

The Numerical Features of the Book of 2 Samuel

A New Approach to its Compositional Structure¹

Please read the [General Introduction](#)

Please read also the Introduction to [1 Samuel](#).

Like the first part of the book of Samuel, the second part is a meticulously organized numerical composition. The two divine name numbers, **17** and **26**, are woven in succession into the fabric of the text to highlight crucial passages and to symbolize YHWH's presence in the events described. The rate of their occurrences in percentages, **72%** of the verses and **64%** of the words, are somewhat lower than those of 1 Samuel, which are **98%** of the verses and **72%** of the words. This means that the averages of 1 and 2 Samuel, taken as a single book, are **86%** of the verses and **69%** of the words. See below.

Parts I-V Percentages of verses and words highlighted by 17 and 26:

Part I: 1,1-27	24 of the 27 verses (89%) and 326 of the 367 words (89%)
Part II: 2,1-3,1	32 of the 33 verses (97%) and 515 of the 531 words (97%)
Part III: 3,2-4,12	39 of the 50 verses (78%) and 800 of the 877 words (91%)
Part IV: 5,1-6,23	34 of the 48 verses (71%) and 728 of the 728 (28x26) words (100%)
Part V: 7,1-29	11 of the 29 verses (38%) and 146 of the 461 words (37%)

Total Parts I-V	140 of the 187 verses (75%) and 2515 of the 2964 words (85%)
------------------------	--

Chapters 1-7 have been registered separately as a distinct literary entity, because *the passage as a whole* is finalized and sealed by its **187** (11x17) verses and **2964** (114x26) words.

Parts I-XV Percentages of verses and words highlighted by 17 and 26:

Parts I-V <i>as a whole</i>	187 of the 187 (11x17) verses (100%) and 2964 of the 2964 (114x26) words (100%)
Part VI: 8,1-10,19	18 of the 50 verses (36%) and 307 of the 797 words (39%)
Part VII: 11,1-12,31	34 of the 58 verses (59%) and 969 of the 969 (57x17) words (100%)
Part VIII: 13,1-14,33	31 of the 72 verses (43%) and 452 of the 1246 words (36%)
Part IX: 15,1-17,23	39 of the 83 verses (47%) and 540 of the 1424 words (38%)
Part X: 17,24-19,8	14 of the 46 verses (30%) and 257 of the 830 words (31%)
Part XI: 19,9-20,26	33 of the 62 verses (53%) and 635 of the 1106 words (57%)
Part XII: 21,1-22	16 of the 22 verses (73%) and 259 of the 419 words (62%)
Part XIII: 22,1-51	51 of the 51 verses (100%) and 198 of the 382 words (52%)
Part XIV: 23,1-39	9 of the 39 verses (23%) and 120 of the 444 words (27%)
Part XV: 24,1-25	20 of the 25 verses (80%) and 391 of the 456 words (85%)

Parts VI-XV: 8-24	265 of the 508 verses (52%) and 4128 of the 8073 words (51%)
--------------------------	--

Parts I-XV: 1-24	502 of the 695 verses (72%) and 7092 of the 11037 words (64%)
-------------------------	---

1+2 Samuel taken as one book: verses and words highlighted by 17 and 26:

Altogether **34** (2x17) Parts: 1299 of the 1506 verses (**86%**) and 16719 of the 24301 words (**69%**).

¹ I am deeply indebted to Klaas Eikelenboom for having independently done the counting and computing in Samuel, and for his useful suggestions. His research enabled me to verify my counting; it also brought to light information I myself had missed. I also owe thanks to Dr. Pieter van der Lugt for his constructive remarks.

Passages in 2 Samuel highlighted by 17 and 26, selected at random:

1. David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan (1,17-27): **130** (5x**26**) words.
2. David is anointed Judah's king at Hebron (2,1-7): **119** (7x**17**) words.
3. Measures taken by Abner to accomplish David's kingship (3,12-19): **153** (9x**17**) words.
4. The reactions to the death of Abner (3,31-37): **119** (7x**17**) words.
5. The Ark is brought to Jerusalem amid rejoicing, and Michal's reaction (6,12-23): **208** (8x**26**) words.
6. YHWH's promise to David that his son will build a house for God (7,12-13): **26** words.
7. David professes YHWH's greatness and incomparability (7,21-22): **26** words.
8. David prays for YHWH's continued blessings (7,28-29): **34** (2x**17**) words.
9. The rise of David to kingship (1,1-7,29): **187** (11x**17**) verses and **2964** (114x**26**) words.
10. The **7** divine speeches in Chapters 1-7 have altogether **255** (15x**17**) words.
11. The 8th divine speech (12,7-12) is made up of **102** (6x**17**) words.
12. The Bathsheba affair and its aftermath (11,1-12,31): **969** (57x**17**) words.
13. Chapter 11 has **442** (17x**26**) words and Chapter 12 **527** (31x**17**): altogether **969** (57x**17**) words.
14. David contrives to liquidate Uriah (11,7-15): **153** (9x**17**) words.
15. Joab does what David ordered him to do (11,16-24): **136** (8x**17**) words.
16. David's response to the theft of the lamb in Nathan's parable (12,4-6): **51** (3x**17**) words.
17. David's conduct during the illness of the child (12,16-20): **68** (4x**17**) words.
18. David allows Tamar to make cakes for Amnon (13,6-7): **34** (2x**17**) words.
19. Having raped Tamar, Amnon orders her to leave the room (13,15-16): **34** (2x**17**) words.
20. Tamar is turned out: she goes away mourning and crying aloud (13,18-19): **34** (2x**17**) words.
21. David's heart goes out to Absalom with longing (13,37-39): **34** (2x**17**) words.
22. Joab brings Absalom back to Jerusalem (14,22-23): **34** (2x**17**) words.
23. Details about Absalom as a very attractive personality (14,25-27): **51** (3x**17**) words.
24. For fear of Absalom, David has to leave Jerusalem immediately (15,13-15): **52** (2x**26**) words.
25. David and his followers cross the gorge of the Kidron (15,21-24): **85** (5x**17**) words.
26. David eliminates Ahitophel and prepares the fall of Absalom (15,31-37): **104** (4x**26**) words.
27. Shimei curses David and calls him a scoundrel (16,7-9): **52** (2x**26**) words.
28. The reason for Hushai's advice to wait for the Israelites to assemble (17,10-13): **85** (5x**17**) words.
29. During the battle, Absalom is found hanging on an oak (18,6-9): **68** (4x**17**) words.
30. David awaits news from the battlefield (18,24-26): **52** (2x**26**) words.
31. Joab uses firm words to get David appreciate the military success (19,6-7): **52** (2x**26**) words.
32. David pardons Shimei and Mephibosheth (19,23-29): **130** (5x**26**) words.
33. David offers to care for Barzillai (19,33-37): **85** (5x**17**) words.
34. The war against the rebels ends with the death of Sheba (20,20-22): **68** (4x**17**) words.
35. David gives Saul and his sons a proper burial (21,10-14): **104** (4x**26**) words.
36. The three most significant wars against the Philistines (21,18-22): **78** (3x**26**) words.
37. The main body of the Song of David, flanked by a prelude and a coda (22,4-50): **338** (13x**26**) words.
38. The last words of David (23,1b-7): **34** (2x**17**) + **52** (2x**26**) words.
39. The census of the Israelites (24,1-9): **153** (9x**17**) words.
40. YHWH sends a pestilence and David prays for mercy (24,14-17): **85** (5x**17**) words.
41. Arauna offers the site and the oxen (24,22): **17** words, but David pays in cash (24,23-25): **52** (2x**26**).

The compositional structure of 2 Samuel

In the following overview of various divisions, I shall mention the divisions of the book of Samuel as a whole proposed by scholars who ignore the traditional bipartite structure. The divisions of scholars who respect the bipartite structure, will be mentioned here only with regard to 2 Samuel. The concluding verses or chapters marked in **red** are not demarcated by layout markers. The chapter numbers are **bold**.

K. BUDDE (KHCAT, 1902): **1-8; 9-20; 21-24**.

P. DHORME (Études bibliques, 1910): **1,1-16; 17-27; 3-4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10-12; 13; 14; 15-18; 19; 20; 21-24**.

S. SMITH (ICC, 1912): **1-7; 8-12; 13-15; 16-2Sam 1,27; 2-4; 5-24**.

A. VAN DEN BORN (BOT, 1956): **1Sam 1-7; 8-15; 16-2 Sam 1,27; 2,1-4,12; 5,1-8,18; 9,1-20,26; 21,1-24,25**.

H.W. HERTZBERG (ATD, 1960; Westminster John Knox Press, 1964): **1Sam 1-3; 4-6; 7-15; 16-2Sam 1,27; 2-8; 9-20; 21-24**.

C.J. GOSLINGA (COT, 1962): 2 Samuel according to the chapter division.

P.R. ACKROYD (CBC, 1977): **2Sam 1,1-16; 17-27; 2,1-4a; 4b-7; 8-11; 12-3,1; 2-5; 6-21; 22-39; 4; 5,1-5; 6-16; 17-25; 6,1-11; 12-23; 7,1-17; 18-29; 8; 9; 10; 11,1-13; 14-27; 12,1-14; 15-25; 26-31; 13,1-22; 23-37; 38-14,24; 25-33; 15,1-12; 13-37; 16,1-14; 15-23; 17,1-23; 24-18,5; 6-18; 19-19,9a; 9b-16; 17-41a; 41b-44; 20,1-22; 23-26; + 21,1-14; 15-22; 22,1-25; 26-51; 23,1-7; 8-39; 24**.

A.A. ANDERSON (WBC, 1989): Almost the same as Ackroyd's division, except **3,6-39; 4,1-12...6,1-23...8,1-14; 15-18...11,1-27a; 11,27b-12,25...13,38-14,33...15,13-16,14...15-17,23...24-19,9ba; 9bβ-20,22...22,1-51...**

H.J. STOEBE (KAT, 1994): **1,1-5,5; 6-7,29; 8; 9,1-13; 10,1-12,31; 13,1-19,9ba; 9bβ-20,26; 21,1-23,7; 8-39; 24**.

J. Mauchline (NCB, 1971): **1Sam 1,1-7,1; 7,2-12,25; 13,2-15,35; 16-2Sam 1,27; 2,2-8,18; 9-20; 21-24**.

P. KYLE McCARTER (AB, 1984): **1,1-16; 17-27; 2,1-11; 12-32; 3,1-5; 6-39; 4,1-12; 5,1-5; 6-10; 11-12; 13-16; 17-25; 6,1-19; 20-23; 7,1-17; 18-29; 8,1-14; 15-18; 9,1-13; 10,1-19; 11,1-27a; 27b-12,25; 26-31; 13,1-22; 23-37; 13,38-14,7.15-17.8-14.18-33; 15,1-2; 3-16,14; 15-17,23; 24-29; 18,1-19,9abαβ; 9bγ-20,3; 4-22; 23-26; 21,1-14; 15-22; 22,1-51; 23,1-7; 8-39; 24,1-25**.

