

The Structural Design of Segment II: Isaiah 13-23

Please read the [Introduction to Isaiah](#)

Segment II: Isaiah 13-23 Prophecies Concerning Foreign Nations and Israel

In Segment II 143 of the 189 verses (76%) and 1611 of the 2399 words (67%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

Randomly selected passages in Isaiah 13-23 highlighted by 17 and 26

1. The Babylon oracle in its entirety (13,1-14,23) is made up of **520** (20x26) words.
2. YHWH musters a host for battle (13,4-12): **104** (4x26) words.
3. Babylonia will fall and Israel will be rescued (13,13-14,2): **156** (6x26) words; **104+156=260**.
4. The downfall of the insolent oppressor (14,3-14): **130** (5x26) words; **260+130=390**(15x26).
5. Philistia is cautioned not to rejoice (14,28-32): **34** (2x17) + **26** words.
6. The oracle concerning Moab excluding the preamble (15,2-16,6): **187** (11x17) words.
7. The poet weeps and conveys YHWH's resolve (16,9-14): **85** (5x17) words.
8. YHWH will rebuke the plunderers and they will flee (17,13): **17** words.
9. YHWH will deliver the Egyptians into the hand of a hard lord (19,4-10): **68** (4x17) words.
10. Judah will become a terror to Egypt (19,16-18): **52** (2x26) words.
11. YHWH will make himself known in Egypt (19,20-21): **34** (2x17) words.
12. e oracles concerning Dumah and Arabia (21,11-15): **52** (2x26) words.
13. The prophecy concerning the Valley of Vision (22,1-14): **170** (10x17) words.
14. The prophecies in 20,1-22,14 (Parts V-VII) have altogether **468** (18x26) words.
15. Eliakim will have a glorious reign but in the end he will be ruined (22,20-25): **78** (3x26) words.
16. All nations will be in anguish over what YHWH has purposed (23,5-10): **52** (2x26) words.
17. YHWH has made kingdoms shake and destroyed their ships (23,11-14): **51** (3x17) words.

