

The Numerical Features of the Book of Genesis

A New Approach to its Compositional Structure

Please read the [General Introduction](#)

Part III, Genesis 6,9-11,26 The Toledoth of Noah and his Sons

Part III, Gen 6,9-11,26, comprises three Toledoth, which must be regarded as three distinct, closely connected, literary entities:

The Toledoth of Noah (Section 1), Gen 6,9-9,29,

The Toledoth of the Sons of Noah (Section 2), Gen 10,1-11,9, and

The Toledoth of Shem until the Birth of Abram (Section 3), Gen 11,10-26.

In accordance with the Masoretic layout markers and in terms of content, the Toledoth of Noah (including the story of the Flood in 6,13-9,7), divides into **7** paragraphs. The Toledoth opens with a Prologue, in which YHWH assesses the wickedness and corruption in the world, and ends at 9,27, because 9,28-29 clearly constitutes an Epilogue which rounds it off.

§1 Gen 6,9-12 **S** Prologue: YHWH assesses the corruption in the world

§2 Gen 6,13-22 **S** YHWH orders Noah to build an ark and to load it

§3 Gen 7,1-8:14 **S** The Flood and the annihilation of all living beings on dry land

§4 Gen 8,15-9:7 **S** Noah leaves the ark and God blesses him and his descendants

§5 Gen 9,8-17 **P** God establishes a covenant with Noah and his descendants

§6 Gen 9,18-27 A tragic event after the Flood: Noah dishonoured and Canaan cursed

§7 Gen 9,28-29 **P** Epilogue to the Toledoth of Noah.

Section 1 Genesis 6,9-9,29 The Toledoth of Noah

Vs	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
1	Gen 6,9	13	47		13		§1 6:9-12 Prologue: YHWH assesses the situation,
2	Gen 6,10	10+	29		23		Noah is righteous, other people are corrupt
3	Gen 6,11	7=17	31		30		Vs 10-11 have altogether 17 words.
4	Gen 6,12	14	48		44/44	S	44 2x the numerical value of Noah (14+8= 22).
5	Gen 6,13	17	62		61		§2 6,13-22 YHWH orders Noah to build an ark
6	Gen 6,14	14+	49		75		
7	Gen 6,15	15+	56		90		
8	Gen 6,16	15+	63		105		6,13-18 , dealing with YHWH's plan to annihilate
9	Gen 6,17	21+	71		126		the human race and to save Noah and his family,
10	Gen 6,18	13=78(3x26)	50		139		is highlighted by having 78 (3x26) words.
11	Gen 6,19	14	50		153		
12	Gen 6,20	14	62		167		
13	Gen 6,21	13	46		180		
14	Gen 6,22	9	28		189/145	S	
15	Gen 7,1	16+	55	37	205		§3 7,1-8:14 The Flood and the annihilation of all
16	Gen 7,2	18=34(2x17)	67		223		living beings except Noah and his family
17	Gen 7,3	13+	46		236		This passage, containing a divine speech, is
18	Gen 7,4	21=34(2x17)	83		257/68 (4x17)		highlighted by its 68 (4x17) words.
19	Gen 7,5	6	20	38	263		
20	Gen 7,6	10	32		273		
21	Gen 7,7	12	44		285		
22	Gen 7,8	15	56		300		
23	Gen 7,9	14	45		314		
24	Gen 7,10	8	31		322		
25	Gen 7,11	22	83		344		

26	Gen 7,12	8+	34		352		Rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights.
27	Gen 7,13	18=26	57		370		Passengers on the ark: Noah and his family
28	Gen 7,14	20	75		390		and
29	Gen 7,15	13+	42		403		all living creatures come two by two to Noah:
30	Gen 7,16	13=26	51	39	416/159		male and female. Then God closes the door.
31	Gen 7,17	14	55		430		
32	Gen 7,18	11	41		441		
33	Gen 7,19	14	52		455		
34	Gen 7,20	8	34		463		
35	Gen 7,21	16+	60		479		All living creatures perish.
36	Gen 7,22	10=26	35		489		Every living thing on dry land dies.
37	Gen 7,23	25	83		514		
38	Gen 7,24	7	28		521/105(15x7)		
39	Gen 8,1	20+	71		541		God causes a wind to sweep across the earth.
40	Gen 8,2	9+	41		550		The sources of water are stopped up.
41	Gen 8,3	12+	50		562		The water abates after 150 days and on the
42	Gen 8,4	11=52(2x26)	42		573		17 th day of the 7 th month, the ark comes to rest.
43	Gen 8,5	13	56		586		
44	Gen 8,6	11	39		597		
45	Gen 8,7	11	40		608		
46	Gen 8,8	10+	40		618		Noah sends out a dove to assess the situation.
47	Gen 8,9	24=34(2x17)	83		642/121		The dove finds no place to settle and returns.
48	Gen 8,10	11	40		653		
49	Gen 8,11	17+	58		670		From her second mission she returns with an
50	Gen 8,12	13+	50		683		olive leaf in her beak. On the 1 st day of the 1 st
51	Gen 8,13	22=52(2x26)	83		705		month of Noah's 601 st year, the ground was dry.
52	Gen 8,14	8	35		713/71	S	
53	Gen 8,15	5+	18		718		§4 8,15-9:7 Noah leaves the ark and God blesses him and his descendants
54	Gen 8,16	9+	32		727		
55	Gen 8,17	21+	76		748		
56	Gen 8,18	7+	27		755		8,15-21 These 7 verses are highlighted by having
57	Gen 8,19	14+	50		769		altogether 102 (6x17) words.
58	Gen 8,20	14+	57	40	783		
59	Gen 8,21	32=102(6x17)	108	41-42	815		
60	Gen 8,22	14 Poetry	49		829/116		See 9,6 for the second piece of poetry.
61	Gen 9,1	13	47		842		
62	Gen 9,2	20+	74		862		All creatures are made subject to human beings.
63	Gen 9,3	14=34(2x17)	43		876		They will be food for Noah and his descendants
64	Gen 9,4	6	20		882		
65	Gen 9,5	18	66		900		
66	Gen 9,6	12 Poetry	40		912		The two poetic verses have altogether 26 words.
67	Gen 9,7	7	25		919/90	S	Compare the 26 words containing poetry in 25-27!
68	Gen 9,8	8+	28		927		§5 9,8-17 God establishes a covenant with Noah
69	Gen 9,9	9=17+	37		936		
70	Gen 9,10	18+	64		954		God's first speech (9,8-11) is highlighted by the
71	Gen 9,11	17=52(2x26)	62		971		fact that altogether 52 (2x26) words are used.
72	Gen 9,12	18	68		989		
73	Gen 9,13	10	39		999		
74	Gen 9,14	8	32		1007		
75	Gen 9,15	20	73		1027		
76	Gen 9,16	18+	67		1045		The significance of the rainbow as the sign of the
77	Gen 9,17	16=34(2x17)	55		1061/142	P	covenant (16-17) is highlighted by 34 (2x17) words.
78	Gen 9,18	13+	44		1074		§6 9,18-27 A tragic event after the Flood
79	Gen 9,19	8+	27		1082		Noah's sons come out of the ark
80	Gen 9,20	6+	21		1088		The episode of Noah's drunkenness
81	Gen 9,21	7=34(2x17)	28		1095		
82	Gen 9,22	11+	39		1106		The entire text is governed by the number 17
83	Gen 9,23	21+	87		1127		through its 102 (6x17) words.