F. STOLZ (Zürcher Bibelkommentare, 1981): **1,1-5,25; 6,1-8,18; 9,1-20,36; 21-24**.

J.P. FOKKELMAN (NAPS I-IV, 1981-93): **I: 1Sam 1-4; 5-7; 8-12; II: 13-15; 16-19; 20-23,13; 14-26,25; 27-31+2Sam. 1,27; III: 2,1-5,5; 6-8,18; IVa: 9-12; 13-14; 15-20; V: 21+23,8-24,25; 22,1-23,7; IVb: 1Kings 1-2**.

R. GORDON (Pater Noster Press, 1986): **1,1-4,12; 5,1-20,26; 21-24**.

W. BRUEGGEMANN (ABD, Vol. 5, 1992): **1,1-4,1a; 4,1b-7,2; 7,3-15,35; 16,1-2 Sam. 5,10; 11-8,18; 9-20; 21-24**.

D.T. BERGEN (B&H Publishing Group, 1996): **1,1-7,17; 8,1-14,51; 15,1-2 Sam. 1,27; 2,1-20,26; 21-24**.

H.J. KOOREVAAR (Acta Theologica 17/2, 1997, 56-86): **1: 1,1-28; 2,1-11; 2: 2,12-4,22; 5-7; 3: 8,1-13,1; 13,2-14,52; 4: 15-2Sam 8; 5: 9-20; 6: 21-24**.

D.A. DORSEY (The Literary Structure of the Old Testament, Grand Rapids, 1999, pp. 133-135): **1-4; 5-8; 9,1-12,31; 13,1-20,22; 21,1-14; 15-22; 22,1-51; 23,1-7; 8-39; 24,1-25; 1Kings 1,1-2,46**.

H. H. KLEMENT (2 Samuel 21-24: Structure, Context and Meaning in the Samuel Conclusion. Europäische Hochschulschriften Reihe XXIII Theologie, Bd. 682. Peter Lang Verlag: Frankfurt am Main, 2000): **I: 1 Sam. 1,1-2,11; 12-3,21 | 4,1-8,22 II: 9,1-10,16; 17-15,35 | 16,1-13 | 14-19,17 | 18-24 | 20,1-23,28 | 24,1-23 | 25,1-30,31 | 31,1-13. III: 2 Sam. 1,1-2,32; IV: 3,1-5,12; 13-16; 17-8,14; 15-18; 9,1-20,22; 23-26; V: 21-24**.

In the table below, the delimitation of the Parts marked **blue** is based on numerical considerations:

Parts I-V: Chapters 1-7 because of their **187 (11x17)** verses in combination with **2964 (114x26)** words; **Part IV: 5,1-6,23** because of its **728 (28x26)** words; **Part VII: 11,1-12,25** because of its **969 (57x17)** words; **Part XIII: 22,1-51** because of its **51 (3x17)** verses; **Part XIV: 23,1-39** because of its **444** words, which is a multiple of **37 (12x37)**, the number of David's heroes (specifically mentioned as altogether **37** in 23,39!). All this causes **Part VI: 8,1-10,19**, **Part XII: 21,1-22** and **Part XV: 24,1-25** to be automatically demarcated.

If the present division of 1 Samuel into **19** and 2 Samuel into **15** Main Parts is correct, then the book of Samuel as a whole divides into **34** Main Parts, which can be regarded as additional evidence for its compositional unity in its final form. At the end of the present file, in Observation 18, I shall briefly review the compositional unity of the book of Samuel and its relation to the book of Kings, paying special attention to the function of the assumed Appendix (21-24), the Song of David (22), and his Last Words (23,1-7), which are generally supposed to be inset poems inserted into the prose text.

Here is an outline of my division of the text into **15** Main Parts, with the number of words in each Part:

Part I: 1,1-27	The report of Saul's death and David's reaction: P	27 vs; 367 words.	187 vs.
Part II: 2,1-3,1	Civil war during the reign of two kings in Israel: S	33 vs; 531 words.	(11x17)
Part III: 3,2-4,12	David's rule at Hebron until the murder of Ishbosheth: P	50 vs; 877 words.	2964 w.
Part IV: 5,1-6,23	David king in Jerusalem and the triumphal entry of the Ark: P	48 vs; 728(28x26)w.	(114x26)
Part V: 7,1-29	The Davidic dynasty: Nathan's oracle and David's response: P	29 vs; 461 words.	
Part VI: 8,1-10,19	David's wars and his administration: P	50 vs; 797 words.	
Part VII: 11,1-12,31	The Bathsheba affair and its aftermath: P	58 vs; 969(57x17) words.	
Part VIII: 13,1-14,33	The rape of Tamar and its aftermath: P	72 vs; 1246 words.	
Part IX: 15,1-17,23	Absalom's revolt and David's flight: S	83 vs; 1424 words.	
Part X: 17,24-19,8	The battle in Ephraim and the death of Absalom: S	46 vs; 830 words.	
Part XI: 19,9-20,26	David's restoration and the fragility of his kingdom: S	62 vs; 1106 words.	
Part XII: 21,1-22	Various events during David's reign: P	22 vs; 419 words.	
Part XIII: 22,1-51	The Song of David: (No layout marker)	51(3x17) vs; 382 words.	
Part XIV: 23,1-39	The last words of David and a list of his heroes: P	39 vs; 444(12x37) words.*	
Part XV: 24,1-25	A census, a plague, and an acquisition of a holy site: Colophon	25 vs; 456 words.	

* The fact that there is no **P** or **S** after the Song of David in Chapter 22 is a strong indication that Chapter 22 is closely connected with Chapter 23 containing the Last Words of David and the passage about his heroes. This is underscored by the fact that the two chapters taken together are made up of altogether **826** (59x14) words, signifying the signature of David through his name, as in David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan (1,19-27). For **P** and **S**, see pp. 3-4 in [1 Samuel](#).

Part I: 1,1-27 The report of Saul's death and David's reaction

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
1	2Sam 1,1	14+	53		14		§1 David learns that Saul and his sons are dead
2	2Sam 1,2	22+	86		36		Except for v. 9 which deals with Saul's request to be killed, the entire paragraph is highlighted by 119 (7x17) words in vs. 1-8 and 51 (3x17) in 10-12. Note that 1 Samuel also opens with 119 words (1,1-8). The same goes for the first paragraph of 2 Sam 2 (1-7), with its 119 words.
3	2Sam 1,3	11+	44		47		
4	2Sam 1,4	26+	89		73		
5	2Sam 1,5	13+	46		86		
6	2Sam 1,6	18+	78		104		
7	2Sam 1,7	7+	31		111		1,10-12 An Amalekite tells how he killed Saul and David and all his men tear their clothes, mourn, weep, and fast till evening: 51 (3x17) words.
8	2Sam 1,8	8/119(7x17)	30		119		
9	2Sam 1,9	14	46		133		§2 David orders the killing of the Amalekite "Your blood be on your own head, for you have condemned yourself!": 26 .
10	2Sam 1,10	23+	86		156		
11	2Sam 1,11	9+	36		165		
12	2Sam 1,12	19/51(3x17)	70	1	184/184	S	§3 David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan The Introduction has 20 words; the Lament 110 . The Lament and its introduction are composed of, and highlighted in their entirety, by 130 (5x26) words. See my detailed structural analysis of the Lament .
13	2Sam 1,13	15	50		199		
14	2Sam 1,14	12	42	2	211		Vs. 22-23 constitute the 26 word mathematical centre flanked on either side by 42 words: 110= 42+26+42 . Note the overlapping: 68=42+26 26+42=68 (4x17). The number 42 , which is 3x14, the numerical value of דוד (4+6+4= 14), stands for the 'signature' of David.
15	2Sam 1,15	10+	40		221		
16	2Sam 1,16	16/26	54	3	237/53	S	See pp. 2-3 in my analysis of 1 Samuel .
17	2Sam 1,17	10 Intro-	37		247		
18	2Sam 1,18	10 duction	37		257		
19	2Sam 1,19	8	33		265		
20	2Sam 1,20	15 42	64		280		
21	2Sam 1,21	19	67		299		
22	2Sam 1,22	14	55		313		
23	2Sam 1,23	12 26	63		325		
24	2Sam 1,24	14	56		339		
25	2Sam 1,25	9 42	39		348		
26	2Sam 1,26	13	48		361		
27	2Sam 1,27	6/ 130 (5x26)	27		367/130	P	
27	Part I: 1,1-27	367	1407	3x	367		

Observation 1 In Part I, 24 of the 27 verses (89%) and 326 of the 367 words (89%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part II: 2,1-3,1 Civil war during the reign of two kings in Israel

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
28	2Sam 2,1a	11+3+1=15+	60	4-5	382	DS 1	§1 David is anointed Judah's king at Hebron DS 1: 3+1 DS 2: 1+1
	2Sam 2,1b	4+1+1=6+	25		388	DS 2	
29	2Sam 2,2	12+	52		400		The entire paragraph is highlighted by 119 words. The S draws attention to David's message to the men of Jabesh-gil'ead that he is now king.
30	2Sam 2,3	10+	41		410		
31	2Sam 2,4	21+	79		431	S	
32	2Sam 2,5	22+	89	6	453		
33	2Sam 2,6	16+	61	7	469		
34	2Sam 2,7	17+	67		486/119	P	
35	2Sam 2,8	15+	51		501		
36	2Sam 2,9	14+	59		515	P	§2 Abner makes Ishbosheth king over 'all Israel'
37	2Sam 2,10	19+	67		534		§3 Ishbosheth reigns two years; David seven years §§1-3 (2,1-11) have altogether 182 (7x26) words.
38	2Sam 2,11	15/182 (7x26)	57		549/182	S	
39	2Sam 2,12	11+	41		560		§4 The situation with two kings erupts into civil war
40	2Sam 2,13	20+	78		580		
41	2Sam 2,14	12+	53		592		This is how the author/redactor highlighted his text by means of multiples of 17 and 26
42	2Sam 2,15	14+	59		606		
43	2Sam 2,16	16+	70		622		<u>2,12-27</u> Preparations for war and the war: 260 words. <u>2,17-27</u> The war: 187 (11x17) words. <u>2,17-32</u> The war and the end of the fighting: 260 wds. It was Klaas Eikelenboom, who has observed this most ingenious construction.
44	2Sam 2,17	14+	56		636		
45	2Sam 2,18	15+	65		651		
46	2Sam 2,19	13+ 260	53		664		
47	2Sam 2,20	9+	38		673		
48	2Sam 2,21	23+	81		696		
49	2Sam 2,22	18+	63		714		
50	2Sam 2,23	26+	102		740		
51	2Sam 2,24	19+	71	260	759		
52	2Sam 2,25	13+	54		772		
53	2Sam 2,26	22	86		794		All this means that Part II as a whole, except 3,1, is highlighted by 17 and 26 .
54	2Sam 2,27	15/187	55		809/260		
55	2Sam 2,28	15+	60		824		<u>2,32</u> After Asahel's burial, Joab goes to Hebron: 17 ws.
56	2Sam 2,29	15+	67		839		
57	2Sam 2,30	15+	58		854		
58	2Sam 2,31	11+	45		865		
59	2Sam 2,32	17	71		882		
60	2Sam 3,1	16	63		898/349	S	
33	Part II: 2,1-3,1	531	2097	4x	531		

Observation 2 In Part II, 32 of the 33 verses (97%) and 515 of the 531 words (97%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part III: 3,2-4,12 David's rule at Hebron until the murder of Ishbosheth

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
61	2Sam 3,2	9	48		907		§1 The house of David becomes stronger and stronger Special emphasis on the fourth, fifth and sixth sons: 17 .
62	2Sam 3,3	14	59		921		
63	2Sam 3,4	8+	37		929		
64	2Sam 3,5	9/17	38		938/40	P	
65	2Sam 3,6	14+	56		952		§2 Abner is offended by Ishbosheth, the son of Saul The paragraph is in its entirety highlighted by its 102 (6x17) words. <u>1,1-3,11</u> has 1040 (40x26) words. This point marks the end of Ishbosheth's kingship. See at 12,12 below!
66	2Sam 3,7	14+	52		966		
67	2Sam 3,8	33+	121		999		
68	2Sam 3,9	16+	53	8	1015		
69	2Sam 3,10	16+	61		1031		
70	2Sam 3,11	9/102(6x17)	32		1040/102	S	
71	2Sam 3,12*	21+	77		1061		
72	2Sam 3,13	29+	95		1090	S	§3 Abner negotiates with David and the Benjaminites *See Observation 3 for the text-critical problem. The function of the S is to draw attention to what follows. This applies to all P 's and S 's in the the text. <u>3,12-19</u> , dealing with Abner's initiatives to have David chosen as king, is highlighted by 153 (9x17) words. The last words Abner speaks to David: 17 . <u>3,23-26</u> , dealing with the steps taken by Joab to kill Abner, is highlighted by 68 (4x17) words. <u>3,27-30</u> , the story how Joab kills Abner for the blood of Asahel, who was slain by Abner in the battle at Gibeon, is in its turn also highlighted by 68 (4x17) words.
73	2Sam 3,14	20+	72		1110		
74	2Sam 3,15	10+	36		1120		
75	2Sam 3,16	14+	53		1134		
76	2Sam 3,17	17+	63		1151		
77	2Sam 3,18	2+6+12=20+	71	9	1171	DS 3	
78	2Sam 3,19	22/153(9x17)	86		1193/153	6+12	
79	2Sam 3,20	15	61		1208		
80	2Sam 3,21	27	104		1235		
81	2Sam 3,22	19	74		1254		
82	2Sam 3,23	18+	67		1272		
83	2Sam 3,24	16+	57		1288		
84	2Sam 3,25	19+	61		1307		
85	2Sam 3,26	15/68(4x17)	58		1322		
86	2Sam 3,27	19+	69		1341		
87	2Sam 3,28	16+	59	10	1357		
88	2Sam 3,29	20+	72		1377		
89	2Sam 3,30	13/68(4x17)	57		1390/350	P	
90	2Sam 3,31	21+	79		1411		§4 The reactions to the death of Abner The entire passage dealing with the mourning for Abner, his burial, David's lament made for Abner, and the explicit assertion that the king had no hand in the murder of Abner, is highlighted by 119 (7x17) words.
91	2Sam 3,32	15+	55		1426	P	
92	2Sam 3,33	9+	36		1435		
93	2Sam 3,34	17+	68		1452		
94	2Sam 3,35	28+	94		1480		
95	2Sam 3,36	13+	49		1493		
96	2Sam 3,37	16/119 (7x17)	54		1509	P	
97	2Sam 3,38	13	49		1522		
98	2Sam 3,39	16	67	11	1538/148	P	
99	2Sam 4,1	12+	47		1550		
100	2Sam 4,2	24+	89		1574		
101	2Sam 4,3	9+	38		1583	S	
102	2Sam 4,4	25+	108		1608		
103	2Sam 4,5	18+	68		1626		
104	2Sam 4,6	14/102(6x17)	53		1640		
105	2Sam 4,7	21+	85		1661		
106	2Sam 4,8	31/52(2x26)	112	12	1692/154	S	
107	2Sam 4,9	20	68	13	1712		
108	2Sam 4,10	19	72		1731		
109	2Sam 4,11	21	77		1752		
110	2Sam 4,12	23	98		1775/83	P	
50	Part III: 3,2-4,12	877	3315	6x	877		§6 David orders his young men to kill the murderers

Observation 3 In Part III:3,2-4,12 39 of the 50 verses (78%) and 800 of the 877 words (91%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

*The second לאמר in 3,12 is problematic, moreover, למי־ארץ cannot be read as if it were למי־הארץ, 'to whom does the land belong?'. There is no solution for the problem other than an emendation, provided that the number of words are maintained, since the present numerical structure is based on 21 words in 3,12.

Part IV: 5,1-6,23 David king in Jerusalem and the triumphal entry of the Ark

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
111	2Sam 5,1	13	55		1788		§1 At Hebron the Israelites anoint David as their king 3+11
112	2Sam 5,2	14+3+11=28	106	14	1816	DS 4	
113	2Sam 5,3	21	83	15	1837/62	P	
114	2Sam 5,4	8	30		1845		§2 David attacks the Jebusites and captures Jerusalem 5,5-10 In Hebron David rules over Judah for 7.5 years and in Jerusalem he rules for 33 years over Israel and Judah combined. 33=3x11 , the number of fulfilment. He has become powerful, for YHWH is with him. The passage is highlighted by 78 (3x26) words.
115	2Sam 5,5	17	70		1862		
116	2Sam 5,6	24+	95		1886		
117	2Sam 5,7	8+	27		1894		
118	2Sam 5,8	25+	90		1919		
119	2Sam 5,9	13+	48		1932		
120	2Sam 5,10	8/78(3x26)	33	16	1940/103	P	
121	2Sam 5,11	17	64		1957		
122	2Sam 5,12	14	54	17	1971/31	S	§3 A house is built for David: YHWH has endorsed him 5,11 King Hiram of Tyre facilitates the project: 17 words.
123	2Sam 5,13	14	63		1985		§4 David takes more wives and gets eleven children
124	2Sam 5,14	9	41		1994		
125	2Sam 5,15	4	21		1998		
126	2Sam 5,16	3	20		2001/30	P	
127	2Sam 5,17	20+	76		2021		§5 The Philistines attack, but David defeats them
128	2Sam 5,18	5+	25		2026		
129	2Sam 5,19	9+4+11=20+	77	18-19	2046	DS 5	5,17-20 The Philistine attack fails: YHWH has promised David that he would deliver them into his hands: 68 .
130	2Sam 5,20	23/68(4x17)	80	20	2069	4+11	
131	2Sam 5,21	7	30		2076/75	P	§6 With YHWH's help a second attack is warded off 5,23-24 The oracle is made up of 9+17=26 words.
132	2Sam 5,22	7	34		2083		
133	2Sam 5,23	4+9=13	51	21	2096	DS 6	
134	2Sam 5,24	17	67	22	2113	4+26	
135	2Sam 5,25	13	44	23	2126/50	P	
136	2Sam 6,1	9+	32		2135		§7 The Ark as symbol of YHWH's presence 6,1-3 The Ark is mounted on a new cart and is conveyed from Abinadab's house, guided by Uzzah and Ahio: 52 . 6,10 David does not want the Ark in his city: 17 . 6,11-15 During the three months the Ark stays in the house of Obed-edom, YHWH blesses him and all his household. When the Ark is on its way to Jerusalem, David dances before YHWH with all his might: 78 words. 6,12-23 When the Ark comes into the city of David, Michal sees the king dancing and leaping, and she despises him in her heart. When David has blessed the people, he returns to bless his household, but Michal rebukes him for his shameful behaviour: 102 words.
137	2Sam 6,2	23+	87	24	2158		
138	2Sam 6,3	20/52(2x26)	86		2178		
139	2Sam 6,4	12	53		2190		
140	2Sam 6,5	15	78	25	2205		
141	2Sam 6,6	14	51		2219		
142	2Sam 6,7	14	50	26	2233		
143	2Sam 6,8	16	56	27	2249		
144	2Sam 6,9	12	44	28-29	2261		
145	2Sam 6,10	17	58	30	2278		
146	2Sam 6,11	17 17+	60	31-32	2295		
147	2Sam 6,12	29+ 29+	102	33	2324		
148	2Sam 6,13	11+ 11+	43	34	2335		
149	2Sam 6,14	10+ 10+	36	35	2345		
150	2Sam 6,15	11+ 11/78	45	36	2356		
151	2Sam 6,16	23+	85	37-38	2379		
152	2Sam 6,17	19+	73	39-40	2398		
153	2Sam 6,18	11+	47	41	2409		
154	2Sam 6,19	22+	81		2431		
155	2Sam 6,20	27	107		2458		
156	2Sam 6,21	23+	83	42-44	2481		
157	2Sam 6,22	12+	51		2493		
158	2Sam 6,23	10/208(8x26)	31		2503/377	P	
48	Part IV: 5,1-6,23	728(28x26)	2823	31x	728 (28x26)		

Observation 4 Part IV: 5,1-6,23 as a whole is governed by its **728** (28x26) words. Additionally, 34 of the 48 verses (71%) and 552 of the 728 words (76%) are highlighted. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part V: 7,1-29 The Davidic dynasty: Nathan's oracle and David's response

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
159	2Sam 7,1	11	42	45	2514		§1 David consults Nathan about a house for God
160	2Sam 7,2	16	65		2530		
161	2Sam 7,3	12	38	46	2542/39	S	
162	2Sam 7,4	9	33	47	2551	DS 7	§2 YHWH's promise to David about his dynasty
163	2Sam 7,5	14+	45	48	2565	9+197	
164	2Sam 7,6	17+	69		2582		
165	2Sam 7,7	26+	96		2608		
166	2Sam 7,8	21+	77	49	2629		
167	2Sam 7,9	18+	67		2647		
168	2Sam 7,10	17+	77		2664		
169	2Sam 7,11	20+	74	50-51	2684		
170	2Sam 7,12	16+ 16+	67		2700		
171	2Sam 7,13	10+ 10/26	37		2710		
172	2Sam 7,14	16+	62		2726		
173	2Sam 7,15	11+	45		2737		
174	2Sam 7,16	11/197	45		2748		
175	2Sam 7,17	11	39		2759/217	S	
176	2Sam 7,18	17	63+	52-53	2776		
177	2Sam 7,19	17	67+	54-55	2793		
178	2Sam 7,20	12	44+	56	2805		David goes into the shrine and starts his prayer on a self-deprecating note: 'Who am I?': 17+17.
179	2Sam 7,21	11+	44+		2816		7,21-22 David professes YHWH's greatness and incomparability: 26.
180	2Sam 7,22	15/26	57+	57	2831		
181	2Sam 7,23	28	112+		2859		
182	2Sam 7,24	14	50+	58	2873	S	
183	2Sam 7,25	16	58+	59	2889		
184	2Sam 7,26	16	63+	60	2905		
185	2Sam 7,27	25	87+	61	2930		
186	2Sam 7,28	15+	59+	62	2945		
187	2Sam 7,29	19/34(2x17)	76/780	63	2964/205	P	
29	Part V: 7,1-29	461	1758	19x	461		
187	Parts I-V: 1-7	2964 (114x26)	11400	63x	2964 (114x26)		
							DSS 1-7 have altogether 255 (15x17) words.

Observation 5 In Part V: 7,1-29, 11 of the 29 verses (38%) and 146 of the 461 words (37%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Until this point (7,29) 2 Samuel has 187 (11x17) verses and 2964 (114x26) words. The fact that Chapters 1-7 have been rounded off and sealed on two levels by both divine name numbers is highly significant, being a most sophisticated specimen of compositional craftsmanship.