The compositional structure of Isaiah 13-23: ten different divisions

- G.B. GRAY (*The Book of Isaiah, I-XXXIX*, in: ICC, Edinburgh, 1912): **13,1.2-4; 13,5-8; 13,9-13; 13,14-16; 13,17-18; 13,19-22; 14,1-4a; 14,4b-8; 14,9-11; 14,12-15; 14,16-20a; 14,20b-21; 14,22-23 || 14,24-27; 14,28-32 || 15,1-5a; 15,5b-9a; 15,9b-16,5; 16,6-12; 16,13-14 || 17,1-3; 17,4-6; 17,7-8; 17,9-11 || 17,12-14 || 18,1-6.7; 19,1-4; 19,5-10; 19,11-15; 19,16-17; 19,19-22; 19,23-25; 20,1-6 || 21,1.2; 21,3-4; 21,5; 21,6-9; 21,10; 21,11-12; 21,13-15; 21,16 || 22,1-5; 22,6-7; 22,8-11; 22,12-14 || 22,15-18.19 || 22,20-23; 22,24-25 || 23,1-5, 23,6-9; 23,10-14; 23,15-18.**
- W. EICHRODT (*Der Heilige in Israel: Jesaja 13-23*, in: Die Botschaft des Alten Testaments, Stuttgart, 1960): **13,1-22; 14,1-23; 15-16; 17,1-11; 17,12-14; 18,1-7; 19,1-25; 20,1-6; 21,1-10; 21,11-12; 21,13-17; 22,1-14; 22,15-25; 23,1-18.**
- G. FOHRER (*Das Buch Jesaja, 1. Band Kapitel 1-23*, in: Zürcher Bibelkommentare, Zürich/Stuttgart, 1966²): **13,1.2-22; 14,1-23; 14,24-27; 14,28-32; 15,1-9+16,2 (sic!); 16,1.3-5 (sic!); 16,6-12; 16,13-14; 17,1-6; 17,7-8; 17,9-11; 17,12-14; 18,1-7; 19,1-15; 19,16-25; 20,1-6; 21,1-10; 21,11-12; 21,13-15; 21,16-17; 22,1-14; 22,15-25; 23,1-14; 23,15-18.**
- L.A. SNIJDERS (*Jesaja, Deel I*, in: POT, Nijkerk, 1969): **13,1-22; 14,1-2; 14,3-21; 14,22-23; 14,24-27; 14,28-32; 15,1-16,5; 16,6-12; 16,13-14; 17,1-3; 17,4-8; 17,9-11; 17,12-14; 18,1-7; 19,1-15; 19,16-25; 20,1-6; 21,1-10; 21,11-12; 21,13-17; 22,1-14; 22,15-19; 22,20-23; 22,24-25; 23,1-14; 23,15-18.**
- H. WILDBERGER (*Jesaja: 1. Teilband, Jesaja 13-27*, in: BKAT X/2, Neukirchen-Vluyn, 1978): **13,1-14,2; 14,3-23; 14,24-27; 14,28-32; 15,1-16,14; 17,1-11; 17,12-14; 18,1-7; 19,1-15; 19,16-25; 20,1-6; 21,1-10; 21,11-12; 21,13-17; 22,1-14; 22,15-19; 22,20-25; 23,1-18.**
- A. SCHOORS (*Jesaja*, in: BOT IXA, Roermond, 1972): **13,1-22; 14,1-23; 14,24-27; 14,28-32; 15,1-16,14; 17,1-6; 17,7-14; 18,1-7; 19,1-15; 19,16-25; 20,1-6; 21,1-10; 21,11-12; 21,13-15; 21,16-17; 22,1-14; 22,15-25; 23,1-14; 23,15-18.**
- O. KAISER (*Der Prophet Jesaja Kapitel 13-39*, in: ATD 18, 1973): **13,1.2-22; 14,1-4a; 14,4b-21; 14,22-23; 14,24-27; 14,28-32; 15,1-16,14; 17,1-3; 17,4-6; 17,7-8; 17,9-11; 17,12-14; 18,1-7; 19,1-15; 19,16-25; 20,1-6; 21,1-10; 21,11-12; 21,13-15; 21,16-17; 22,1-14; 22,15-25; 23,1-14; 23,15-18.**
- D.A. DORSEY (*The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis-Malachi*, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999, pp. 217-235): **13,1-14,32 || 15,1-16,14 || 17,1-20,6 || 21,1-17 || 22,1-22 || 23,1-18 || 24,1-27,13.**
- J. BLENKINSOPP (*Isaiah 1-39*, The Anchor Bible, 2000): **13,1-22; 14,1-2; 14,3-23; 14,24-27; 14,28-32; 15,1-16,14; 17,1-11; 17,12-14; 18,1-7; 19,1-15; 19,16-25; 20,1-6; 21,1-10; 21,11-17; 22,1-14; 22,15-25; 23,1-18...27,7-13.**
- W.A.M. BEUKEN (*Jesaja 13-27*, HTKAT, 2007): **13,1-14,27; 14,28-32; 15-16; 17-18; 19 | 20 | 21,1-10; 21,11-12; 21,13-17; 22,1-14; 22,15-25; 23 ||27,2-13.**

In my view, Segment II (13-23) divides into nine parts, all consistently delimited by the layout markers:

Part I: Isaiah 13,1-14,23 Oracle concerning the fall of Babylonia: P	45 vs; 520 (20x26) w.
Part II: Isaiah 14,24-32 Prophecies concerning Assyria and Philistia S	9 vs; 109 / 629 (37x17) w.
Part III: Isaiah 15,1-16,14 Oracle concerning the fall of Moab: S	23 vs; 317 w.
Part IV: Isaiah 17,1-19,25 Prophecies concerning Aram, Israel, Nubia, and Egypt: S	46 vs; 630 w.
Part V: Isaiah 20,1-6 Prophecy concerning Egypt and Nubia: S	6 vs; 96 w.
Part VI: Isaiah 21,1-17 Prophecies concerning Babylonia, Dumah, and Arabia: S	17 vs; 202 w. 468
Part VII: Isaiah 22,1-14 Prophecy concerning the Valley of Vision: P	14 vs; 170 w. (18x26)
Part VIII: Isaiah 22,15-25 Prophecy concerning Shebna and Eliakim: S	11 vs; 138 w.
Part IX: Isaiah 23,1-18 Prophecy concerning Tyrus and Sidon: P	18 vs; 217 w.

Part I stands out with its **520 (20x26)** words, while Parts I and II have altogether **629 (37x17)** words. Part VI stands out with its **17** verses and Part VII with its **170** words. Finally, Parts V-VII, 20,1-22,14, have altogether **468 (30x17)** words.

The division into smaller literary units in terms of P and S and numerical considerations

Part I	13,1-3 □ 13,4-12 □ 13,13-14,2 S 14,3-14 □ 14,15-21 □ 14,22-23 P
Part II	14,24-27 P 14,28-32 S
Part III	15,1-16,6 S 16,7-14 S
Part IV	17,1-3 S 17,4-6 S 17,7-11 S 17,12-14 S 18,1-3 S 18,4-7 S 19,1-15 S 19,16-18 S 19,19-23 S 19,24-25 S
Part V	20,1-6 S
Part VI	21,1-5 P 21, 6-10 S 21,11-15 S 21,16-17 S
Part VII	22,1-14 P
Part VIII	22,15-25 P
Part IX	23,1-14 S 23,15-18 P

Part I: Isaiah 13,1-14,23 Oracle Concerning the Fall of Babylon

Vss	Texts	Words	Letts.	יְהוָה	Sum w.	P/S	Compositional structure
253	Isa 13,1	7	24		3127		§1 13,1-3 Preamble to the Oracle
254	Isa 13,2	13 DS 1 0+22	46		3140		
255	Isa 13,3	9	40		3149/29	□	
256	Isa 13,4	16	64	73	3165		§2 13,4-14,2 YHWH musters a host for battle
257	Isa 13,5	11	43	74	3176		
258	Isa 13,6	8	30	75	3184		
259	Isa 13,7	9	29		3193		This paragraph is in its entirety highlighted by
260	Isa 13,8	13	62		3206		its 260 (10x26) words.
261	Isa 13,9	14	56	76	3220		
262	Isa 13,10	14	56		3234		
263	Isa 13,11	13 DS 2 0+26	56		3247		
264	Isa 13,12	6	25		3253		
265	Isa 13,13a.b	7 + 6	54	77	3266		
266	Isa 13,14	14	51		3280		
267	Isa 13,15	7	27		3287		
268	Isa 13,16	7	40		3294		
269	Isa 13,17	13 DS 3 0+13	44		3307		
270	Isa 13,18	12	47		3319		
271	Isa 13,19	13	54		3332		
272	Isa 13,20	16	51		3348		
273	Isa 13,21	13	54		3361		
274	Isa 13,22	12	55		3373		Including its preamble, this section of the Oracle is
275	Isa 14,1	18	70	78	3391		governed by the number 17 , through its 289
276	Isa 14,2	18/260 (10x26)	88	79	3409/260	S	(17x17) words.
24	13,1-14,2	289 (17x17)	1166	7x	289 (17x17)		