84	Gen 9,24	10+	33		1137		
85	Gen 9,25	7+ Poetry	30		1144		9,24-25 Noah curses Canaan: 17 words (10+7).
86	Gen 9,26	9+ 26 words.	33	43	1153		
87	Gen 9,27	10=68(4x17)	38		1163/102(6x17)		9,26-27 Noah's benedictory statement.
88	Gen 9,28	9	33		1172		§7 9,28-29 Epilogue to Noah's Toledoth
89	Gen 9,29	10	35		1182/121	P	Noah was 950 years old when he died.
89	6,9-9,29	1182	4334	7x	5892		749

Observation 1 The text consists of 89 verses, with 4 in the prologue, YHWH's assessment of the situation in the corrupt world (6,9-12), and 85 (5x17) in the story of Noah and his sons (6,13-9,29). The Toledoth opens with 44 words in 6,9-12, which represent 2x the numerical value of נח (14+8=22). This number returns in the 22 occurrences of **הַתְּבֵרָה**, 'the ark' (marked in the text below).

Observation 2 The text as a whole is sealed with 17 occurrences of the designation **Elohim** and 7 instances of the name **YHWH** (both marked in the Hebrew text below). The name **Noah** occurs altogether 34x (2x17). The number of fullness 7 plays an important role to express the completeness of the event: the text divides into 7 paragraphs, there are 7 pairs of ritually clean beasts; 7 days are mentioned (7,4.10; 8,10.12) and the 7th month (8,4). In the Flood-story (6,9-9,7), כל-בשר, 'all flesh', occurs 7x (6,12.13.17.19; 7,16.21; 8,17). YHWH's command to Noah to build an ark (6,14-21) is made up of 119 (7x17) words. The passage dealing with the ark and its load floating safely on the waters of the flood, while all living beings on dry land are annihilated (7,17-24), has 105 (15x7) words.

The Divine Speeches & Strings in the Toledoth of Noah in Genesis 6,9-9,29

<p>6,9 אלה תולדת נח נח איש צדיק תמים הנה בדור רתיו את האלהים¹ התמלך נח: 10 ויולד נח שלשה בנים את־שם את־חם ואת־יפת: 11 ותשחת הארץ לפני האלהים² ותמלא הארץ חמס: 12 וירא אלהים³ את־הארץ והנה נשחתה כי־השחית כל־בשר את־דרכו על־הארץ: ׀ 13 ויאמר אלהים⁴ לנח קני כל־בשר בא לפני כי־מלאה הארץ חמס מפניהם והנני משחיתם את־הארץ: 14 עשה לך תבת עצי־גפר קנים תעשה את־תבתך¹ וקפרת אתה מפניה ומחויץ בכפר: 15 וזה אשר תעשה אתה שלש מאות אמה ארך תבתך² חמשים אמה רחבה ושלשים אמה קומתה: 16 צהר תעשה לתבתך ואל־אמה תכלנה מלמעלה ופתח תבתך³ בצדדה תשים תחתיהם שנים ושלשים תעשה: 17 ואני הנני מבוא את־המבול מים על־הארץ לשחת כל־בשר אשר־בו רוח חיים מתחת השמים כל אשר־בארץ ינוע: 18 והקמתני את־בריתי אתך ובאת אל־תבתך⁴ אתה ובניך ואשתך ונשי־בניך אתך: 19 ומכל־החי מכל־בשר שנים מכל הבוא אל־תבתך⁵ להחית אתך זכר ונקבה יהיו: 20 מהעוף למינהו ומן־הבהמה למינהו מכל רמש האדמה למינהו שנים מכל ובאו אליך להחיות: 21 ואתה קח לך מכל־מאכל אשר יאכל ואספת אליך והנה לך ולחם לאכלה: 22 ויעש נח ככל אשר צוה אתו אלהים⁵ כן עשה: ׀ 7,1 ויאמר יהוה¹ לנח בא־אתה וכל־ביתך אל־תבתך⁶ כי־אתך ראיתי צדיק לפני בדור הזה: 2 מכל הבהמה הטהורה תקח־לך שבעה שבעה איש ואשתו ומן־הבהמה אשר לא טהרה הוא שנים איש ואשתו: 3 גם מעוף השמים שבעה שבעה זכר ונקבה לחיות זרע על־פני כל־הארץ: 4 כי לימים עוד שבעה אנכי ממטיר על־הארץ ארבעים יום וארבעים לילה ומחיתי את־כל־הקיום אשר עשיתי מעל פני האדמה:</p>	<p>Narrative: 44</p> <p>YHWH: ׀ Verse 13: 3 + 14 = 17</p> <p>Vs 14-21: 119 (7x17)</p> <p>Narrative: 9</p> <p>YHWH: ׀ Verse 1: 3 + 13 = 16</p> <p>Vs 2-4: 52 (2x26)</p>
---	--