That 7,29 marks an important turning-point in the account of the rise of David to kingship over all Israel is underscored by another piece of information. The story how he was *officially* made king, starting with the initiatives taken by Abner until his response to YHWH's promises regarding his dynasty (3,12-7,29), is rounded off and sealed by having 1924 (74x26) words.

And to crown it all, in the account of the events from David's anointment to be king (2,1-4) until 7,29 there are precisely 7 divine speeches with altogether 255 (15x17) words! For particulars, see the overview of the divine speeches at the end of the file.

Part VI: 8,1-10,19 David's wars and his administration

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
188	2Sam 8,1	15+	56		2979		§1 David's defeat of the Moabites and Hadadezer 8,1-4 The story of these two military feats is highlighted by 68 (4x 17) words.
189	2Sam 8,2	21+	89		3000		
190	2Sam 8,3	12+	43		3012		
191	2Sam 8,4	20/68(4x17)	75		3032		
192	2Sam 8,5	14	55		3046		
193	2Sam 8,6	18	68	64	3064		
194	2Sam 8,7	12	47		3076		
195	2Sam 8,8	10	41		3086/122	S	
196	2Sam 8,9	11	35		3097		§2 David's defeat of Toi of Hamath and the Edomites <u>8,15-18</u> David's officials. Compare <u>20,23-26</u> .
197	2Sam 8,10	31	116		3128		
198	2Sam 8,11	15	55	65	3143		
199	2Sam 8,12	12	56		3155		
200	2Sam 8,13	12	42		3167		
201	2Sam 8,14	19	70	66	3186/100		
202	2Sam 8,15	12+	42		3198		
203	2Sam 8,16	9+	38		3207		
204	2Sam 8,17	9+	41		3216		
205	2Sam 8,18	9/39	41		3225/139	P	
206	2Sam 9,1	14	53		3239		§3 David's loyalty to Saul and Jonathan's memory <u>9,1-13</u> Compare <u>21,1-14</u> . <u>9,4</u> Ziba tells David Mephibosheth's whereabouts: 17 . <u>9,7</u> David's promise to Mephibosheth: 26 words. <u>9,9</u> David assigns Saul's property to his grandson: 17 .
207	2Sam 9,2	16	63		3255		
208	2Sam 9,3	20	78		3275		
209	2Sam 9,4	17	59		3292		
210	2Sam 9,5	10	39		3302		
211	2Sam 9,6	18	71		3320		
212	2Sam 9,7	26	91		3346		
213	2Sam 9,8	11	40		3357		
214	2Sam 9,9	17	64		3374		
215	2Sam 9,10	27	113		3401		
216	2Sam 9,11	21	78		3422		
217	2Sam 9,12	11	47		3433		
218	2Sam 9,13	14	54		3447/222	P	
219	2Sam 10,1	11	41		3458		§4 The war with the Ammonites and Aramaeans <u>10,2</u> David offers condolences to King Hanun: 26 . Chapter 10, §4, is a single literary unit. <u>10,5</u> David's treatment of his humiliated envoys: 17 . <u>10,6-14</u> The entire account of Joab's war with the Ammonites is highlighted by 136 (8x 17) words.
220	2Sam 10,2	26	93		3484		
221	2Sam 10,3	28	109		3512		
222	2Sam 10,4	16	63		3528		
223	2Sam 10,5	17	73		3545		
224	2Sam 10,6	31+	112		3576		
225	2Sam 10,7	9+	34		3585		
226	2Sam 10,8	15+	63		3600		
227	2Sam 10,9	16+	70		3616		
228	2Sam 10,10	11+	40		3627		
229	2Sam 10,11	16+	63		3643		
230	2Sam 10,12	11+	48	67	3654		
231	2Sam 10,13	9+	38		3663		
232	2Sam 10,14	18/136(8x17)	69		3681		
233	2Sam 10,15	8	30		3689		
234	2Sam 10,16	15	62		3704		
235a	2Sam 10,17a	2	8		3706	S	
235b	2Sam 10,17b	15	61		3721		
236	2Sam 10,18	20	75		3741		
237	2Sam 10,19	20	84		3761/314	P	
50	Part VI: 8,1-10,19	797	3096	4x	797		<u>6,1-10,19</u> 25 speeches with altogether 663 (39x 17) words and 2522 (97x 26) letters.

Observation 6 In Part V: 8,1-10,19, 18 of the 50 verses (36%) and 307 of the 797 words (39%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part VII: 11,1-12,31 The Bathsheba affair and its aftermath

Vss	Texts	Words	Letts.	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
238	2Sam 11,1	26	102		3787	S	<p>§1 David lies with Bathsheba, so Uriah must die <u>11,1</u> David remains alone in Jerusalem! 26 words. This verse clearly functions as a <i>prelude</i> on what happens after Chapter 10 which deals with battles. Note that <u>10,1-11,1</u> has 340 (10x17) words! The S after v. 1 serves to direct attention <i>backwards</i> to the battles, and <i>forwards</i> to the story of David's affair with Bathsheba in 11,2ff. See also Observation 18 below. <u>11,7-15</u> David contrives to liquidate Uriah by sending him to Joab with a letter in which Joab is ordered to imperil him on the battlefield: 153 (9x17) words.</p>
239	2Sam 11,2	21	76		3808		
240	2Sam 11,3	14	53		3822		
241	2Sam 11,4	14	62		3836		
242	2Sam 11,5	8	33		3844		
243	2Sam 11,6	15	52		3859		
244	2Sam 11,7	11+	51		3870		
245	2Sam 11,8	15+	64		3885		
246	2Sam 11,9	13+	45		3898		
247	2Sam 11,10	21+	73		3919		
248	2Sam 11,11	34+	133		3953		
249	2Sam 11,12	16+	65		3969		
250	2Sam 11,13	18+	72		3987		
251	2Sam 11,14	10+	38		3997		
252	2Sam 11,15	15/153(9x17)	60		4012/251	S	
253	2Sam 11,16	16+	54		4028		<p>§2 Joab does what he is ordered to do The paragraph is in its entirety highlighted by its 136 (8x17) words.</p>
254	2Sam 11,17	15+	57		4043		
255	2Sam 11,18	8+	31		4051		
256	2Sam 11,19	12+	45		4063		
257	2Sam 11,20	19+	68		4082		
258	2Sam 11,21	26+	96		4108		
259	2Sam 11,22	10+	36		4118		
260	2Sam 11,23	16+	65		4134		
261	2Sam 11,24	14/136(8x17)	59		4148/136	S	
262	2Sam 11,25	25	91		4173		
263	2Sam 11,26	10	37		4183		<p>§3 David placates Joab and marries Bathsheba Note the cliffhanger in the 7 words of v. 27b: YHWH's disapproval of David's stratagems.</p>
264	2Sam 11,27	20	73	68	4203/55	P	
265	2Sam 12,1	19 19+	66	69	4222		<p>§4 Nathan confronts David with his crime <u>12,1-3</u> 50 words: Nathan's 'signature' (14+22+14)! See pp. 2-3 in <u>1 Samuel</u>. <u>12,4-6</u> David's response to Nathan's parable: 51. <u>11+102</u> (6x17) The function of the S is to focus on YHWH's verdict in vs. 11-12, which is made up of 34 (2x17) words. The words יהוה אמר כה in v. 11a are not part of the 102-word divine speech; they are used by Nathan to introduce and focus specifically on YHWH's verdict.</p>
266	2Sam 12,2	6 6+	22		4228		
267	2Sam 12,3	25 25/50	90		4253		
268	2Sam 12,4	21+	84		4274		
269	2Sam 12,5	16+	50	70	4290		
270	2Sam 12,6	14/51(3x17)	48		4304		
271	2Sam 12,7	11+9=20	77	71	4324	DS 8	
272	2Sam 12,8	21	78		4345		
273	2Sam 12,9	23	85	72	4368		
274	2Sam 12,10	18+	63		4386	S	
275	2Sam 12,11	3+17+	80	73	4406		
276	2Sam 12,12	14/34(2x17)	48		4420/217	S	
277a	2Sam 12,13a	6	23	74-75	4426	S	<p><u>1,1-12,12</u> has 4420 (170x26) words. <u>1,1-3,11</u> has 1040 (40x26) words. See at 3,11! <u>3,12-12,12</u> has 3380 (130x26) words. <u>12,16-17</u> David prays for the life of the child, fasts, and lies in sackcloth until the death of the child: 26. <u>12,18-20</u> He bathes, anoints himself, puts on fresh clothes, prostrates himself in the house of God, returns home and breaks his fast: 68 (4x17) words. <u>12,23-24</u> From <u>1,1</u> until <u>12,25</u> 289 (17x17) verses. From <u>11,1</u> until <u>12,25</u> 52 (2x26) verses.</p>
277b	2Sam 12,13b	10	35		4436		
278	2Sam 12,14	15	48	76	4451		
279	2Sam 12,15	14	51	77	4465		
280	2Sam 12,16	13+	47		4478		
281	2Sam 12,17	13/26	47		4491		
282	2Sam 12,18	31+	115		4522		
283	2Sam 12,19	18+	66		4540		
284	2Sam 12,20	19/68(4x17)	79	78	4559		
285	2Sam 12,21	19	72		4578		
286	2Sam 12,22	14	53	79	4592		
287	2Sam 12,23	16	53		4608		
288	2Sam 12,24	18	64	80	4626		
289	2Sam 12,25	10	41	81	4636/216	P	

290	2Sam 12,26	9	36		4645		§5 Joab's war against Rabbah of the Ammonites 12,27-31 Joab sends a report to David about his attack on the Ammonite city of Rabbah, but invites David to complete the campaign himself by capturing and plundering Rabbah: 85 (5x17) words. Chapter 11 has 442 (17x26) words. Chapter 12 has 527 (31x17) words.
291	2Sam 12,27	13+	51		4658		
292	2Sam 12,28	17+	57		4675		
293	2Sam 12,29	10+	36		4685		
294	2Sam 12,30	20+	73		4705		
295	2Sam 12,31	25/85 (5x17)	102		4730/94	P	
58	Part VII: 11,1-12,31	969 (57x17)	3631	14x	969 (57x17)		

Observation 7 Part VII: 11,1-12,31 is completely governed by the number **17** through its **969 (57x17)** words. Additionally, 34 of the 58 verses (59%) and 528 of the **969** words (54%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The extra highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part VIII: 13,1-14,33 The rape of Tamar and its aftermath