277	Isa 14,3	13+ 13+	49	80	3422		§3 14,3-14 The downfall of the oppressor
278	Isa 14,4	5+ 7/20	43		3434		
279	Isa 14,5	6+	23	81	3440		
280	Isa 14,6	12+	42		3452		Introduction: 20+110 Taunt Song = 130 words.
281	Isa 14,7	6+	20		3458		
282	Isa 14,8	12+	45		3470		14,4b-11 The oppressor has fallen into Sheol: 78 w.
283	Isa 14,9	17+	65		3487		
284	Isa 14,10	10+	41		3497		
285	Isa 14,11	10/78 (3x26)	44		3507		
286	Isa 14,12	11+	40		3518		14,12-14 All due to his claim to highness: 32 w.
287	Isa 14,13	15/26	63		3533		
288	Isa 14,14	6	22		3539/130	[]	The whole paragraph is highlighted by 130 (5x26) w.
289	Isa 14,15	7	22		3546		§4 14,15-21 He is a rotting unburied corpse
290	Isa 14,16	11	52		3557		
291	Isa 14,17	9	33		3566		
292	Isa 14,18	8	30		3574		
293	Isa 14,19	15	61		3589		
294	Isa 14,20	14	49		3603		The 77 (7x11) words may express the utter fullness
295	Isa 14,21	13	52		3616/77	[]	and completeness of the tyrant's destruction.
296	Isa 14,22	13 DS 4 8+16	53	82-83	3629		§5 14,22-23 YHWH will wipe out the Babylonians
297	Isa 14,23	11	52	84	3640/24	P	
45	Part I: 13,1-14,23	520 (20x26)	2067	12x	520 (20x26)		

Observation 1 This is a textbook example demonstrating the importance of the layout markers as demarcating devices, which are generally ignored by commentators. The majority of commentaries take 13,1-22 as the oracle concerning Babylon. Wildberger, who has 13,1-14,2, and Gray, who delimits it, like myself, as 13,1-14,23, are exceptions. In my view, there cannot be any doubt about the delineating.

In Part I 36 of the 45 verses (80%) and all of the 520 words (100%) are highlighted by the number 26.

Part II: Isaiah 14,24-32 Prophecies Concerning Assyria and Philistia

Vss	Texts	Words	Letts.	יהוה	Sum w.	P/S	Compositional structure
298	Isa 14,24	14 DS 5 4+23	53	85	3654		§1 14,24-27 YHWH will destroy the Assyrians
299	Isa 14,25	13	53		3667		
300	Isa 14,26	12	43		3679		The 49 (7x7) words may express the extensiveness
301	Isa 14,27	10	39	86	3689/49	P	of their destruction.
302	Isa 14,28	7+	24		3696		§2 14,28-32 Philistia is called not to rejoice
303	Isa 14,29	16+ DS 6 7+27	54		3712		
304	Isa 14,30	11/34 (2x17)	54		3723		
305	Isa 14,31	14+	54		3737		The entire paragraph is highlighted by 60 words
306	Isa 14,32	12/26	42	87	3749/60	S	deliberately divided into 34 (2x17) and 26.
9	Part II	109	416	8x	109		
54	Parts I-II	629 (37x17)	2483		629 (37x17)		

Observation 2 In Part II 5 of the 9 verses (56%) and 60 of the 109 words (55%) are highlighted by 17. More importantly, in Parts I-II all of the 629 (37x17) words (100%) are highlighted by the number 17.

Part III: Isaiah 15,1-16,14 Prophecy Concerning the Fall of Moab

Vss	Texts	Words	Letts.	יהוה	Sum w.	P/S	Compositional Structure
307	Isa 15,1	2+12=14	46		3763		§1 15,1-16,6 Oracle concerning Moab
308	Isa 15,2	17+	65		3780		15,1a heading; 15,1b Preamble to Oracle
309	Isa 15,3	10+	44		3790		15,2-16,6 Oracle concerning Moab: 187 (11x17) words.
310	Isa 15,4	15+	56		3805		Once again the number of fulfilment and complete-
311	Isa 15,5	20+	76		3825		ness, 11, expresses the extensiveness of a country's
312	Isa 15,6	13+	41		3838		downfall. See Part II.
313	Isa 15,7	9+	33		3847		
314	Isa 15,8	12+	48		3859		