<p>5 וַיַּעַשׂ נֹחַ כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּהוּ 2 וַיִּהְיֶה :</p> <p>6 וַיָּנַח בֶּן-שָׁשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַחֲמִבְּדִיל הָיָה מַיִם עַל-הָאָרֶץ :</p> <p>7 וַיָּבֵא נֹחַ וּבָנָיו וּנְשֵׁי-בָנָיו אִתּוֹ אֶל-7 הַתֵּבָה 7 מִפְּנֵי מַיִם הַמַּבּוּל :</p> <p>8 מִן-הַבְּהֵמָה הַטְּהוֹרָה וּמִן-הַבְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר אֵינָנָה טְהוֹרָה וּמִן-הָעוֹף וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר-רָמַשׁ עַל-הָאֲדָמָה :</p> <p>9 שְׁנַיִם שָׁנִים בָּאוּ אֶל-נֹחַ אֶל-8 הַתֵּבָה 8 זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה 6 אֱלֹהִים 6 אֶת-נֹחַ :</p> <p>10 וַיְהִי לְשִׁבְעַת הַיָּמִים וּמַיִם הַמַּבּוּל הָיוּ עַל-הָאָרֶץ :</p> <p>11 בַּשָּׁנָה שֶׁשֶׁ-מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה לְחַיֵּי-נֹחַ בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי בְּשִׁבְעָה-עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה נִבְקְעוּ כָּל-מַעֲיֵנֹת הַתְּהוֹם רִבְּה וְאַרְבַּת הַשָּׁמַיִם נִפְתְּחוּ :</p> <p>12 וַיְהִי הַנֶּשֶׁם עַל-הָאָרֶץ אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וְאַרְבָּעִים לַיְלָה :</p> <p>13 בַּעֲצָם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה בָּא נֹחַ וְשֵׁם וְהֵם וַיִּפֹּת בְּנֵי-נֹחַ וְאָשֶׁת נֹחַ וּשְׁלֹשֶׁת נְשֵׁי-בָנָיו אִתָּם אֶל-9 הַתֵּבָה 9 :</p> <p>14 הָמָּוָה וְכָל-הַחַיָּה לַמַּיִנָּה וְכָל-הַבְּהֵמָה לַמַּיִנָּה וְכָל-הַרְמֻשׁ הַרְמֻשׁ עַל-הָאָרֶץ לַמַּיִנָּה וְכָל-הָעוֹף לַמַּיִנָּה כֹּל צִפּוֹר כָּל-כְּנָף :</p> <p>15 וַיָּבֵאוּ אֶל-נֹחַ אֶל-10 הַתֵּבָה 10 שְׁנַיִם שָׁנִים מִכָּל-הַבְּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר-כָּבוֹ רוּחַ הַיָּיִם :</p> <p>16 וַהֲבֵאִים זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה מִכָּל-בְּשָׂר בָּאוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֱתוֹ 7 אֱלֹהִים 7 וַיִּסְגֹּר 3 וַיִּהְיֶה 3 בַּעֲדָיו :</p> <p>17 וַיְהִי הַמַּבּוּל אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם עַל-הָאָרֶץ וַיִּרְבּוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּשְׂאוּ אֶת-11 הַתֵּבָה 11 וַתָּרֶם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ :</p> <p>18 וַיִּגְבְּרוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּרְבּוּ מְאֹד עַל-הָאָרֶץ וַתִּלָּךְ 12 הַתֵּבָה 12 עַל-פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם :</p> <p>19 וְהַמַּיִם גָּבְרוּ מְאֹד מְאֹד עַל-הָאָרֶץ וַיִּכְסּוּ כָּל-הַהָרִים הַגְּבוּהִים אֲשֶׁר-תַּחַת כָּל-הַשָּׁמַיִם :</p> <p>20 חֲמֹשׁ עֶשְׂרֵה אַמָּה מִלְּמַעְלָה גָּבְרוּ הַמַּיִם וַיִּכְסּוּ הַהָרִים :</p> <p>21 וַיִּגְעַע כָּל-בְּשָׂר וְהַרְמֻשׁ עַל-הָאָרֶץ בָּעוֹף וּבַבְּהֵמָה וּבַחַיָּה וּבְכָל-הַשֶּׂרֶץ הַשֶּׂרֶץ עַל-הָאָרֶץ וְכֹל הָאָדָם :</p> <p>22 כֹּל אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁמַת-רוּחַ חַיִּים בְּאִפָּיו מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר בְּחַרְבָּה מָתוּ :</p> <p>23 וַיִּמַּח אֶת-כָּל-הַיְקוּמוֹ אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה מֵאָדָם עַד-בְּהֵמָה עַד-רְמֹשׁ וְעַד-עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיִּמְחוּ מִן-הָאָרֶץ וַיִּשְׂאָר אֲדָ-נֹחַ וְאֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ בַּתֵּבָה :</p> <p>24 וַיִּגְבְּרוּ הַמַּיִם עַל-הָאָרֶץ חֲמִשִּׁים וּמֵאוֹת יוֹם :</p> <p>8,1 וַיִּזְכֹּר 8 אֱלֹהִים 8 אֶת-נֹחַ וְאֶת כָּל-הַחַיָּה וְאֶת-כָּל-הַבְּהֵמָה אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ בַּתֵּבָה וַיַּעֲבֹר 9 אֱלֹהִים 9 רוּחַ עַל-הָאָרֶץ וַיִּשְׁכַּח הַמַּיִם :</p> <p>2 וַיִּסְכְּרוּ מַעֲיֵנֹת תְּהוֹם וְאַרְבַּת הַשָּׁמַיִם וַיִּכְלָא הַנֶּשֶׁם מִן-הַשָּׁמַיִם :</p> <p>3 וַיִּשְׁבּוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ הַלּוֹךְ וְשׁוֹב וַיִּחַסְרוּ הַמַּיִם מִקְצֵה חֲמִשִּׁים וּמֵאוֹת יוֹם :</p> <p>4 וַתִּגַּח 13 הַתֵּבָה 13 בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּשִׁבְעָה-עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ עַל הַרֵי אֲרָרָט :</p> <p>5 וְהַמַּיִם הָיוּ הַלּוֹךְ וְחֹסֵר עַד הַחֹדֶשׁ הָעֲשִׂירִי בְּעֲשִׂירֵי בְּאַחַד לַחֹדֶשׁ נִרְאוּ רֵאשֵׁי הַהָרִים :</p> <p>6 וַיְהִי מִקֵּץ אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וַיִּפְתַּח נֹחַ אֶת-חַלּוֹן 14 הַתֵּבָה 14 אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה :</p> <p>7 וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת-הָעֶרֶב וַיֵּצֵא יֵצוּא וְשׁוֹב עַד-יָבֶשֶׁת הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ :</p> <p>8 וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת-הַיּוֹנָה מֵאִתּוֹ לִרְאוֹת הַקְּלוֹ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה :</p> <p>9 וְלֹא-מָצְאָה הַיּוֹנָה מְנוּחַ לְכַף-רַגְלָהּ וַתָּשָׁב אֵלָיו אֶל-15 הַתֵּבָה 15 כִּי-מַיִם עַל-פְּנֵי כָּל-הָאָרֶץ וַיִּשְׁלַח יָדוֹ וַיִּקְחֶהּ וַיָּבֵא אֹתָהּ אֵלָיו אֶל-16 הַתֵּבָה 16 :</p> <p>10 וַיַּחַל עוֹד שְׁבַעַת יָמִים אַחֲרָיִם וַיִּסֹּף שְׁלַח אֶת-הַיּוֹנָה מִן-17 הַתֵּבָה 17 :</p> <p>11 וַחֲבֹא אֵלָיו הַיּוֹנָה לָעֵת עָרֵב וְהִגָּה עֲלֶיהָ זֵית טָרֵף בִּפְהִי וַיִּרְדַּע נֹחַ כִּי-קָלוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ :</p> <p>12 וַיַּחַל עוֹד שְׁבַעַת יָמִים אַחֲרָיִם וַיִּשְׁלַח אֶת-הַיּוֹנָה וְלֹא-יִסְפָּה שׁוֹב-אֵלָיו עוֹד :</p> <p>13 וַיְהִי בְּאַחַת וּשְׁשֵׁ-מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה בְּרֵאשׁוֹן בְּאַחַד לַחֹדֶשׁ תָּרְבּוּ הַמַּיִם מֵעַל הָאָרֶץ וַיִּסֹּר נֹחַ אֶת-מִכְסֵהוּ 18 הַתֵּבָה 18 וַיֵּרָא וְהִגָּה תָּרְבּוּ פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה :</p> <p>14 וּבַחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי בְּשִׁבְעָה וְעֶשְׂרִים יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ יָבֶשֶׁה הָאָרֶץ : ׀</p>	<p>Narrative:</p> <p>7,5-16:</p> <p>159</p> <p>6,9-7,16 416 (16x26) words</p> <p>Vs 17-24</p> <p>105 (15x7)</p> <p>Narrative:</p> <p>8,1-14</p> <p>192</p>
--	--