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
296	2Sam 13,1	14	53		4744		§1 The rape of Tamar by Amnon
297	2Sam 13,2	15	66		4759		
298	2Sam 13,3	12	45		4771		
299	2Sam 13,4	23	78		4794		
300	2Sam 13,5	27	110		4821		
301	2Sam 13,6	20+	84		4841		13,6-7 David complies with Amnon's wish to let Tamar make some cakes for him: 34 words. 13,8-10 Tamar makes the cakes and brings them to Amnon, who will eat them only when everyone else is sent out from the room: 52 words. 13,11-14 Tamar protests, but he rapes her: 55 words representing Tamar's 'signature' (22+13+20=55) signifying her disapproval. See pp. 2-3 in 1 Samuel . 13,15-16 Amnon tells her to leave the room, but she protests again, considering sending her away an even greater wrong: 34 words. 13,18-19 Tamar is turned out and the door bolted. She mourns and goes away crying aloud: 17 + 17 . 55 words: Tamar's 'signature' (22+13+20=55).
302	2Sam 13,7	14/34(2x17)	50		4855		
303	2Sam 13,8	16+	65		4871		
304	2Sam 13,9	17+	70		4888		
305	2Sam 13,10	19/52(2x26)	79		4907		
306	2Sam 13,11	11 11+	42		4918		
307	2Sam 13,12	16 16+	52		4934		
308	2Sam 13,13	19 19+	71		4953		
309	2Sam 13,14	9 9/55	37		4962		
310	2Sam 13,15	18+	73		4980		
311	2Sam 13,16	16/34(2x17)	60		4996		
312	2Sam 13,17	14	54		5010		
313	2Sam 13,18	17	72		5027		
314	2Sam 13,19	17	63		5044		
315	2Sam 13,20	25 25+	102		5069		
316	2Sam 13,21	10 10+	34		5079		
317	2Sam 13,22	20 20/55	67		5099/369	P	
318	2Sam 13,23	16	70		5115		§2 Absalom presses David to let his sons join him Absalom urges the king to fulfil his wish, but David refuses and gives him his blessing: 34 words.
319	2Sam 13,24	15+	57		5130		
320	2Sam 13,25	19/34(2x17)	68		5149		
321	2Sam 13,26	14	51		5163		
322	2Sam 13,27	11	40		5174/75	S	
323	2Sam 13,28	29	111		5203		§3 Absalom orders the murder of Amnon Amnon is killed, his brothers flee and a rumour reaches David that all his sons are dead: 34 words.
324	2Sam 13,29	16+	68		5219		
325	2Sam 13,30	18/34(2x17)	62		5237/63	S	
326	2Sam 13,31	12	51		5249		§4 Jonadab belies the rumour: only Amnon is dead
327	2Sam 13,32	31	108		5280		
328	2Sam 13,33	18	56		5298/61	P	
329	2Sam 13,34	16	61		5314		§5 The royal princes are safe: Absalom flees 13,37-39 David becomes reconciled to the death of Amnon and now his heart goes out to Absalom with longing: 34 words.
330	2Sam 13,35	12	42		5326		
331	2Sam 13,36	18	69		5344		
332	2Sam 13,37	14+	53		5358		
333	2Sam 13,38	8+	31		5366		
334	2Sam 13,39	12/34(2x17)	39		5378/80	S	
335	2Sam 14,1	9	30		5387		§6 Joab contrives to let David recall Absalom Joab sends for a wise woman to persuade David: 26 . The S draws attention to David's response in vs. 5ff.
336	2Sam 14,2	26	99		5413		
337	2Sam 14,3	12+	46		5425		
338	2Sam 14,4	13+	55		5438/60	S	

339	2Sam 14,5	12+	42		5450		14,3-7 The feigned story of the wise woman that one of her sons has murdered his brother and that she is pressed to hand over the culprit: what to do?: 85 .
340	2Sam 14,6	15+	63		5465		
341	2Sam 14,7	33/85(5x17)	126		5498/60	P	
342	2Sam 14,8	9	35		5507		<p>§7 The continued pleas of the wise woman</p> <p>The S draws attention to the king's response in v. 10. <u>14,9-10</u> The next phase of her plea: 26 words.</p> <p><u>14,11-12</u> The following phase of her plea: 34 words.</p> <p>The S draws attention to her continued plea (13-17).</p>
343	2Sam 14,9	15+	59		5522	S	
344	2Sam 14,10	11/26	43		5533		
345	2Sam 14,11	23+	84	82-83	5556		
346	2Sam 14,12	11/34(2x17)	42		5567	S	
347	2Sam 14,13	18	70		5585		
348	2Sam 14,14	19	73		5604		
349	2Sam 14,15	25	88		5629		
350	2Sam 14,16	15	56		5644		
351	2Sam 14,17	21	84	84	5665/167	P	
352	2Sam 14,18	20	71		5685		§8 The woman discloses Joab's stratagem
353	2Sam 14,19	36	130		5721		
354	2Sam 14,20	21	76		5742/77	S	
355	2Sam 14,21	16	54		5758		§9 David orders Joab to bring Absalom back
356	2Sam 14,22	26+	97		5784		
357	2Sam 14,23	8/34(2x17)	35		5792/50	P	14,22-23 Joab is pleased that the king has granted his wish and he sets out to bring Absalom back: 34 .
358	2Sam 14,24	16	57		5808	S	§10 David refuses to see Absalom
359	2Sam 14,25	17+	59		5825		
360	2Sam 14,26	21+	80		5846		
361	2Sam 14,27	13/51(3x17)	52		5859/67	P	
362	2Sam 14,28	9	39		5868		
363	2Sam 14,29	18	66		5886		§11 Absalom presses Joab to send him to David
364	2Sam 14,30	20	76		5906/47	P	
365	2Sam 14,31	16	61		5922		
366	2Sam 14,32	32	112		5954		§12 Joab enables Absalom to come to David
367	2Sam 14,33	22	84		5976/70	P	
72	Part VIII: 13,1-14,33	1246	4708	3x	1246		

Observation 8 In Part VIII: 13,1-14,33, 31 of the 72 verses (43%) and 452 of the 1246 words (36%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part IX: 15,1-17,23 Absalom's revolt and David's flight

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure	
368	2Sam 15,1	12	51		5988		§1 Absalom makes a bid for royal power	
369	2Sam 15,2	31	117		6019			
370	2Sam 15,3	12	49		6031			
371	2Sam 15,4	16	63		6047			
372	2Sam 15,5	12	43		6059			
373	2Sam 15,6	17	67		6076/100	P		
374	2Sam 15,7	17	69	85	6093		§2 Absalom's request to go to Hebron	
375	2Sam 15,8	16	64	86-87	6109			
376	2Sam 15,9	8	32		6117/41	P		
377	2Sam 15,10	15	69		6132		§3 For fear of Absalom, David decides to flee	
378	2Sam 15,11	13	55		6145			
379	2Sam 15,12	20	84		6165			
380	2Sam 15,13	11+	41		6176			
381	2Sam 15,14	29+	115		6205			
382	2Sam 15,15	12/52 (2x26)	46		6217			
383	2Sam 15,16	13	53		6230			
								15,13-15 David tells his servants that Absalom will be merciless, so he must leave the city immediately: 52 (2x26) words.

384	2Sam 15,17	8	34		6238		
385	2Sam 15,18	22	79		6260		
386	2Sam 15,19	21	69		6281		
387	2Sam 15,20	19	69		6300		
388	2Sam 15,21	26+	86	88	6326		
389	2Sam 15,22	15+	51		6341		
390	2Sam 15,23	20+	73		6361		
391	2Sam 15,24	24/85(5x17)	88		6385		
392	2Sam 15,25	18	72	89	6403		
393	2Sam 15,26	3+3+6=12	41		6415/298	S	DS 9 3+3=6
394	2Sam 15,27	18	75		6433		
395	2Sam 15,28	11	44		6444		
396	2Sam 15,29	9	39		6453		
397	2Sam 15,30	22	79		6475		
398	2Sam 15,31	15+	60	90	6490		
399	2Sam 15,32	18+	71		6508		
400	2Sam 15,33	9+	30		6517		
401	2Sam 15,34	21+	83		6538		
402	2Sam 15,35	17+	73		6555		
403	2Sam 15,36	16+	66		6571		
404	2Sam 15,37	8/104(4x26)	33		6579		
405	2Sam 16,1	22	90		6601		
406	2Sam 16,2	21	91		6622		
407	2Sam 16,3	22	84		6644		
408	2Sam 16,4	17	67		6661		
409	2Sam 16,5	19+	70		6680		
410	2Sam 16,6	15/34(2x17)	60		6695		
411	2Sam 16,7	10+	37		6705		
412	2Sam 16,8	23+	84	91-92	6728		
413	2Sam 16,9	19/52(2x26)	69		6747/332	S	
414	2Sam 16,10	9+4+3=21	68	93	6768	S	
415	2Sam 16,11	27	89	94	6795	DS 10	4+3=7
416	2Sam 16,12	12	47	95-96	6807		
417a	2Sam 16,13a	4	17		6811	S	The S draws attention to Shimei's behaviour in v. 13b.
417b	2Sam 16,13b	12	53		6823/76	P	
418	2Sam 16,14	9	32		6832		
419	2Sam 16,15	9+	40		6841		
420	2Sam 16,16	17/26	63		6858		
421	2Sam 16,17	13	42		6871		
422	2Sam 16,18	18	61	97	6889		
423	2Sam 16,19	14	55		6903/80	P	
424	2Sam 16,20	9	34		6912		
425	2Sam 16,21	24	88		6936		
426	2Sam 16,22	13+	53		6949		
427	2Sam 16,23	18+	69		6967		
428	2Sam 17,1	15+	62		6982		
429	2Sam 17,2	17+	64		6999		
430	2Sam 17,3	14+	49		7013		
431	2Sam 17,4	8/85 (5x17)	36		7021/118	S	
432	2Sam 17,5	12	45		7033		
433	2Sam 17,6	19	73		7052/31	S	The S directs attention to Hushai's advice.
434	2Sam 17,7	12	47		7064		
435	2Sam 17,8	24	86		7088		
436	2Sam 17,9	22	86		7110		
437	2Sam 17,10	21+	66		7131		
438	2Sam 17,11	19+	67		7150		
439	2Sam 17,12	23+	84		7173		
440	2Sam 17,13	22/85(5x17)	74/510		7195/143	P	17,10-13 Since David has seasoned warriors with him, Hushai advises Absalom to wait so that the whole of Israel from Dan to Beersheba can assemble and give him their support: 85 .

15,21-24 Ittai the Gittite vows loyalty to the king and marches on with his whole company while David and his followers cross the gorge of the Kidron: **85 (5x17)** words.

DS 9 3+3=6

§4 David's journey from Jerusalem to Bahurim

15,31-37 David is told that Ahitophel is among the conspirators, whereupon he sends Hushai, to prepare Absalom's fall: **104** words.

[**15,35** David tells Husai to join Absalom: **17**.]

15,37-16,2 Husai comes into the city when Absalom arrives and David is met by Ziba, the servant of Mephibosheth, with much food: **51**.
16,4 David grants Ziba all the possessions of his master: **17** words.

16,5-6 When David approaches Bahurim, Shimei curses David and throws stones: **34**.

16,7-9 He calls David a scoundrel and a man of blood who has stolen Saul's throne; Abishai offers to knock off his head: **52 (2x26)**.

§5 David ignores him and proceeds on his way

4+3=7

The **S** draws attention to Shimei's behaviour in v. 13b.

§6 Hushai vows loyalty to Absalom

16,15-16 Hushai, David's friend, hails Absalom calling: "Long live the king!": **9+17=26** words.

§7 Ahitophel's advice to Absalom

16,22-17,4 A tent is set up on the roof for Absalom, where he lies with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel. Ahitophel offers to pursue David and all the elders of Israel approve of his advice: **85 (5x17)** words.

§8 Absalom seeks Hushai's advice

The **S** directs attention to Hushai's advice.

