

# Numerical Features of the Book of Ezekiel

## A New Approach to its Structural Design

Please read the [General Introduction](#)

### The Structural Design of the Book of Ezekiel

The book begins with **17** words (1,1) and ends with **17+9=26** (48,34-35), which is the first indication that it is a consciously designed numerical composition governed by the two divine name numbers **17** and **26**. For the use of these numbers as a scribal device for opening and/or ending the text of a book, see my article "[The Astonishing Way a Holy Book Begins and Ends](#)".

The structural design of the book of Ezekiel presented here is for the greater part based on the division of the text by David A. Dorsey (see further below), who divides it into **7** Main Parts, each of which has **7** Sections. Despite some sections I had to correct due to the fact that Dorsey sometimes ignores the layout markers, his view on the structural design of the book is, generally spoken, the most persuasive I ever came across in the commentaries on Ezekiel.

In the following overview I shall show to what extent the division of the text (based on the layout markers, content) is underscored by numerical considerations. To begin with, here is an overview of various divisions.

### Eleven different divisions of the text in the book of Ezekiel

The sections marked [blue](#) are displaced, resulting in a text that never existed, contrived by the commentator in question.

W. EICHRODT (*Der Prophet Hesekiel*, in: ATD, Teilband 22/1, 1968<sup>3</sup>; Teilband 22/2, 1966): **Teilband 22/1: 1,1-28; 2,1-3,15; 3,16-27; 4,1-5,22; 6,1-7; 8-10; 11-14; 7,1.3a.5-9; 10-13; 14-16; 17-21; 22-24; 25-27; 8,1-3; 5-18; 9,1-2; 3-4; 5-7; 8-10; 9,11.10,2.7; 11,1-13; 14-21; 12,1-20; 21-28; 13,1-9; 10-16; 17-23; 14,1-3; 4-11; 12-20; 21-23; 15,1-5; 6-7; 16,1-14; 15-43; 44-58; 17,1-10; 11-21; 22-24; 18,1-4; 5-20; 21-25.29; 30-32; Teilband 22/2: 19,1-9; 10-14; 20,1-4; 5-9; 10-17; 18-26; 27-31; 32-44; 21,1-10; 11-12; 13-22; 23-29; 30-32; 33-34; 22,1-16; 17-22; 23-31; 23,1-4; 5-10; 11-27; 28-34; 35-46; 24,1-14; 15-17; 18-24; 25-27; | 25,1-7; 8-11; 12-14; 15-17; 26,1-6; 7-14; 15-18; 19-21; 27,1-9b-36; 28,1-10; 11-19; 20-24; 25-26; 29,1-6a; 6b-9a; 9b-16; 17-21; 30,1-19; 20-26; 31,1-18; 32,1-16; 17-32; | 33,1-9 + 3,20-21; 33,10-20; 21-22; 23-33; 34,1-16; 17-22; 23-31; 35,1-15; 36,1-15; 36,16-38; 37,1-14; 15-28; | 38,1-9; 10-13; 14-16; 17-23; 39,17-20; 21-29; | 40,1-4; 5-37; 38-46; 47-41,4; 41,5-12; 13-26; 42,1-14; 15-20; 43,1-9; 10-17; 18-27; 44,1-3; 4-31; 45,1-8; 9-17; 18-20; 21-25; 46,1-10; 11-12; 13-15; 16-18; 19-24; 47,1-12; 13-20; 21-48,35.**

HELMUT LAMPARTER (*Zum Wächter bestellt*, in: Die Botschaft des Alten Testaments, Band 21, 1968): 1,1-28a; 28b-3,15; 16-21 | 3,22-27; 4,1-16; 5,1-17; 6,1-14; 7,1-27; 8,1-4; 5-18; 9,1-11; 10,1-22; 11,1-13; 14-25 | 12,1-7; 8-16; 17-20; 21-28 | 13,1-16; 17-23; 14,1-11; 12-23 | 15,1-8; 16,1-43; 44-63; 17,1-24 | 18,1-32; 19,1-14; 20,1-31; 32-44 | 21,1-12; 13-22; 23-32 | 22,1-16; 17-22; 23-31; 23,1-49 | 24,1-5; 6-14; 15-24; 25-27 || 25,1-7; 8-11; 12-14; 15-17 | 26,1-21; 27,1-36; 28,1-10; 11-26 | 29,1-21; 30,1-26; 31,1-18; 32,1-16; 17-32 || 33,1-9; 10-20; 21-22; 23-29; 30-33 || 34,1-31; 35,1-15; 36,1-15 || 36,16-38; 37,1-14; 15-28 || 38,1-23; 39,1-16; 17-29 || 40,1-42,20; 43,1-27; 44,1-46,24; 47,1-12; 47,13-48,35.