15 וַיְדַבֵּר אֱלֹהִים¹⁰ אֶל-נֹחַ לֵאמֹר:

16 צֵא מִן הַתֵּבָה¹⁹ אַתָּה וְאִשְׁתְּךָ וּבְנֵיךָ וְנִשְׂיֵי-בְנֵיךָ אִתְּךָ:

17 כָּל-הַחַיָּה אֲשֶׁר-אִתְּךָ מִכָּל-בֶּשֶׂר בְּעֹרֶף וּבִבְהֵמָה וּבְכָל-הַרְמֹשׁ
הַרְמֹשׁ עַל-הָאָרֶץ הוֹצֵא אִתְּךָ וְשָׂרְצוּ בָאָרֶץ וּפְרוּ וּרְבוּ עַל-הָאָרֶץ:

18 וַיֵּצְאוּ-נֹחַ וּבָנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וְנִשְׂיֵי-בָנָיו אִתּוֹ:

19 כָּל-הַחַיָּה כָּל-הַרְמֹשׁ וְכָל-הָעוֹף כָּל רוֹמֵשׁ עַל-הָאָרֶץ
לְמִשְׁפַּחְתֵּיהֶם יֵצְאוּ מִן הַתֵּבָה²⁰:

20 וַיְכַן נֹחַ מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה⁴⁴ וַיִּקַּח מִכָּל הַבְּהֵמָה הַטְּהוֹרָה וּמִכָּל הָעוֹף הַטְּהוֹר
וַיַּעַל עֹלֹת בַּמִּזְבֵּחַ:

21 וַיִּגַּרַח⁵ יְהוָה אֶת-הַרִיחַ הַנְּחִיחַ וַיֹּאמֶר⁶ יְהוָה אֶל-לִבּוֹ
לֹא-אֶסְפָּה לְקַלְל עוֹד אֶת-הָאָדָמָה בְּעֵבֹר הָאָדָם כִּי יַצֵּר לִבְ הָאָדָם רַע מִנְעֻרָיו
וְלֹא-אֶסְפָּה עוֹד לְחַכּוֹת אֶת-כָּל-חַי כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי:

22 עַד כָּל-יְמֵי הָאָרֶץ זָרַע וְקָצִיר וְקָר וְחֹם וְקִיץ וְחָרֵף וַיּוֹם וְגִילָה לֹא יִשְׁבְּתוּ:

9:1 וַיְבַרֵךְ אֱלֹהִים¹¹ אֶת-נֹחַ וְאֶת-בָּנָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וּמְלֵאוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ:

2 וּמוֹרָאֲכֶם וְחַתְכֶם יִהְיֶה עָלַי כָּל-חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ וְעַל כָּל-עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם
בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר תִּרְמֹשׁ הָאָדָמָה וּבְכָל-דְּגוּי הַיָּם בִּידְכֶם וְנָתַנּוּ:

3 כָּל-רֶמֶשׂ אֲשֶׁר הוּא-חַי לָכֶם יִהְיֶה לְאֹכְלָה כִּי רַק עֹשֶׂב נָתַתִּי לָכֶם אֶת-כָּל:

4 אֲדָ-בֶשֶׂר בְּנִפְשׁוֹ דָמוֹ לֹא תֹאכְלוּ:

5 וְאֵד אֶת-דַּמְכֶם לְנַפְשֹׁתֵיכֶם אֲדַרְשׁ מִיָּד כָּל-חַיָּה אֲדַרְשֶׁנּוּ
וּמִיָּד הָאָדָם מִיָּד אִישׁ אֶחָיו אֲדַרְשׁ אֶת-נַפְשׁ הָאָדָם:

6 שִׁפְדֹת יָם הָאָדָם בָּאָדָם דָּמוֹ יִשְׁפָּד כִּי בְצַלֵּם אֱלֹהִים¹² עָשָׂה אֶת-הָאָדָם:

7 וְאַתֶּם פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ וְשָׂרְצוּ בָאָרֶץ וּרְבוּ-בָהּ: ◦

8 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים¹³ אֶל-נֹחַ וְאֶל-בְּנָיו אִתּוֹ לֵאמֹר:

9 וְאֲנִי הִנְנִי מְקִיִּים אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם וְאֶת-זֶרְעֲכֶם אַחֲרֵיכֶם:

10 וְאֵת כָּל-נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה אֲשֶׁר אִתְּכֶם בְּעוֹרֶף בְּהֵמָה וּבְכָל-חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ אִתְּכֶם
מִכָּל יֵצְאֵי הַתֵּבָה²¹ לְכָל תַּיַת הָאָרֶץ:

11 וְחַקְמֹתַי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם וְלֹא-יִכָּרֵת כָּל-בֶּשֶׂר עוֹד מִמֶּנִּי הַמִּבּוּל
וְלֹא-יִהְיֶה עוֹד מִבּוּל לְשַׁחַת הָאָרֶץ:

12 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים¹⁴ וְאֵת אוֹת-הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר-אֲנִי נֹתֵן בֵּינִי
וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין כָּל-נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה אֲשֶׁר אִתְּכֶם לְדֹרֹת עוֹלָם:

13 אֶת-קַשְׁתִּי נִתְּתִי בְּעָנֻן וְהַיְתִיחַ לְאוֹת בְּרִית בֵּינִי וּבֵין הָאָרֶץ:

14 וְהָיָה בְּעָנֻן עָנֻן עַל-הָאָרֶץ וְנִרְאָתָה הַקַּשְׁתַּת בְּעָנֻן:

15 וְזָכַרְתִּי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם וּבֵין כָּל-נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה בְּכָל-בֶּשֶׂר
וְלֹא-יִהְיֶה עוֹד הַמִּבּוּל לְשַׁחַת כָּל-בֶּשֶׂר:

16 וְהַיְתִיחַ הַקַּשְׁתַּת בְּעָנֻן וּרְאִיתִיחַ לְזָכֹר בְּרִית עוֹלָם בֵּין אֱלֹהִים¹⁵
וּבֵין כָּל-נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה בְּכָל-בֶּשֶׂר אֲשֶׁר עַל-הָאָרֶץ:

17 וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים¹⁶ אֶל-נֹחַ
וְאֵת אוֹת-הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר תִּקְמֹתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵין כָּל-בֶּשֶׂר אֲשֶׁר עַל-הָאָרֶץ: ◦

18 וַהֲיִנִּי בְּנִי-נֹחַ הַיֵּצְאִים מִן הַתֵּבָה²² שֵׁם וְתָם וְתָם וְתָם הוּא אָבִי כְנַעַן:

19 שְׁלֹשָׁה אֱלֹהִים בְּנֵי-נֹחַ וּמֵאֵלֶּה נִפְצָה כָּל-הָאָרֶץ:

