as an abomination.
268	Dt 23,9	10/17	37	148	4115/23 S	Special emphasis on Egyptians: 17 words.
9	23,1-9	117	415	9x	117	Note the emphasizing function of the S.
17	22,22-23,9	255 (15x17)	910(35x26)	9x	255 (15x17)	§§52-60 (22,22-23,9): 255 words; 910 lett.

Observation 15 The function of the S before 8b-9 is to highlight the relationship with the Egyptians.

The 17 words of 8b-9 emphasizes this relationship.

Most significantly, §§52-60 are linked together by 17 verses, 255 (15x17) words and 910 (35x26) letters!

Subsection XIV 23,10-26 Diverse Stipulations and Provisions

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהודה	Sum Words	Contents
269	Dt 23,10	9+	30		4124	§61 23,10-15 Purity of the camp In the camp any foulness must be avoided: emission of seed at night and excrement in the camp. One must withdraw outside and put the faeces in the ground.
270	Dt 23,11	19+	62		4143	
271	Dt 23,12	11+	41		4154	
272	Dt 23,13	8+	29		4162	
273	Dt 23,14	14+	51		4176	
274	Dt 23,15	20+	82	149	4196/81 S	§62 23,16-17 Asylum for runaway slaves
275	Dt 23,16	10+	36		4206	
276	Dt 23,17	12+	45		4218/22 S	§63 23,18-19 Cultic prostitution Forbidden for Israelite women.
277	Dt 23,18	10+	39		4228	
278	Dt 23,19	17/130(5x26)	63	150-151	4245/27 []	§64 23,20-21 Charging interest Not to a fellow-countryman
279	Dt 23,20	12	37		4257	
280	Dt 23,21	19	71	152	4276/31 S	
281	Dt 23,22	17	62	153-154	4293	§65 23,22-24 Vows must be lived up to There is no obligation to make a vow (17), but once made, it must be kept.
282	Dt 23,23	7	22		4300	
283	Dt 23,24	12	51	155	4312/36 S	
284	Dt 23,25	12	43		4324 S	§66 23,25-26 Provision for the traveller It is forbidden to take any produce away.
285	Dt 23,26	13	45		4337/25 S	
17	23,10-26	222	809	7x	222	Sealed as a literary unit by 17 verses.

Observation 16 The text of Subsection XIV, 23,10-26, consists of **17** verses which are additionally linked together by **7** occurrences of the divine name which runs as a red thread through the subsection. §§61-63 are specifically highlighted by having altogether **130** (5x26) words. The only other emphasized passage is 23,22, the statement that there is no obligation to make a vow to God (**17** words).

Subsections XIV-XVII, 23,10-26,19, constitute the last subgroup, in this case consisting of the remaining paragraphs, §§61-85, which deal with diverse stipulations and are concluded by Moses' final admonition. The 25 paragraphs have **77** (7x11) verses. See Observation 19.

Subsection XV 14,1-22 The Obligation to Respect Basic Rights and Do Justice

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents
286	Dt 24,1	24+	82		4361	§67 <u>24,1-4</u> Remarriage with ex-wife If a divorced wife marries another man and he dismisses her, her first husband may not remarry her.
287	Dt 24,2	6+	27		4367	
288	Dt 24,3	20+	78		4387	
289	Dt 24,4	29+	108	156-157	4416/79 S	
290	Dt 24,5	23/52 (2x26)	75		4439/23 S	§68 <u>24,5</u> A newly married man's rights
291	Dt 24,6	8+	25		4447/8 S	§69 <u>24,6</u> Taking millstones as a pledge
292	Dt 24,7	17+	66		4464/17 S	§70 <u>24,7</u> Stealing and selling a man
293	Dt 24,8	16+	70		4480 S	§71 <u>24,8-9</u> Malignant skin-diseases
294	Dt 24,9	10/51(3x17)	42	158	4490/26 S	People must do what the priests say.
295	Dt 24,10	11+	37		4501	§72 <u>24,10-13</u> Taking pledges
296	Dt 24,11	12+	45		4513	Uninvited entrance into the debtor's house is forbidden; the pledged cloak of a poor man may not be kept overnight.
297	Dt 24,12	7+	23		4520	
298	Dt 24,13	16+	62	159	4536/46 S	§73 <u>24,14-15</u> A poor man's daily wages His wages may not be kept back: 34 words.
299	Dt 24,14	11+	44		4547	
300	Dt 24,15	23+	78	160	4570/34 S	§74 <u>24,16</u> Criminal responsibility
301	Dt 24,16	13+	48		4583/13 S	
302	Dt 24,17	9+	30		4592	§75 <u>24,17-18</u> Basic rights of the weak
303	Dt 24,18	17/119(7x17)	63	161	4609/26 S	It concerns aliens, orphans and widows.
304	Dt 24,19	21	86	162	4630	§76 <u>24,19-22</u> Generosity to the needy
305	Dt 24,20	10+	40		4640 S	What is overlooked in the harvest may not be recovered. It must remain there for the needy and the underprivileged: 34 words.
306	Dt 24,21	10+	41		4650	
307	Dt 24,22	14/34(2x17)	49		4664/55 S	
22	24,1-22	327	1219	7x	327	

Observation 17 The **7** occurrences of the divine name, signifying the fullness of YHWH's presence, run as a red thread through the text of these **10** obligations.