315	Isa 15,9	15+ DS 7 0+10	59		3874		In 9b YHWH speaks: DS 7 0+10 words.
316	Isa 16,1	10+	31		3884		
317	Isa 16,2	10+	43		3894		
318	Isa 16,3	14+	54		3908		
319	Isa 16,4	18+	57		3926		
320	Isa 16,5	13+	49		3939		
321	Isa 16,6	11/187 (11x17)	43		3950/201	S	
322	Isa 16,7	12	49		3962		§2 16,7-14 The poet's emotion at Moab's fate
323	Isa 16,8	19	75		3981		
324	Isa 16,9	18+	67		3999		16,9-14 The poet weeps and conveys God's word
325	Isa 16,10	17+ 17+	67		4016		concerning Moab's downfall within three years:
326	Isa 16,11	9+ 9/26	33		4025		85 (5x17) words. 16,10-11 Special emphasis on the
327	Isa 16,12	14+ DS 8 8+14	49		4039		situation bemoaned by the prophet: 17+9=26 words.
328	Isa 16,13	8+ DS 9 4+15	25	88	4047		
329	Isa 16,14	19/85 (5x17)	73	89	4066/116	S	
23	Part III	317	1183	2x	317		

Observation 3 In Part III 20 of the 23 verses (87%) and 272 of the 317 words (86%) are highlighted by the divine name numbers **17** and **26**. The oracle concerning Moab is especially highlighted by **187 (11x17)** words.

Part IV: Isaiah 17,1-19,25 Prophecies concerning Aram, Israel, Nubia, and Egypt

Vss	Texts	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum w.	P/S	Compositional Structure
330	Isa 17,1	9 DS 10 5+26	34		4075		§1 The Oracle concerning Damascus
331	Isa 17,2	8	38		4083/17		17,1-2 Damascus will cease to be a city and the
332	Isa 17,3	14	62	90	4097/31	S	other cities will be deserted for ever: 17 words.
333	Isa 17,4	9 DS 11 4+35	36		4106		§2 The impact on the people of Israel
334	Isa 17,5	12	53		4118		§2 forms an inclusion with §10.
335	Isa 17,6	18	76	91	4136/39	S	
336	Isa 17,7	11	45		4147		§3 People will regard their Maker
337	Isa 17,8	13	58		4160		
338	Isa 17,9	15	63		4175		
339	Isa 17,10	16	59		4191		
340	Isa 17,11	12	51		4203/67	S	
341	Isa 17,12	13	59		4216		§4 The roaring of the nations are stilled
342	Isa 17,13	17	68		4233		17,13 YHWH will rebuke him and he will flee: 17 w.
343	Isa 17,14	12	49		4245/42	S	Assyria!
344	Isa 18,1	8	30		4253		§5 The Ethiopian envoys are dismissed
345	Isa 18,2	29	102		4282		
346	Isa 18,3	12	45		4294/49	S	
347	Isa 18,4	16 DS 12 5+11	55	92	4310		§6 YHWH tells the prophet what will happen
348	Isa 18,5	16	65		4326		
349	Isa 18,6	14	57		4340		14,28-18,7 prophecies concerning Philistia, Moab,
350	Isa 18,7	29	104	93-94	4369/75	S	Damascus and Ephraim: 680 (40x17) words.
351	Isa 19,1	18	68	95	4387		§7 The Oracle concerning Egypt
352	Isa 19,2	12 DS 13 4+37	59		4399		
353	Isa 19,3	15	67		4414		
354	Isa 19,4	14+	53	96	4428		19,4-10 YHWH will deliver the Egyptians into
355	Isa 19,5	6+	24		4434		the hand of a hard lord as a result of which the Nile
356	Isa 19,6	9+	41		4443		and all that is sown by it will dry up: 68 words.
357	Isa 19,7	12+	42		4455		
358	Isa 19,8	13+	54		4468		
359	Isa 19,9	6+	29		4474		
360	Isa 19,10	8/68 (4x17)	30		4482		
361	Isa 19,11	19	66		4501		
362	Isa 19,12	13	48	97	4514		
363	Isa 19,13	11+	39		4525		19,13-15 The princes of Memphis and the chiefs of