20 וַיַּחַל נֹחַ אִישׁ הָאָדָמָה וַיִּטֵּעַ כְּרָם:

21 וַיִּשֶׁת מִן-הַיַּיִן וַיִּשְׁכַּר וַיִּתְגַּל בְּתוֹךְ אֶהְלָה:

22 וַיִּרְא תָם אָבִי כְנַעַן אֶת עֵרְוַת אָבִיו וַיִּגַּד לְשֵׁנֵי-אָחִיו בְּחוּץ:

23 וַיִּקַּח שָׁם וַיִּפֹּת אֶת-הַשְּׂמֹלֶה וַיִּשְׂמֹו עַל-שִׁכְמוֹ שְׁנֵיהֶם וַיִּלְכוּ
אֶת-רֵיחַ וַיִּכְסּוּ אֶת עֵרְוַת אָבִיהֶם וּפְנֵיהֶם אֶת-רֵיחַ וַעֲרַת אָבִיהֶם לֹא רָאוּ:

24 וַיִּיקַּץ נֹחַ מִיִּינוֹ וַיֵּדַע אֵת אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה-לּוֹ בְּנוֹ הַקָּטָן:

25 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲרוּר כְּנַעַן עֶבֶד עֲבָדִים יִהְיֶה לְאֹתָיו:

26 וַיֹּאמֶר בְּרוּךְ יְהוָה¹⁷ אֱלֹהֵי שָׁם וַיְהִי כְנַעַן עֶבֶד לָמוֹ:

27 יָפֶת אֱלֹהִים¹⁷ לְיָפֶת וַיִּשְׁכֵן בְּאַדְמַת-שָׁם וַיְהִי כְנַעַן עֶבֶד לָמוֹ:

28 וַיַּחֲזִינֵהוּ אֶת-הַמִּבּוּל שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וְחַמְשִׁים שָׁנָה:

29 וַיְהִי כָּל-יְמֵי-נֹחַ תְּשֻׁעַ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וְחַמְשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיָּמָת: ◦

YHWH: III
5+30=35

8,18-21a
40

YHWH: IV
4+37=41

YHWH: V
8+82=90

YHWH: VI
8+44=52 (2x26)

YHWH: VII
2+72=74

YHWH speaks to Noah and Sons
82+44+72=198 (18x11) words,
which is a multiple of the
number of fulfilment.

YHWH: VIII
4+12=16

Vs 18-24
76

Vs 22-27 68 (4x17) words

Noah:
1+6=7
1+18=19=26

Vs 28-29
19

Observation 3 YHWH's first speech (6,13-21), together with the introduction, is made up of **136** (8x17) words, which divides in terms of content into **17** and **119** (7x17). Speech II (7,1-4), including its introduction, has **68** (4x17) words; the passage in which YHWH specifies the beasts Noah has to take with him (7:2-4) comprises **52** (2x26) words. Altogether **204** (4x26) words are devoted to Speeches I and II and their introductions (**136+68=204**). Speech VI (9,8-11) including its introduction, is made up of **52** (2x26) words. Noah's curse on Canaan and his benediction regarding Shem and Japhet, together with the introductions, have **26** words.

Section 2 Genesis 10,1-32 The Toledoth of Noah's Sons

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Contents
1	Gen 10,1	12+	43		12		The sons of Japhet are focused
2	Gen 10,2	9+	35		21		on with 26 words.
3	Gen 10,3	5=26	23		26		No less than 29 of the 32 verses
4	Gen 10,4	6	28		32		(91%) and 266 of the 287 words
5	Gen 10,5	9	44		41		(93%) are governed by the two
6	Gen 10,6	6	24		47		divine name numbers.
7	Gen 10,7	11+	47		58		
8	Gen 10,8	9+	31		67		The descendants of Cush , the
9	Gen 10,9	14+	48	44-45	81		father of the mighty hunter
10	Gen 10,10	9+	39		90		Nimrod , are brought into the
11	Gen 10,11	13+	44		103		limelight by 85 (5x17) words.
12	Gen 10,12	9+	33		112		
13	Gen 10,13	10+	41		122		
14	Gen 10,14	10=85(5x17)	43		132/132	S	
15	Gen 10,15	7+	23		139		The 51 (3x17) words used to
16	Gen 10,16	6+	26		145		focus strongly on the offspring
17	Gen 10,17	6+	23		151		of Ham/Canaan .
18	Gen 10,18	10+	45		161		
19	Gen 10,19	15+	60		176		
20	Gen 10,20	7=51(3x17)	33		183/51	S	
21	Gen 10,21	11+	34		194		The sons of Shem are singled
22	Gen 10,22	7+	29		201		out for special attention, and
23	Gen 10,23	6+	21		207		strongly focused on by means
24	Gen 10,24	8+	27		215		of the 85 (5x17) words in <u>21-30</u> .
25	Gen 10,25	14+	51		229		
26	Gen 10,26	10+	37		239		
27	Gen 10,27	6+	22		245		
28	Gen 10,28	6+	22		251		
29	Gen 10,29	10	34		261		
30	Gen 10,30	7= 85(5x17)+	27		268/85(5x17)		The 19 words in the concluding
31	Gen 10,31	7+	33		275		statements (31-32) bring the
32	Gen 10,32	12=104(4x26)	53/390		287/104(4x26)	P	total number to 104 (4x26)
32	10,1-32	287	1123	2x	287(41x7)		and 390 (15x26) letters!
160	5,1-10,31	1938(114x17)	7216	15x	1938(114x17)		
161	5,1-10,32	1950(75x26)	7269	15x	1950(75x26)		
267	1,1-10,32	3400(200x17)	12691	45x	3400(200x17)		

Observation 4 The three sections of the Toledoth of Noah's Sons are plainly delimited by the layout markers. The text is made up of **287** words, a multiple of the number of fullness (41x7). Most remarkably, the total number of words until this point amount to exactly **3400** (200x17), which is underscored by the **1950** (75x26) words of 5,1-10,32. This is an indication that 10,32 marked a

preliminary conclusion during the compositional proces. However, there is no strong caesura after 10,32, because it strictly belongs to the preceding passage, where it clearly functions as a cliffhanger preluding on the Tower of Babel story. For the still unobserved compositional device of the cliffhanger, see my preliminary observations (on p 4) in the [Third Isaiah](#).