No less than 21 of the 22 verses are highlighted by multiples of the divine name numbers. In other words, the entire text of §§67-75 (24,1-18) is emphasized by **272** (16x17) words (**102+51+119 = 272**).

§73 (24,14-15), which deals with the wages of a poor man, is emphasized by **34** (2x17) words.

In §76 (24,19-22), dealing with generosity to the needy, the **34** (2x17) words in 24,20-22 lay special emphasis on the obligation to allow them to gather what is left behind of the olives and grapes.

Subsection XVI 25,1-19 Humanitarian Obligations and Provisions

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents
308	Dt 25,1	15	62		4679	§77 <u>25,1-3</u> Moderation of punishment The number of strokes for corporal punishment must be limited to forty: vs. 2-3: 26 words.
309	Dt 25,2	12+	49		4691	
310	Dt 25,3	14/26	53		4705/41 S	
311	Dt 25,4	4	14		4709/4 S	§78 <u>25,4</u> The rights of the working ox
312	Dt 25,5	24	81		4733	§79 <u>25,5-10</u> The Levirate marriage
313	Dt 25,6	13	46		4746	
314	Dt 25,7	22	87		4768	
315	Dt 25,8	11	44		4779	
316	Dt 25,9	22	90		4801	
317	Dt 25,10	6	25		4807/98 S	
318	Dt 25,11	18	74		4825	
319	Dt 25,12	6	20		4831/24 S	
320	Dt 25,13	8	30		4839 S	§81 <u>25,13-16</u> Unequal weights Traders must have true and correct weights and measures. Cheating is abominable to God!
321	Dt 25,14	8	32		4847	
322	Dt 25,15	20	73	163	4867	
323	Dt 25,16	10	32	164	4877/46 P	
324	Dt 25,17	9	34		4886	§82 <u>25,17-19</u> The Amalekites' Cruelty Because of their singular inhumanity their memory must be blotted out.
325	Dt 25,18	14	53		4900	
326	Dt 25,19	24	91	165-166	4924/47 P	
19	25,1-19	260	990	4x	260	

Observation 18 The entire text of Subsection XVI is highlighted by its 260 words.

In §77 the prescription in 25,2-3, that corporal punishment must be proportional and limited to forty strokes, is specifically emphasized (26 words).

In Subsections VIII-XVI (19,1-25,19) the name יהוה occurs 51 (3x17) times in a unifying string binding the nine subsections together: 9+7+7+1+0+9+7+7+4=51.

Subsection XVII 26,1-19 Two Climactic Ceremonies and Moses' Concluding Admonition

Vs	Text	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum Words	Contents
327	Dt 26,1	14	50	167	4938	§83 26,1-11 The first-fruits ceremony 26,5-9 The historical recital of the worshipper bringing the first-fruits to the sanctuary: Abram settled in Egypt where his offspring became slaves, but YHWH freed them and gave them this land: 68 (4x17) words.
328	Dt 26,2	25	95	168-169	4963	
329	Dt 26,3	23	89	170-171	4986	
330	Dt 26,4	9	39	172	4995	
331	Dt 26,5	20+	77	173	5015	
332	Dt 26,6	8+	39		5023	
333	Dt 26,7	16+	63	174-175	5039	
334	Dt 26,8	11+	55	176	5050	
335	Dt 26,9	13/68(4x17)	46		5063	
336	Dt 26,10	19	80	177-179	5082	
337	Dt 26,11	14	55	180	5096/172* S	
338	Dt 26,12	19	82		5115	§84 26,12-15 The ceremony of the tithes 12,1-26,15 182(7x26) instances of the Name.
339	Dt 26,13	23	100	181	5138	
340	Dt 26,14	20	79	182(7x26)	5158	
341	Dt 26,15	22	85	[182]	5180/84 S	
342	Dt 26,16	18	75	183	5198	§85 26,16-19 Concluding admonition The covenant relationship is explained: Israel acknowledges YHWH as her God and YHWH recognizes her as his people.
343	Dt 26,17	15	71	184	5213	
344	Dt 26,18	13	51	185	5226	
345	Dt 26,19	17	69	186	5243/63 S	
19	26,1-19	319	1300	20x	319	
345	12,1-26,19	5243	10082	186x	5243	Total: 5243 words) letters.