ROBERT BRUNNER (*Das Buch Ezechiel*, in: Zürcher Bibelkommentare, 1. Teil, Kapitel 1-24<sup>2</sup>, 1969; 2. Teil, Kapitel 25-48<sup>2</sup>, 1969): 1,1-3; 4-14; 25-21, 22-28; 2,1-7; 8-10; 3,1-3; 4-11; 12-15; 16-21; 22-27 || 4,1-3; 4-8; 9-17; 5,1-4; 5-17; 6,1-6; 7-10; 11-14; 7,1-27; 8,1-6; 7-15; 16-18; 9,1-11; 10,1-7; 8-17; 18-22; 11,1-12; 13-21; 22-25; 12,1-16; 17-20; 21-28; 13,1-23; 14,1-11; 12-25; 15,1-8; 16,1-5; 6-7; 8; 9-14; 15-19; 20-21; 22; 23-26; 27; 28-31; 32-34; 35-38; 39-43; 44-52; 53-54; 55; 56-58; 59-63; 17,1-10; 11-21; 22-24; 18,1-3; 4-18; 19-20; 21-29; 30-31; 19,1-14; 20,1-4; 5-9; 10-17; 18-26; 27-29; 30-44; 21,1-5; 6-12; 13-22; 23-32; 33-37; 22,1-5, 6-16; 17-22; 23-31; 23,1-4; 5-10; 11-21; 22-35; 36-49; 24,1-14; 15-27 || 25,1-7; 8-11; 12-17; 26,1-21; 27,1-36; 28,1-19; 20-26; 29,1-16; 17-21; 30,1-19; 20-26; 31,1-18; 32,1-16; 17-32; 33,1-9; 10-20; 21-29; 30-33; 34,1-31; 35,1-15; 36,1-15; 16-38; 37,1-14; 15-28; 38,1-7; 8-9; 10-16; 17-23; 39,1-16; 17-24; 25-29; || 40,1-4; 5-16; 17-27; 28-37; 38-43; 44-47; 41,1-4; 5-26; 42,1-14; 15-20; 43,1-12; 13-17; 18-27; 44,1-3; 4-8; 9-14; 15-31; 45,1-8; 9-17; 18-25; 46,1-15; 16-18; 19-24; 47,1-12; 13-23; 48,1-29; 30-35.

W. ZIMMERLI (*Ezechiel*, in: BK, Band XIII/1; Band XIII/2, 1969): I. Teilband: 1,1-3,15; 3,16b-21; 16a.22-5,17; 6,1-14; 7,1-27; 8,1-11,25; 11,1-21; 12,1-16; 17-20; 21-25; 26-28; 13,1-23; 14,1-11; 12-23; 15,1-8; 16,1-63; 17,1-24; 18,1-32; 19,1-14; 20,1-44; 21,1-37; 22,1-16; 17-22; 23-31; 23,1-14; 24,15-27; II. Teilband: A. 25,1-17; 26,1-28,19; 28,20-26; B. 29,1-16; 17-21; 30,1-19; 20-26; 31,1-18; 32,1-16; 17-32 || 33,1-20; 21-22; 23-29; 30-33; 34,1-31; 35,1-36,15; 36,16-38; 37,1-14; 15-28; 38,1-39,29; A. 40,1-37.47-49.41,1-4; 40,38-46; 41,5-15a; 15b-26; 42,1-14; 15-20; B. 43,1-12; 13-27; 44,1-3; 4-5; 44,6-31; 45,1-8; 9; 10-17; 18-25; 46,1-15; 16-18; 19-24; C. 47,1-12; 13-48,29; 48,30-35.

B. MAARSINGH (*Ezechiël*, in: POT I, II, III, 1985, 1988, 1991): He follows the traditional chapter division, with the exception of the following instances: 1,1-3,21; 3,22-5,17; 26,1-28,19; 28,20-26; 29,1-32,32; 36,1-15; 16-38; 38,1-39,29; 40,1-42,20; 45,1-17; 45,18-46,24; 47,1-12; 47,13-48,35.