The numerical features of 10,1-32 have sufficiently been detected and registered in the table above, therefore I need not display the Hebrew text.

Observation 5 More than hundred years ago Oskar Goldberg published the very first study of the numerical features of the Torah, *Die Fünf Bücher Moses ein Zahlengebäude*, Berlin, 1908, in which he drew special attention (pp 1-10) to the numerical aspects of the Genealogy of Shem in Gen 10,21-32. Without going into detail, I may refer only to his discovery that Shem has **26 (13+13)** descendants:

Shem has	5 sons (Elam, Asshur, Arpaxad, Lud, and Aram)
Aram has	4 sons (Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash)
Arpaxad has	1 son (Shelah)
Shelah has	1 son (Eber)
Eber has	2 sons (Peleg and Joktan)
Joktan has	13 sons (Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmoth, Jerah, Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah, Obal, Abimael, Sheba, Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab).

He also argued that the name שם, Shem is a “*Hinweis auf den Namen JHWH*” (p 4) and that the numerical value of YHWH, **26** (10+5+6+5) determines the number of Shem’s descendants. Moreover, the numerical value of Shem’s **13** sons is **3588** (138x26) and that of Joktan’s **13** sons is **2756** (106x26). I may add that Japhet and Ham have **26** descendants (**14+12**). Mizraim and Canaan have **17** (**11+6**).

Section 3 Genesis 11,1-9 The Dispersion of Noah’s Descendants at Babel

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	Compositional Structure
1	Gen 11,1	7+	27		7	Vs 1-8 The Dispersion-story
2	Gen 11,2	9+ 9+	38		16	
3	Gen 11,3	17+ 17=26	70		33	
4	Gen 11,4	17=50	61		50	1-4 All the people on the earth build a tower 50
5	Gen 11,5	11+	39+	46	61	5-8 YHWH assess the situation and intervenes:
6	Gen 11,6	19+	66+	47	80	He comes down and confuses their language 52
7	Gen 11,7	11+	38+		91	See the Hebrew text below:
8	Gen 11,8	11=52(2x26)	39=182	48	102(6x17)	102 = 50 + 52 = 50 + 2 + 50
9	Gen 11,9	19	57	49-50	121 P	V 9 Aetiological explanation
9	11,1-9	121(11x11)	435	5x	121(11x11)	
41	10,1-11,9	408 (24x17)	1558	7x	408 (24x17)	
130(5x26)	6,9-11,9	1590	5892		1590	
	<p>11,1 ויהי כל־הארץ שפה אחת ודבָרִים אֶחָדִים:</p> <p>2 ויהי בְנֵסֶעָם מִקְדָם וַיִּמְצְאוּ בְאֶרֶץ שְׂנֵעַר וַיִּשְׁבוּ שָׁם:</p> <p>3 וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל־רֵעֵהוּ הִבֵּת נִלְבְּנָה לְבָנִים וְנִשְׂרָפָה לְשָׂרָפָה וְתִהְיֶה לָהֶם חִלְבָּנָה לְאֶבֶן וְתִחְמָר הִיָּה לָהֶם לְחֵמֶר:</p> <p>4 וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִבֵּת נִבְנֶה־לָנוּ עִיר וּמִגְדָל וְרֵאשֻׁוּ בְשָׁמַיִם וְנַעֲשֶׂה־לָנוּ שֵׁם פֶּן־נָפוּץ עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ:</p> <p>5 וַיִּרְדַּ וַיִּתְּחַל לִרְאֹת אֶת־הָעִיר וְאֶת־הַמִּגְדָל אֲשֶׁר בָּנוּ בְּנֵי הָאָדָם:</p> <p>6 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה הֵן עִם אֶחָד וּשְׂפָה אֶחָת לְכָל־ם וְזֶה חִלְבָם לַעֲשׂוֹת וְעַתָּה לֹא־יִבְצָר מֵהֶם כָּל אֲשֶׁר יִזְמוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת:</p> <p>7 הִבֵּת נִרְדָּה וְנִבְלָה שֵׁם שַׁפְתָם אֲשֶׁר לֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ אִישׁ שִׁפְתֵי רֵעֵהוּ:</p> <p>8 וַיִּפֶץ יְהוָה אֹתָם מִשָּׁם עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ וַיַּחְדְּלוּ לִבְנֹת הָעִיר:</p> <p>9 עַל־כֵּן קָרָא שְׁמָהּ בָּבֶל כִּי־שָׁם בָּלְלָה יְהוָה שִׁפְתֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ וּמִשָּׁם הִפִּיצָם יְהוָה עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ: »</p>				<p>Narrative: 16</p> <p>All people: 4 + 5 = 9</p> <p>Narrative: 8</p> <p>All people: 1 + 16 = 17</p> <p>Total: 5 + 21 = 26</p> <p>V 5 Rest of narrative: 11</p> <p>YHWH: 2 + 17 = 19 Assessment</p> <p>YHWH: 0 + 11 = 11 Divine resolution</p> <p>V 8 Narrative: 11</p> <p>Vs 5-8 11+19+11+11=52 and 182 (7x26) letters.</p> <p>V 9 Narrative: 19</p>	