441	2Sam 17,14	25+	104	98-99	7220	S	§9 David is advised to cross the river at night 17,14-18 YHWH's intention was to frustrate Ahitophel's advice and bring disaster upon Absalom. The couriers who were sent to warn David, have a narrow escape: 104 (4x26).
442	2Sam 17,15	20+	84		7240		
443	2Sam 17,16	21+	82		7261		
444	2Sam 17,17	20+	89		7281		
445	2Sam 17,18	18/104(4x26)	72		7299		
446	2Sam 17,19	14	52		7313		
447	2Sam 17,20	21	96		7334/139	S	§10 David crosses the Jordan safely
448	2Sam 17,21	22	88		7356		
449	2Sam 17,22	21	67		7377		
450	2Sam 17,23	23	87		7400/66	S	
83	Part IX: 16,15-17,23	1424	5456	15x	1424		

Observation 9 In Part IX: 16,15-17,23, 39 of the 83 verses (47%) and 540 of the 1424 words (38%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part X: 17,24-19,8 The battle in Ephraim and the death of Absalom

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
451	2Sam 17,24	12	45		7412		§1 Preparations for battle
452	2Sam 17,25	24	84		7436		
453	2Sam 17,26	5	23		7441/41	S	
454	2Sam 17,27	18	73		7459		§2 In Mahanaim David receives provisions
455	2Sam 17,28	11	50		7470		
456	2Sam 17,29	18	70		7488		§§2-3 (17-27-18,18) The events from the time that David receives provisions, and the battle, until Absalom's death: 390 (15x26) words.
457	2Sam 18,1	12	44		7500		
458a	2Sam 18,2a	18	390	100	7518/77	S	§3 The battle and the death of Absalom The S serves to focus on David's response: 18,4 David decides to remain in the city: 17 . 18,6-9 David's men rout the Israelites in a fierce battle and they find Absalom hanging in mid air from an oak with his hair caught in the boughs: 68 (4x17) words. 18,14 Joab wounds Absalom with 3 sticks: 17 . The S serves to focus on Absalom's monument referred to in v. 18, which marks the end of his life. See Observation 17 below.
458b	2Sam 18,2b	9			7527		
459	2Sam 18,3	31	106		7558	S	
460	2Sam 18,4	17	71		7575		
461	2Sam 18,5	24	86		7599		
462	2Sam 18,6	9+	40		7608		
463	2Sam 18,7	15+	58		7623		
464	2Sam 18,8	17+	63		7640		
465	2Sam 18,9	27/68	112		7667		
466	2Sam 18,10	12	47		7679		
467	2Sam 18,11	19	70		7698		
468	2Sam 18,12	31	107		7729		
469	2Sam 18,13	13	46		7742		
470	2Sam 18,14	17	69		7759		
471	2Sam 18,15	10	44		7769		
472	2Sam 18,16	13	47		7782		
473	2Sam 18,17	20	80		7802	S	
474	2Sam 18,18	29	99		7831/313	S	
475	2Sam 18,19	14	53	100	7845		§4 David is informed about his son's death 18,24-26 David is sitting between the two gates, awaiting news from the battlefield. The watchman on the roof sees two runners: 52 . The S serves to focus on the message in v. 28b. 18,28b-29 This message is too vague for David to fathom what it means: 34 (2x17).
476	2Sam 18,20	21	68		7866		
477	2Sam 18,21	12	50		7878		
478	2Sam 18,22	27	94		7905		
479	2Sam 18,23	13	49		7918		
480	2Sam 18,24	20+	71		7938		
481	2Sam 18,25	13+	53		7951		
482	2Sam 18,26	19/52(2x26)	65		7970		
483	2Sam 18,27	20	78		7990/		
484a	2Sam 18,28a	10	45	101	8000	S	
484b	2Sam 18,28b	14+	53		8014		
485	2Sam 18,29	20/34(2x17)	84		8034		
486	2Sam 18,30	7	27		8041		

487	2Sam 18,31	16	62	102	8057	S	The S serves to focus on the message in v. 32. This message is clear; it is also a cliffhanger!
488	2Sam 18,32	19	79		8076/245	S	
489	2Sam 19,1	23	88		8099		
490	2Sam 19,2	8	32		8107		
491	2Sam 19,3	17	60		8124		
492	2Sam 19,4	12	55		8136		
493	2Sam 19,5	13	51		8149	S	
494	2Sam 19,6	24+	94		8173		
495	2Sam 19,7	28/52(2x26)	100		8201		
496	2Sam 19,8	29	99	103	8230/154	S	
46	Part X: 17,24-19,8	830	3144	4x	830		<p>§5 David weeps and mourns for Absalom</p> <p><u>19,3</u> David's grieving turns the victory for the army into mourning: 17 words.</p> <p><u>19,6-7</u> Joab uses firm words to get David appreciate the military success: 52 (2x26) words.</p>

Observation 10 In Part X: 17,24-19,8, 14 of the 46 verses (30%) and 257 of the 830 words (31%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part XI: 19,9-20,26 David's restoration and the fragility of his kingdom

Vss	Texts	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
497	2Sam 19,9	21	81		8251	S	§1 David returns to Jerusalem
498	2Sam 19,10	22	88		8273		
499	2Sam 19,11	13	55		8286	S	
500	2Sam 19,12	30+	109		8316		
501	2Sam 19,13	11+	43		8327		
502	2Sam 19,14	22+	78		8349		
503	2Sam 19,15	15/78	51		8364		
504	2Sam 19,16	16	65		8380		
505	2Sam 19,17	15	58		8395		
506	2Sam 19,18	18	75		8413		
507	2Sam 19,19	17	70		8430		<u>19,17</u> Ziba is among those who meet David: 17
508	2Sam 19,20	24	84		8454		
509	2Sam 19,21	17	63		8471	S	<u>19,21</u> Abishai wants Shimei to be killed: 17 .
510	2Sam 19,22	15	53	104	8486/256	S	The S draws attention to David's words in v. 22
511	2Sam 19,23	25+	87		8511		§2 David pardons Shimei and Mephibosheth
512	2Sam 19,24	9+	32		8520	S	
513	2Sam 19,25	25+	88		8545		
514	2Sam 19,26	14+	52		8559		
515	2Sam 19,27	19+	70		8578		
516	2Sam 19,28	12+	54		8590		
517	2Sam 19,29	26/130(5x26)	83		8616/130	P	
518	2Sam 19,30	13	50		8629		
519	2Sam 19,31	16	55		8645/29	S	§3 David settles the land issue
520	2Sam 19,32	11	49		8656		§4 David offers to care for Barzillai
521	2Sam 19,33	17+	63		8673		
522	2Sam 19,34	11+	46		8684		
523	2Sam 19,35	13+	46		8697		
524	2Sam 19,36	32+	110		8729		
525	2Sam 19,37	12/85(5x17)	49		8741		
526	2Sam 19,38	22+	76		8763	S	
527	2Sam 19,39	17+	61		8780		
528	2Sam 19,40	13/52(2x26)	55		8793/148	S	<u>19,38-40</u> David agrees and before they cross the rivier, he says goodbye to Barzillai: 52 .
529	2Sam 19,41	16	61		8809		§5 Jealousy between Judah and Israel
530	2Sam 19,42	26	97		8835	S	
531	2Sam 19,43	26	85		8861	S	
532	2Sam 19,44	32	119		8893/100	S	
533	2Sam 20,1	25	93		8918		§6 The repudiation of David by the Israelites
534	2Sam 20,2	18	69		8936		
535	2Sam 20,3	29	117		8965/72	S	

536	2Sam 20,4	14	48		8979		§7 David orders Amasa to summon Judah
537	2Sam 20,5	10	40		8989/24	S	
538	2Sam 20,6	26	92		9015		§8 David orders Abishai to pursue Sheba: 26.
539	2Sam 20,7	15	68		9030		
540	2Sam 20,8	23	91		9053	S	The function of the S is to draw attention to Joab's words spoken to Amasa in v. 9, before he suddenly kills him.
541	2Sam 20,9	14	53		9067		
542a	2Sam 20,10a	18	54		9085/96	S	
542b	2Sam 20,10b	8	40		9093		§9 Joab and Abishai pursue Sheba
543	2Sam 20,11	15	56		9108		
544	2Sam 20,12	26	93		9134		<u>20,12</u> Amasa's dead body is carried into the field and covered with a garment: 26 .
545	2Sam 20,13	14	47		9148		
546a	2Sam 20,14a	9	55		9157/72	S	
546b	2Sam 20,14b	4			9161		
547	2Sam 20,15	20+	82		9181		§10 Sheba and his followers are besieged 20,15-17 During the battle, a wise woman wants to speak to Joab and he listens to what she has to say: 52 (2x26) words.
548	2Sam 20,16	16+	56		9197		
549	2Sam 20,17	16/52(2x26)	64		9213		
550	2Sam 20,18	11	46		9224		
551	2Sam 20,19	14	57	105	9238/81	P	
552	2Sam 20,20	10+	39		9248		
553	2Sam 20,21	31+	107		9279		
554	2Sam 20,22	27/68(4x17)	104		9306/68	S	
555	2Sam 20,23	12	45		9318		§12 David's officials <u>20,23-26</u> David's officials. Compare <u>8,15-18</u> . The book of Samuel until this point is finalized and sealed by 425 (25x26) occurrences of יהוה.
556	2Sam 20,24	7	31		9325		
557	2Sam 20,25	5	23		9330		
558	2Sam 20,26	6	22		9336/30	S	
62	Part XI: 19,9-20,26	1106	4153	2x	1106		
1369	1Sam 1 - 2Sam 20	2260	86942	425 (25x26)	22600		

Observation 11 In Part XI: 19,1-20,26, 33 of the 62 verses (53%) and 635 of the 1106 words (57%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part XII: 21,1-22 Various events during David's reign

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
559a	2Sam 21,1a	14+ 9+5	48	106-107	9350	S	§1 The famine in David's reign The function of the S is to draw attention to YHWH's words in v. 1b. Including the introduction: 17 words. <u>21,1</u> about the famine and the blood guilt: 26 words.
559b	2Sam 21,1b	12/26 2+10	44		9362	DS 11	
560	2Sam 21,2	25	113		9387	7+10=17	The fact that the story begins with 14 words may not be a matter of coincidence. It may have been consciously chosen as David's numerical signature.
561	2Sam 21,3	13	49	108	9400		
562	2Sam 21,4	22+	83		9422		
563	2Sam 21,5	14+	56		9436		The function of this S is to draw attention to David's answer in v. 6b.
564a	2Sam 21,6a	11+	51	109-110	9447	S	
564b	2Sam 21,6b	4/51(3x17)	15		9451		<u>21,4-6b</u> The Gibeonites are unhappy about what Mephibosheth has done to them and demand his execution: 51 (3x17) words.
565	2Sam 21,7	19	71	111	9470		
566	2Sam 21,8	27	99		9497		
567	2Sam 21,9	18	81	112	9515		
568	2Sam 21,10	29+	102		9544		<u>21,10-14</u> Rizpah's respectful act inspires David to give Saul and his sons a proper burial: 104 words. <u>21,1-14</u> compare <u>9,1-13</u> .
569	2Sam 21,11	10+	34		9554		
570	2Sam 21,12	30+	114		9584		
571	2Sam 21,13	13+	55		9597		
572	2Sam 21,14	22/104(4x26)	88		9619/283	P	
573	2Sam 21,15	15	63		9634		
574	2Sam 21,16	18	72		9652		
575	2Sam 21,17	25	91		9677/58	P	
576	2Sam 21,18	18+	65		9695	P	§3 Three most significant Philistine wars The entire paragraph dealing with these wars is highlighted by 78 (3x26) words.
577	2Sam 21,19	20+	80		9715	S	
578	2Sam 21,20	20+	81		9735		
579	2Sam 21,21	9+	35		9744		
580	2Sam 21,22	11/78(3x26)	42		9755/78	P	
22	Part XII: 21,1-22	419	1632	7x	419		