364	Isa 19,14	13+	55	98	4538		the tribes have led Egypt astray: 34 (2x17) words.
365	Isa 19,15	10/34 (2x17)	40		4548/179	S	
366	Isa 19,16	16+	64	99	4564		§8 Judah will become a terror to Egypt
367	Isa 19,17	19+	75	100	4583	S	The paragraph is highlighted by 52 (2x26) words.
368	Isa 19,18	17/52 (2x26)	73	101	4600/52	S	This S makes v. 18 the focus of attention.
369	Isa 19,19	12	51	102-103	4612		§9 An altar and masebah for YHWH in Egypt
370	Isa 19,20	18+	75	104-105	4630		<u>19,20-21</u> YHWH will make himself known to the
371	Isa 19,21	16/34 (2x17)	70	106-108	4646		Egyptians and they will know him: 34 (2x17) words.
372	Isa 19,22	12	46	109-110	4658		
373	Isa 19,23	15	67		4673/73	S	
374	Isa 19,24	10	47		4683		§10 The impact on the people of Israel
375	Isa 19,25	13 DS 14 5+8	55	111	4696/23	S	§10 forms an inclusion with §2 .
46	Part IV	630	2547	22x	630		

Observation 4 In Part IV (17,1-19,25) 18 of the 46 verses (39%) and 222 of the 630 words (35%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**.

Part V: Isaiah 20,1-6 Prophecy Concerning Egypt and Nubia

Vss	Texts	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum w.	P/S	Compositional structure
376	Isa 20,1	12	52		4708		Prophecy concerning Egypt and Nubia
377	Isa 20,2	9+14 DS 15 21+9	85	112	4731	S	This S makes vs. 3-4 the focus of attention.
378	Isa 20,3	16+ DS 16 2+32	62	113	4747		<u>20,3-4</u> YHWH explains the metaphor of Isaiah
379	Isa 20,4	18/34 (2x17)	69		4765		walking naked and barefoot : 34 (2x17) words.
380	Isa 20,5	7	30		4772		
381	Isa 20,6	20	74		4792/96	S	
6	Part V	96	372	2x	96		

Observation 5 In Part V (20,1-6) 2 of the 6 verses (33%) and 34 of the 96 words (35%) are highlighted by **17**.

Part VI: Isaiah 21,1-17 Prophecies Concerning Babylonia, Dumah, and Arabia

Vss	Texts	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum w.	P/S	Compositional structure
382	Isa 21,1	10	39		4802		§1 The imminent fall of Babylon
383	Isa 21,2	15 DS 17 4+11	57		4817		
384	Isa 21,3	13	59		4830		
385	Isa 21,4	10	36		4840		
386	Isa 21,5	10	39		4850/58	P	
387	Isa 21,6	11 DS 18 5+20	36		4861		§2 The advance of the Persians announced
388	Isa 21,7	12	42		4873		
389	Isa 21,8a.b	15	58		4888		
390	Isa 21,9	17	62		4905		<u>21,9</u> Babylon and its gods are shattered: 17 words.
391	Isa 21,10	12	49	114	4917/67	S	
392	Isa 21,11	11+	37		4928		§3 The oracles of Dumah and Arabia
393	Isa 21,12	11+	38		4939	S	This S draws attention to the oracle of Arabia (13ff.)
394	Isa 21,13	7+	30		4946		
395	Isa 21,14	10+	38		4956		The paragraph is in its entirety highlighted by its
396	Isa 21,15	13/52 (2x26)	53		4969/52	S	52 (2x26) words.
397	Isa 21,16	13 DS 19 5+15	42		4982		§4 The glory of Kedar will come to an end
398	Isa 21,17	12	45	115	4994/25	S	
17	Part VI	202	760	2x	202		

Observation 6 All the verses (100%) are highlighted by **17** and 69 of the 202 words (34%) by **17** and **26**.