Observation 6 The so-called Story of the Tower of Babel (11,1-9) is part and parcel of the Toledoth of Noah (6,9-11,9), for they are inextricably linked together by their **130** (5x26) verses. The story is also inseparably connected to the Toledoth of Noah's Sons (10,1-32) because the two sections have altogether **408** (24x17) words, bound together by a string of **7** occurrences of the name YHWH. The dispersion of Noah's descendants over the face of the earth is an indispensable element in the storyline of Genesis: it paves the way for the Toledoth of Terah (11,27-25,11), the family story of Abraham, which is told as having taken place against the background of the multinational world. The purpose of the Tower-story is to bring this multilingual world into the picture.

Observation 7 The dispersion of the human race over the face of the earth is in fact the fulfilment of God's command to Adam and Eve 'to fill the earth' (Gen 1,28). It is therefore not surprising to see that the idea of the 'fulfilment' of the earth has numerically been expressed in the text by means of its number of words: **121**, which is the square number of **11** (**11²**), the number of fulfilment. For particulars, see my book *Numerical Secrets of the Bible*, pp 70-73.

Observation 8 Most intriguingly, the first two words in v 5a, **וַיֵּרֶד יְהוָה**, 'And YHWH came down', are positioned precisely at the mathematical centre of the dispersion-story as such (vs 1-8): **102** = 50 + **2** + 50. Verse 9 clearly stands apart as an aetiological explanation of the multinational world and the name Babel. The two central words are highlighted by being in pride of place for they express the kernel of YHWH's intervention in human affairs.

Observation 9 Vs 3-4 are made up of altogether **34** (2x17) words, of which **26** are devoted to the two speeches of the people: **5** + **21** = **26**. Vs 5-8 have **52** (2x26) words (**11**+**19**+**11**+**11**=**52**) and **182** (7x26) letters. Moreover, the first part of YHWH's Speech (v 6), his assessment of the situation, has **17** words, by which it is numerically highlighted. The second part of the speech (v 7), YHWH's resolve to go down to the people and confuse their language, is made up of **11** words, like v 5 and v 8. The number of fulfilment is deliberately used to emphasize the fulfilment of YHWH's resolve. The words **כָּל-הָאָרֶץ**, 'all the earth', occur no less than five times in this relatively short text. The function of the repetition is to emphasize that the matter concerns the entire world.

Section 4 Gen 11,10-26 The Toledoth of Shem until the Birth of Abram

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	S	Contents
1	Gen 11,10	13+	46		13		The lineage of Shem ¹ , Arpaxad ²
2	Gen 11,11	12+	48		25	S	and Shelah ³ is especially focused on
3	Gen 11,12	8+	31		33		by means of 68 (4x17) words.
4	Gen 11,13	14+	58		47	S	
5	Gen 11,14	7+	24		54		
6	Gen 11,15	14=68(4x17)	55		68	S	
7	Gen 11,16	8	30		76		The lineage of Eber ⁴ (v 16) is not
8	Gen 11,17	14+	56		90	S	particularly emphasized, contrary to
9	Gen 11,18	7+	25		97		that of Peleg ⁵ .
10	Gen 11,19	13=34(2x17)	52		110	S	
11	Gen 11,20	8	31		118		The lineage of Reu ⁶ receives no
12	Gen 11,21	13	53		131	S	special emphasis.
13	Gen 11,22	7+	27		138		The lineage of Serug ⁷ , the father of
14	Gen 11,23	11+	46		149	S	of Nahor ⁸ and the grandfather of
15	Gen 11,24	8=26+	30		157		Terah ⁹ , until the birth of Abram, ¹⁰
16	Gen 11,25	14+	54		171	S	is singled out for special attention
17	Gen 11,26	11=51(3x17)	38		182		to pave the way for the <i>Toledoth</i>
17	11,10-26	182 (7x26)	704	0	182 (7x26)		of Terah: the Story of Abram.
187(11x17)	5,1-11,26	2253	8408	14x			

Observation 10 This additional Toledoth of Shem is a beautiful close-knit literary unit, sealed by its **17** verses and **182** (7×26) words, as well as by the fact that it begins with **68** (4×17) words and ends with **51** (3×17). It is nevertheless closely linked to the Tower of Babel story in 11,1-9, as evidenced by the **26** verses in 11,1-26 ($9 + 17$). Moreover, it concludes the four Toledoth in 5,1-11,26 (that of Adam, Noah, Noah's sons, and Shem's sons), which are finalized as a larger literary unit and sealed by their **187** (11×17) verses. See the overview of the Toledoth on p 3 in [Part I](#).

The function of this little Toledoth is obviously to bring the Story of Abram into the picture, for it concludes with the birth of Abram as the progenitor of the **10th** generation (11,26). In the storyline, verse 26 is a cliffhanger anticipating the Toledoth of Terah, 11,27-25,11. The fact that it is the **26th** verse enhances its status as cliffhanger.

Observation 11 In the lineage from Shem to Peleg (vs 11-19) the stereotyped word וַיֵּחִי, 'and he lived', occurs **7x**. In the lineage from Reu to Terah (vs 20-26) it also occurs **7x**. The fact that Terah was **70** years old when he begot Abram may prelude on the **70** descendants of his great-grandchild Jacob (Exod 1,5). His lifespan of **205** years may refer to his son Abram through the numerical value of Abraham, the name he would bear after 17,5, ($1+2+20+5+13=41$), for **205** is a multiple of **41** (5×41).