Observation 12 In Part XII: 21,1-22, 16 of the 22 verses (73%) and 259 of the 419 words (62%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part XIII: 22,1-51 The Song of David

Vs	Texts	Words Strophes	Verselines	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	Compositional Structure
1	2Sam 22,1	16		61	1-2	16	Introduction + Song: 17 + 365 = 382
2	2Sam 22,2	1+5	1	27	3	22	22,2b-3 Prelude: 17 words are used to mention
3	2Sam 22,3	12 17	2	50		34	10 qualities of YHWH as a refuge: <i>my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God, my rock of refuge, my shield, horn of my salvation, my stronghold, my refuge, my saviour.</i>
4	2Sam 22,4	5	3	22	4	39	
5	2Sam 22,5	7 18	2	30		46	
6	2Sam 22,6	6	5	24		52	
7	2Sam 22,7	12	6 7	51	5	64	
8	2Sam 22,8	10 31	3	44		74	22,4-50 Main body of the Song: 338 (13x26):
9	2Sam 22,9	9	9	34		83	17 (Prelude) + 338 + 10 (Coda) = 382.
10	2Sam 22,10	6	10	24		89	22,4-39 + 22,40-50: 260 (10x26) + 78 (3x26) = 338 (13x26).
11	2Sam 22,11	8 27	11	28		97	The Prelude and the Coda have altogether 27 words,
12	2Sam 22,12	8	4	33		105	which represents the numerical value of חסד , the
13	2Sam 22,13	5	13	18		110	<i>root</i> of תהחסד in v. 26a : (8+15+4= 27). Note also:
14	2Sam 22,14	7	14	27	6	117	Strophe 4: 27 words,
15	2Sam 22,15	5 23	5	23		122	
16	2Sam 22,16	11	16 17	43	7	133	and
17	2Sam 22,17	6	18	27		139	
18	2Sam 22,18	7 27	19	28		146	
19	2Sam 22,19	7	6	28	8	153	Strophe 6: 27 words.
20	2Sam 22,20	7	21	25		160	
21	2Sam 22,21	7	22	28	9	167	
22	2Sam 22,22	7	7	28	10	174	Strophe 7 has 34 (2x17) words.
23	2Sam 22,23	8 34 (2x17)	24	30		182	
24	2Sam 22,24	5	25	23		187	
25	2Sam 22,25	7	26	29	11	194	
26	2Sam 22,26	7	27	25		201	The 26th verse constitutes the centre of the Song.
27	2Sam 22,27	6	28	19		207	It contains the middle word: 182+1+182=365 ,
28	2Sam 22,28	8 35	8	30		215	flanked by 182 (7x26) words on either side. It also
29	2Sam 22,29	7	30	26	12-13	222	contains the two middle cola: 110=54+2+54(2x27) ,
30	2Sam 22,30	7	31	25		229	within the 27th verseline. The number 27 is the
31	2Sam 22,31	11+	32	40+	14	240	numerical value of the key-root חסד 'loyal' (v. 26a)
32	2Sam 22,32	9+	33	34+	15	249	(Pieter van der Lugt in a private communication).
33	2Sam 22,33	6/26 39 9	34	23+		255	Strophe 9: יהוה אחד formula, 26+13=39 words.
34	2Sam 22,34	6+	35	29+		261	In v. 32 YHWH is called incomparably unique!
35	2Sam 22,35	7/13	36	30/156		268	Strophe 9 is made up of 156 (6x26) letters.
36	2Sam 22,36	6	37	23		274	Strophes 7-9 have 108 words (4x27) .
37	2Sam 22,37	6	38	26		280	
38	2Sam 22,38	7 26	10	30		287	Strophe 10: 26 words.
39	2Sam 22,39	7	40	32		294	
40	2Sam 22,40	6	41	28		300	
41	2Sam 22,41	6 26	11	25		306	Strophe 11: 26 words.
42	2Sam 22,42	7	42	24	16	313	
43	2Sam 22,43	7	44	31		320	
44	2Sam 22,44	10	45	44		330	
45	2Sam 22,45	8 23	12	29		338	
46	2Sam 22,46	5	47	24		343	
47	2Sam 22,47	8	48	30	17	351	Strophes 13-14: 39 words.
48	2Sam 22,48	7 22	13	28		358	
49	2Sam 22,49	7	39	39		365	
50	2Sam 22,50	7	14	26	18	372	1 Samuel 1-22 130 (5x26) occurrences of יהוה until
51	2Sam 22,51	10 17 Coda	52	44		382	this point in the book. The Song opens and ends
51	Part XIII: 22	382	52	1549	18x	382	with 17 words functioning as an inclusion.

Observation 13 In Part XIII: 22,1-51 is in its entirety governed by its **51** (3x17) verses and **52** (2x26) poetic verselines (100%). Additionally, 24 of the 51 verses (47%) and 198 of the 382 words (52%) are highlighted by the numbers **17** and **26**. For full particulars, see my analysis of the Song from 2007 (now thoroughly revised): <http://www.labuschagne.nl/5.2sam22.pdf>.

Part XIV: 23,1-39 The last words of David and a list of his heroes

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יְהוָה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
632	2Sam 23,1	4+14+	69		10155		§1 23,1-7 The last words of David 4+34+52 14+17=31 YHWH speaks 17 words. Excluding the 4-word introduction, the entire paragraph is highlighted by 34 and 52 words.
633	2Sam 23,2	7+ 7+	24	131	10162	DS12	
634	2Sam 23,3	7+6/34 7/14	50		10175		
635	2Sam 23,4	11+	39		10186		
636	2Sam 23,5	22+	64		10208		
637	2Sam 23,6	8+	28		10216		
638	2Sam 23,7	11/52(2x26)	42		10227/90	P	
639	2Sam 23,8	19	74		10246	S	§2 23,8-12 David's three foremost heroes Special emphasis on the feats of Eleazar, son of Dodo, and Shamma, son of Agee: 52 words.
640	2Sam 23,9	18	74		10264		
641	2Sam 23,10	23+	85	132	10287	S	
642	2Sam 23,11	18+	73		10305		
643	2Sam 23,12	11/52(2x26)	50	133	10316/89	S	
644	2Sam 23,13	17	68		10333		§3 23,13-17 The most heroic three The visit of three mighty men to David: 17. David refuses to drink the water brought by the three men at the risk of their lives: 17.
645	2Sam 23,14	8	30		10341		
646	2Sam 23,15	11	41		10352		
647	2Sam 23,16	22	92	134	10374		
648	2Sam 23,17	17	74	135	10391/75	S	
649	2Sam 23,18	19	68		10410		
650	2Sam 23,19	11	36		10421	S	
651	2Sam 23,20	24	87		10445		§4 23,18-23 The feats of Abishai and Benaiah The function of the S is to draw attention to the outstanding feats of Benaiah in vs. 20ff. Abishai is called "chief of the thirty", of which the remaining twenty-nine names are listed.
652	2Sam 23,21	20	81		10465		
653	2Sam 23,22	9	35		10474		
654	2Sam 23,23	11	41		10485/94	S	
655	2Sam 23,24	10	34		10495		
656	2Sam 23,25	4	18		10499	S	
657	2Sam 23,26	6	23		10505	S	
658	2Sam 23,27	4	21		10509	S	§5 23,24-39 The remaining twenty-nine heroes 18 Setumahs divide the text into 19 sections, which were achieved by splitting vs. 29, 34, 36, and 37 into two by means of Setumahs.
659	2Sam 23,28	4	20		10513	S	
660a	2Sam 23,29a	4	15		10517	S	
660b	2Sam 23,29b	6	22		10523	S	
661	2Sam 23,30	5	22		10528	S	
662	2Sam 23,31	5	25		10533	S	
663	2Sam 23,32	5	25		10538	S	
664	2Sam 23,33	6	23		10544	S	
665a	2Sam 23,34a	5	21		10549	S	
665b	2Sam 23,34b	4	18		10553	S	
666	2Sam 23,35	4	19		10557	S	
667a	2Sam 23,36a	2	13		10561	S	
667b	2Sam 23,36b	6	7		10563	S	
668a	2Sam 23,37a	2	8		10565	S	
668b	2Sam 23,37b	7	27		10572	S	
669	2Sam 23,38	4	17		10576	S	
670	2Sam 23,39	5	21		10581/96	P	23,39b "There were thirty-seven in all".
39	Part XIV: 23,1-39	444 (12x37)	1724	5x	444 (12x37)		The number 444 represents the 37 heroes (39).

Observation 14 Only 9 of the 39 verses (23%) and 120 of the 444 words (27%) are highlighted by the numbers **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story. The total number of words, **444**, is a multiple of **37**, the number of heroes (v. 39b), which is a clear indication that the last words of David and the list of his heroes constitute a single coherent literary unit.

Part XV: 24,1-25 The census, a plague, and the acquisition of a holy site

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
671	2Sam 24,1	5+4+6=16+	57	136	10597		§1 David orders a census despite Joab's doubt DS 13 4+6=10 The function of the S is to focus on Joab's objection to the census, in v. 3. 24,1-9 The census of the Israelites: 153 (9x17). The function of the S is to draw attention to the remorseful prayer of David in v. 10b.
672	2Sam 24,2	24+	81		10621	S	
673	2Sam 24,3	23+	88	137	10644		
674	2Sam 24,4	19+	68		10663		
675	2Sam 24,5	13+	53		10676		
676	2Sam 24,6	12+	49		10688		
677	2Sam 24,7	13+	49		10701		
678	2Sam 24,8	10+	45		10711		
679	2Sam 24,9	23/153(9x17)	81		10734		
680a	2Sam 24,10a	9	25	138-139	10743	S	
680b	2Sam 24,10b	18	64		10761/180	S	
681a	2Sam 24,11a	3	11	140	10764	S	§2 The prophet conveys God's words to David 12+17=29 YHWH speaks 17 words. 24,12-13 YHWH's command and the conveyance of the options by Gad to David: 52 (2x26) words.
681b	2Sam 24,11b	9	30		10773	DS 14	
682	2Sam 24,12	17+ 17	56	141	10790		
683	2Sam 24,13	35/52(2x26)	121		10825/64	S	
684	2Sam 24,14	18+	55	142	10843		§3 David lays the punishment in YHWH's hands 24,14-17 YHWH sends a pestilence: 85 (5x17). 4+4=8 The function of the S is to draw attention to David's supplication in v. 17.
685	2Sam 24,15	18+	63	143	10861		
686	2Sam 24,16	9+4+4+7+	97	144-145	10885	S DS 15	
687	2Sam 24,17	25/85(5x17)	92	146	10910/85	P	
688	2Sam 24,18	8+7=15	55	147	10925		
689	2Sam 24,19	7	24	148	10932		§4 David buys Arauna's threshing-floor The prophet speaks on behalf of YHWH: 8+7=15. See Observation 16 below.
690	2Sam 24,20	15	64		10947		
691	2Sam 24,21	21	83	149	10968		24,22 Arauna offers the site for free: 17 words. The function of the S is to draw attention to Arauna's words in v. 23b. 24,23-25 Arauna gives it all to David, but he pays fifty shekels of silver: the plague stops: 52 (2x26). *153 (9x17) occurrences of the name YHWH.
692	2Sam 24,22	17 17	70		10985		
693a	2Sam 24,23a	5+	19	150	10990	S	
693b	2Sam 24,23b	7+	29		10997		
694	2Sam 24,24	25+	94	151	11022		
695	2Sam 24,25	15/52(2x26)	63	152-153	11037/127		
25	Part XV: 24,1-25	456	1686	18x	456		
137	Parts XII-XV:21-24	1701	6591	48x	1701		
695	2 Samuel 1-24	11037	42179	153x*	11037		
1506	The book of Samuel	24301	93533	473x	24301		

Observation 15 In Part XV: 24,1-25, 20 of the 25 verses (80%) and 391 of the 456 words (85%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Note how the concluding chapter of the book is crammed with divine name numbers and their multiples: 153, 17, 52, 85, 17, and 52.