Part VII: Isaiah 22,1-14 Prophecy Concerning the Valley of Vision

Vss	Texts	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum w.	P/S	Compositional structure
399	Isa 22,1	10+	33		5004		Prophecy concerning the Valley of Vision
400	Isa 22,2	13+	51		5017		Part VII is in its entirety governed by 10x the divine
401	Isa 22,3	12+	48		5029		name number 17 , which finalizes and seals it as a
402	Isa 22,4	14+	45		5043		coherent literary unit. The remarkable passage in
403	Isa 22,5	15+	61	116	5058		vs. 8b-11a (so delimited by Wildberger, BKAT X2)
404	Isa 22,6	9+	34		5067		has 34 (2x17) words. Leaving this passage out of
405	Isa 22,7	9+ 8b-11a	37		5076		consideration, Part VII consists of 136 (8x17) words.
406	Isa 22,8	11+ 7+	38		5087		It stands to reason that the passage has been
407	Isa 22,9	12+ 12+	46		5099		inserted as a secondary addition <i>without disturbing</i>
408	Isa 22,10	8+ 8+	36		5107		the already finalized and sealed prophecy.
409	Isa 22,11	15+ 7/34	63		5122		
410	Isa 22,12	11+	49	117	5133		
411	Isa 22,13	16+	57		5149		
412	Isa 22,14	15+ DS 20 8+7	58	118-119	5164/170	P	Until this point the name יהוה occurs 119x (7x17) .
14	Part VII	170	656	4x	170		
37	Parts V-VII	468 (18x26)	1788	8x	468 (18x26)		

Observation 7 In Part VII all 14 verses (100%) and all **170** words are highlighted by the number **17**.

Moreover, Parts V-VII, 20,1-22,14 have altogether **468 (18x26)** words.

Part VIII: Isaiah 22,15-25 Prophecy Concerning Shebna and and Eliakim

Vss	Texts	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum w.	P/S	Compositional structure
413	Isa 22,15	15 DS 21 5+114	46	120	5179		Shebna is disgraced and Eliakim promoted
414	Isa 22,16	18	52		5197		114 words spoken to Isaiah.
415	Isa 22,17	7	28	121	5204		The 104 (6x26) words in the verses 16-24 is the
416	Isa 22,18	16	64		5220		message to Shebna.
417	Isa 22,19	4	24		5224/60		
418	Isa 22,20	8	38		5232		22,20-25 YHWH calls Eliakim his servant and pro-
419	Isa 22,21	13	67		5245		mises him a secure and glorious administration.
420	Isa 22,22	12	43		5257		However, in the end Eliakim will come to ruin:
421	Isa 22,23	9	39		5266		78 (3x26) words.
422	Isa 22,24	17	68		5283		
423	Isa 22,25	19 DS 22 3+13	79	122-123	5302/78	S	
11	Part VIII	138	548	4x	138		

Observation 8 In Part VIII (22,15-25) 6 verses (55%) and **78** words (57%) are highlighted by the number **26**.

Part IX: Isaiah 23,1-18 Prophecy Concerning Tyre and Sidon

Vss	Texts	Words	Let.	יהוה	Sum w.	P/S	Compositional structure
424	Isa 23,1	13	49		5315		§1 The total ruin of Phoenicia
425	Isa 23,2	8	27		5323		
426	Isa 23,3	10	40		5333		
427	Isa 23,4	17	67		5350		23,4 Sidon ought to be ashamed: 17 words.
428	Isa 23,5	6+	24		5356		
429	Isa 23,6	5+	22		5361		23,5-10 The whole region will be in anguish over
430	Isa 23,7	10+	43		5371		the report of what YHWH has purposed: 52 words.
431	Isa 23,8	12+	45		5383		
432	Isa 23,9	11+	40	124	5394		
433	Isa 23,10	8/52 (2x26)	28		5402		
434	Isa 23,11	12+	45	125	5414		23,11-14 YHWH has stretched out his hand over
435	Isa 23,12	17+ DS 23 1+16	64		5431		the sea: he made kingdoms shake and destroyed
436	Isa 23,13	16+	64		5447		all their ships: 51 (3x17) words.
437	Isa 23,14	6/51 (3x17)	26		5453/151	S	Including its introduction the DS has 17 words.
438	Isa 23,15	17	66		5470		§2 Tyre's restoration for the benefit of Judah
439	Isa 23,16	12	47		5482		23,15 Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years: 17 .