Observation 19 The concluding admonition in [26,16-19](#) is composed of **63** words and forms a perfect inclusion with the **63**-words in [12,1-3](#). Moreover, in line with the well-known finalizing technique, the Covenant Stipulations in Part IV ([12-26](#)) is rounded off and sealed by means of **17** words in the concluding verse ([26,19](#)) forming an inclusion with **68 (4x17)** words in the opening paragraph ([12,1-4](#)). The confession dealing with the gift of the land ([26,5-9](#)) is especially highlighted by its **68 (4x17)** words. The fact that the 319 words of Subsection XVII are made up of **1300 (50x26)** letters is indeed noteworthy. Also worth noting is that יהוה אלהיך, 'YHWH your God', occurs **12x** ([1a.2a.2b.3.4.5.10a.10b.11.13.16.19](#)). This string marks the end of the **122** instances in Part IV ([12-26](#)) and underlines the central idea of the covenant relationship between Israel and YHWH so eloquently expressed in [vs. 16-19](#). Therefore, to crown it all, the epithet occurs exactly **234 (9x26)** times in the book: **71x** in [1-11](#), **122x** in [12-26](#), and **41x** in [27-34](#). The plural form יהוה אלהיכם is to be found only 46x (28x in [1-11](#) and 18x in [12-34](#)).

* The **172** words devoted to the first-fruits ceremony (§83, [vs. 1-11](#)), represent the letter value of the words את־ראשית פרי הארמה, 'the first-fruits of the soil' (10a):

1+22+20+1+21+10+22+17+20+10+5+1+4+13+5=172. For similar cases, see Observations 8, 10, and 12.

The solemn declaration concerning the gift of the land ([vs. 5-9](#)) to be recited by the person bringing the first-fruits is emphasized by **68 (4x17)** words.

Finally, the 84 paragraphs containing the laws in [12,1-26,15](#) (§§1-84) are linked together by a string of **182 (7x26)** occurrences of the name יהוה.

Observation 20 In the Concluding Admonition (vs. 16-19) there is a string of **7 infinitives** expressing Israel's commitment to the covenant and her obligations as YHWH's specially elected people:

1. לעשות את־החקים האלה ואת־המשפטים, 'to keep these statutes and laws' (16a): **26** letters
2. וללכת בדרכיו, 'and to walk in his ways' (17b)
3. ולשמר חקיו ומצותיו ומשפטיו, 'and to keep his statutes, commandments, and laws' (17b)
4. ולשמע בקלו, 'and to listen to his voice' (17b)
5. להיות לוֹ לעם סגולה, 'to be his special possession' (18a)
6. ולשמר כל־מצותיו, 'and to keep all his commandments' (18b)
7. ולהיות־ךָ עם־קדש ליהוה אלהיך, 'and to be a people holy to YHWH your God' (19b).

26 words

That these obligations are of paramount importance is emphasized by the use of altogether **26** words.

The 10 Divine Speeches in Parts II-IV, Deuteronomy 4-26

Texts	Introductions	Speeches		Totals
1. 4,10	3	21		24
2. 5,5b-21	1	189		190
3. 5,28,31	3	58	289	61
4. 9,12	3	19	323 (17x17)	22
5. 9,13-14	4	23		27
6. 9,23a	1	7	34	8
7. 10,1-2	3	27	(2x17)	30
8. 10,11	3	14		17
9. 17,16	3	6		9+
10. 18,17-20	3	51 (3x17)		54/63
Total 10 Speeches	27	415		442 (17x26)

Observation 21 The Divine Speeches in Part IV, 17,16 and 18,17-20, are part of a string of **10** in 4-26. This string is the second of three strings of **10** Divine Speeches that form the theological backbone of the Book of Deuteronomy. For an overview of the **30** Speeches, see the Introduction to [Part I 1,1-3,29](#).

The total number of words devoted to YHWH's speaking in this string of **10** Speeches, **442 (17x26)**, is significant but not surprising, because **494 (19x26)** words are devoted to his speaking in [Part I, 1,1-3,29](#).

Another striking feature is the fact that the words spoken by YHWH in Speeches 2-5 are a multiple of **17 (289=17x17)**, while Speeches 6 and 7 contain likewise a multiple of **17 (34=2x17)** words. This means that Speeches 2-7 are made up of altogether **323 (19x17)** words. This is underlined by the fact that altogether **338 (13x26)** words are devoted to YHWH's speaking in Speeches 2-7.

Moreover, in Speeches 1-9 YHWH speaks **364** words which are a multiple of **26 (14x26)**, and in speech 10 he speaks **51 (3x17)** words. All this demonstrates the extreme care with which the Divine Speeches have been composed. Compare the overview of the **7** divine speeches of [Ex 25-31](#) in [Part V](#), Observation 2, p 10. The present group of **10** Divine Speeches constitute the second of three groups of **10**. For the first group of **10** see [1-3](#) and for the third [31-34](#).