The book of 2 Samuel is concluded by a significant number of words, like five others in the Enneateuch: Genesis (85=5x17), Exodus (26+34), Deuteronomy (34+26), 1 Samuel (68=4x17), 2 Samuel (52=2x26), and 2 Kings (153 9x17).

Additionally 2 Samuel is finalized and sealed by 153 (9x17) occurrences of the name YHWH.

The Divine Speeches in 2 Samuel

Speeches	Texts	Introductions	Speakers >> Addressees	Words	Totals
1	2 Sam 2,1a	3	YHWH >> David	1	4
2	2 Sam 2,1b	1	YHWH >> David	1	2
3	2 Sam 3,18	6	YHWH >> David	12	18
4	2 Sam 5,2	3	YHWH >> David	11	14
5	2 Sam 5,19	4	YHWH >> David	7	255(15x17)
6	2 Sam 5,23f.	4	YHWH >> David	26	30
7	2 Sam 7,4-16	9	YHWH >> Nathan	197	206
8	2 Sam 12,7-12	11+3=14	YHWH >> David	102 (6x17)	116
9	2 Sam 15,26	3	YHWH >> David	3	6
10	2 Sam 16,10	4/51(3x17)	YHWH >> Simei	3	7
11	2 Sam 21,1	7	YHWH >> David	10	17
12	2 Sam 23,2ff.	14+	YHWH >> David	17/390 (15x26)	31+
13	2 Sam 24,1	4+	YHWH >> David	6	10+
14	2 Sam 24,11f.	12+	YHWH >> Gad	17	29+
15	2 Sam 24,16	4/34(2x17)	YHWH >> Angel	4	8/78 (3x26)
15 DSS	2 Samuel 1-24	92		417	509

Observation 16

In speeches 1-7 (Chapters 1-7, a coherent literary unit) YHWH speaks altogether **255 (15x17)** words.

In the long bipartite speech (12,7-12) YHWH speaks altogether **102 (6x17)** words.

In speeches 1-10 (Chapters 1-16) there are altogether **51 (3x17)** words in the introductions.

In speeches 1-12 (Chapters 1-23) YHWH speaks altogether **390 (15x26)** words.

In speech 12 (23,2ff.) quoted by David in his last words, YHWH speaks **17** words.

In speech 14 (24,11f.) YHWH speaks **17** words to the prophet Gad.

Speeches 12-15 (23-24) have **34 (2x17)** words in the introductions and altogether **78 (3x26)** words.

These impressive numbers demonstrate the extreme care with which the divine speeches were composed, in order to weave as many as possible numbers that represent YHWH's presence into the text.

The symbolic presence of YHWH in the events described in 2 Samuel is underlined by the fact that the name יהוה occurs exactly **153 (9x17)** times in the book.

The 7 words spoken by the prophet Gad to David on behalf of YHWH (24,18), *"Go and set up an altar to YHWH on the threshing-floor of Arauna the Jebusite"*, fall outside the divine speeches, because they are not explicitly introduced as spoken by YHWH. Despite this, Gad's words have full divine authority, for it is said that David went up according to Gad's instructions, *"as YHWH had commanded"* (24,19).

Observation 17

Some human speeches and series of them stand out as being highlighted by **17** and **26**:

The total number of words spoken by Abner in the battle with Joab (2,14-26): **52 (2x26)**.

The very last words spoken by Abner to David shortly before his death (3,21): **17**.

Joab speaks to Abishai at a crucial stage during the battle (10,11f.): **26** words.

2 Samuel 11 contains 12 speeches made up of altogether **182 (7x26)** words and **680 (40x17)** letters.

All the words spoken by the wise woman summoned by Joab from Tekoa (14,4-20): **234 (9x26)** words.

The story of Absalom's revolt until his death (15,1-18,18): **52** speeches with altogether **850 (50x17)** words.

Hushai speaks to Zadok and Abiathar (17,15f.): **34 (2x17)** words.

For the numerical features of the Song of David in Chapter 22, see pp. 17-18 above.

Observation 18: The unity of the book of Samuel and its relation with the book of Kings

From a numerical point of view, there is no evidence showing that chapters 21-24 as such, or the poetic sections within them, have secondarily been attached to the book of 2 Samuel. On the contrary, the fact that 2 Samuel as a whole, including the supposed Appendix or *Zusatz*, has been finalized and sealed as a distinct literary entity by the **153 (9x17)** occurrences of the name of יהוה can be regarded as a clear indication that 2 Samuel was *in its entirety* designed as the follow-up to 1 Samuel. Numerical evidence supports my conclusion that David's Last Words and its introduction (23,1-7) are integral to Part XIV: 23,1-39 – see Observation 14 – and that the Song of David (22,1-51) is inextricably linked to chapter 23. Note that there is no P after 22,51.

What is more, for reasons I have adduced elsewhere, the Song of David, and the other poetic sections in the Story of Ancient Israel, should not be regarded as *inset hymns* which were secondarily inserted into a finalized text, but as *imbedded hymns*, which were composed simultaneously with their prose context.

See the ["Introduction to the Embedded Poetry"](#).

So there is no reason to question or to have misgivings about the compositional unity of 2 Samuel 1-24, and for that matter, about the compositional unity of the book of Samuel as a whole.

On the contrary, there is strong numerical evidence showing that, within the book of Samuel, chapters 21-24 constitute a distinct literary entity in its own right, because 1 Samuel 1 through 2 Samuel 20 has been rounded off and sealed by its **425 (25x17)** occurrences of יהוה. What follows, the supposed Appendix (2 Samuel 21-24), is in fact an essential part of the book: its indispensable conclusion. Its function, in my opinion, is to round off the story about the emergence of kingship in Israel, and the reign of King David in particular, before the continuation of the story in the book of Kings. In a way, the so-called Appendix, containing the last deeds of David, his most significant wars (21), his Song as a grand finale (22), his Last Words and his 37 heroes (23), as well as his last failure, the unlawful census (24,1-17), and YHWH's command to acquire the threshing-floor of Arauna and to build an altar for YHWH (24,17-25), is a kind of stepping stone marking the transition from the rule of David to the reign of Solomon.

This settles, in my view, the problem of the compositional unity of the book of Samuel.

For an in-depth study of the Conclusion to the book of 2 Samuel (21-24), see H.H. Klement, *2 Samuel 21-24: Structure, Context and Meaning in the Samuel Conclusion*. Europäische Hochschul-schriften Reihe XXIII Theologie, Bd. 682. Peter Lang Verlag: Frankfurt am Main, 2000.

What has been said above also resolves the question of the relation of Samuel to Kings: the book of Samuel ends with chapter 24, and the book of Kings begins at 1 Kings 1,1. We simply cannot ignore the fact that the transmitters of the Masoretic text have rounded off the text of Samuel with a colophon containing particulars about the verses, words and letters of the book. It is therefore very unlikely, if not totally out of the question, that the book of Samuel ends at 1 Kings 2,12 with the death of David, or at 1 Kings 2,46 with the establishment of the kingdom in the hand of Solomon. 1 Kings 2,46 is generally regarded as marking the end of the so-called Succession Narrative. However, in my opinion, it is highly questionable whether 2 Sam. 9-20 + 1 Ki. 1,1-2,46 as a distinct narrative unit ever existed. It would be safer to assume that the author/redactor of Samuel-Kings drew on some pre-exilic (oral or written) 'court narratives' for his story about the emergence of kingship in Israel and the rise of David to the throne in Israel.

For an excellent review of the scholarly discussions about the so-called 'Succession Narrative', or 'Court Narrative', see Harold O. Forshey's article in *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, Volume 1 (1992), 1172-1179.

This brings us to the crucial question: why have the very last part of the story of David, his last deeds, and his death, been positioned at the beginning of the book of Kings? The answer is rather simple: the function of 1 Kings 1-2 is clearly to let David approbate and facilitate Solomon's kingship, due to the lack of a divine oracle granting the throne to him. His legitimacy depends solely on David's approbation. That is why David is still an acting character in 1 Kings, winding-up his activities before his death with a fatherly charge to his son (2,1-9). The story of David ends naturally with his death and burial, particulars about his reign, and the statement that *"Solomon sat on the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was firmly established"* (2,10-12).

But there is more to it. There is evidence to show that the author/redactor used a specific compositional technique, to be found elsewhere in Samuel, to realize his purpose: the procedure to let the *concluding* verse

or verses of a preceding literary unit function as a *cliffhanger* preluding on what follows. It is a dramatic and exciting ending to an episode ‘leaving the audience in suspense and anxious not to miss the next episode’.

See *The New Oxford Dictionary of English*, 1998. For the use of the literary device called a cliffhanger, see Observation 16, page 25, in my analysis of [Numbers](#). Compare also Josh. 4,14 and 24,31 in [Joshua](#), and 1 Sam. 15,15f; 15,35 and 28,1-2 in [1 Samuel](#), and 2 Sam. 11,27b and 18,32 above. For more examples, see page 4 in my analysis of [Trito-Isaiah](#).

But such a cliffhanger can also be ‘detached’ and linked to the next unit, where it serves a new purpose, now functioning as a *prelude* on what comes. For a telling example, see 2 Sam. 11,1 above. In terms of story-telling, 11,1 is an integral part of Chapter 10 dealing with battles, but it has now been ‘detached’ from that context (as indicated by a **P** after 10,19) and linked to the Bathsheba affair, where it preludes on David’s affair with her. The focus is particularly on the fact that “*David remained in Jerusalem*”. This sets the stage for this affair.

The same procedure is to be found in 1 Kings 1-2, a relatively large section. In terms of story-telling, it strictly belongs to the story of David in the book of 2 Samuel, but has been, so to speak, ‘detached’ from its logical setting and ‘transposed’ to 1 Kings where it functions as the prologue to the kingship of Solomon.

For particulars, see my analysis of [1 Kings](#), Part I: 1,1-2,12.