440	Isa 23,17	18	66	126	5500		
441	Isa 23,18	19	78	127-128	5519/66	P	
18	Part IX	217	841	5x	217		

Observation 9 In Part IX (23,1-18) 12 of the 18 verses (66%) and 137 of the 217 words (63%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

The Divine Speeches in Isaiah 13-23

Column 3 contains the introductory formulae (Intro's) and the words referring to YHWH's words (Refs).

DSS	Texts	Introductions	YHWH >> Addressees	Words	Totals
1	13,2-3	0	Oracle seen by Isaiah	22	22
2	13,11-13	0	Continuation of oracle seen by Isaiah	26	26
3	13,17	0	Continuation of oracle seen by Isaiah	13	78 (3x26)
4	14,22-23	3+2+3	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	16	24
5	14,24-25	4	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	23	27
6	14,29-30	7	Oracle quoted by Isaiah	27	34 (2x17)
7	15,9b	0	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	10	51 (3x17)
8	16,12-13	8	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	14	22
9	16,14	4	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	15	19
10	17,1-3	3	Oracle quoted by Isaiah	26	29
11	17,4-6	4	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	35	39
12	18,4	5	YHWH's words spoken to Isaiah	11	16
13	19,2-4	4	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	37	41
14	19,25	5	YHWH's blessing quoted by Isaiah	8	13
15	20,1-2	21	YHWH's words spoken to Isaiah	9	340 (20x17)
16	20,3-4	2	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	32	34 (2x17)
17	21,2	4	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	11	15
18	21,6-8a	5	YHWH's words spoken to Isaiah	20	23
19	21,16-17	5	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	15	20
20	22,14	4+4	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	7	16
21	22,15-24	5	YHWH's words spoken to Shebna	114	104 (4x26) to Shebna
22	22,25	3	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	13	16
23	23,12	1	YHWH's words quoted by Isaiah	16	17
23	13-23	106		520 (20x26)	626

Observation 10 The 23 DSS have altogether **520 (20x26)** words; some of the significant summations in Column 5 may be due to coincidence, but it is impossible to know whether this is so.

Speeches 2 and 10 stand out with their **26** words.

Speeches 6, 16, 21, and 23 (including their intros) have **34 (2x17)**, **34 (2x17)**, **119 (7x17)**, and **17** words.

The message Isaiah has to convey to Shebna (22,16-24) has **104 (4x26)** words.

In Speech 18 (21,6-8a) the two words in v. 8a, **וַיִּרְקַא אַרְיָה**, 'and he will cry "A lion!", are part of the divine speech in vs. 6b-7. It should be translated: "Go, set a watchman; let him announce what he sees; 7: when he sees riders, horsemen in pairs, riders on asses, riders on camels, and listens carefully, very carefully, 8a: he will cry "A Lion!". This means that YHWH tells the prophet what the watchman will see and what he will do: drawing attention to the danger (symbolized by the lion metaphor).

There is no need to 'correct' the text in v. 8a – see BHS - by reading **וַיִּקְרָא הַרְאָה**, 'And the look-out cried', as many commentators do. The Vulgate has "Et clamavit leo". Compare the *New World Translation*, the *Revised Statenvertaling* and the *Naardense Vertaling*, all of which rightly maintain the word **אַרְיָה**, 'lion'.

I am indebted to Klaas Eikelenboom for having directed my attention to this interpretation and also for his help in identifying and determining the divine speeches.

[Next Segment: Isaiah 24-27](#)