M. DIJKSTRA (*Ezechiël I (1-23) & II (24-48)*, in: *Tekst en Toelichting*, 1986 & 1989): I: 1,1-3,15; 3,16-5,17; 6,1-14; 7,1-27; 8,1-11,25 [10-9-22+11,22-25; 11,1-21]; 12,1-16; 17-20; 21-14,11; 14,12-23; 15,1-8; 16,1-63; 17,1-10; 11-21; 22-24; 18,1-20; 21-32; 19,1-14; 20,1-31; 32-44; 45-21,7; 21,8-17; 18-27; 28-32; 22,1-16; 17-22; 23-31; 23,1-49; II: 24,1-14; 15-24; 24,25-27 + 33,21-22; 25,1-32,32; 33,1-9; 10-20; 21-29; 30-33; 34,1-16; 17-31; 35,1-36,15; 36,16-38; 37,1-14; 15-28; 38,1-39,29; 40,1-44,3; 42,1-14; 43,13-17; 43,18-27; 44,4-46,24; 47,1-12; 13-23; 48,1-29; 30-35.

L.C. ALLEN (*Ezekiel 1-19 and Ezekiel 20-48*, in: WBC 28, 1990, and 29, 1994): 1,1-3,15; 3,16-5,17; 6,1-14; 7,1-27; 8,1-11,25; 12,1-20; 12,21-14,11; 14,12-15,8; 16,1-63; 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28,1-19; 20-26; 29,1-16; 17-21; 30,1-19; 20-26; 31; 32,1-16; 17-32; 33,1-20; 21-33; 34; 35,1-36,15; 36,16-38; 37,1-14; 15-28; 38,1-39,29; 40,1-42,20; 43,1-46,24; 47,1-48,35.

K.F. POHLMANN (*Das Buch Hesekiel (Ezechiel), Kapitel 1-19*, in: ATD 22/1, 1996, *Kapitel 20-39*, and T.A. RUDNIG, *Kapitel 40-48*, in: ATD 22/2, 2001): 1,1-3,15; 16-21; 22-27 | 4,1-5,17; 6,1-14; 7,1-27 | 8,1-22; 9,1-11; 10,1-22; 11,1-25 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29,1-30,26; 31,1-32 | 33 | 34 | 35,1-36,15 | 36,16-38 | 37, 1-14 | 37,15-28 | 38,1-39,20 | 40,1-42,20 + 43,1-9; 10-12 | 43,17-27 | 44,1-46,24 | 47,1-48,29 | 48,30-35.

M. GREENBERG (*Ezekiel 1-20*, in: AB 22<sup>2</sup>, 1986, and idem, *Ezechiel 1-20*, in: HThKAT, 2001): 1,1-28ba | 1,28bβ-3,15 | 3,16-21 | 3,22-5,17 | 6,1-14 | 7,1-22 | 8,1-18; 9,1-11; 10,1-22; 11,1-25 | 12,1-16 | 12,17-20; 12, 21-28 | 13, 1-23 | 14,1-11 | 14,12-23 | 15,1-8 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | (*Ezekiel 21-37*, in: AB 22A, 1997, and idem, *Ezechiel 21-37*, in: HThKAT, 2005): 21 | 22 | 23 | 24,1-14; 15-27 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28,1-10 | 28,11-19 | 28,20-26 | 29,1-16; 17-21 | 30,1-18 | 30,20-26 | 31,1-18 | 32,1-16 | 32,17-32 | 33,1-20; 33,21-22 | 33,23-33 | 34 | 35,1-36,15 | 36,16-18 | 37,1-14; | 37,15-28...

D.I. BLOCK (*The Book of Ezekiel, Part 1: Chapters 1-24*, in: NICOT, 1997; *Part 2: Chapters 25-48*, in: NICOT, 1998): **Part 1, I:** 1,1-3; 4-28a; 28b-3,11; 12-15; 16-21; 22-27; **II:** 4,1-5,17; 6,1-14; 7,1-27; 8,1-11,25; **III:** 12,1-20; 12,21-14,11; 14,12-15,8; 16,1-63; 17,1-22,31; 23,1-49; 24,1-14; 15-27; **Part 2, I:** 25,1-28,19; 20-26; 29,1-32,32; **II:** 33,1-20; 21-22; 23-29; 30-33; **III:** 34,1-39,29; 40,1-48,35.

D.A. DORSEY (*The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis-Malachi*, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1999, Paperback in 2004, pp. 253-262):

**Part 1: 1-7** 1,1-3,11; 3,12-21; 3,22-27; 4,1-17; 5,1-17; 6,1-14; 7,1-27 (7 sections).

**Part 2: 8-13** 8,1-18; 9,1-11; 10,1-22; 11,1-25; 12,1-16; 12,17-20; 12,21-13,23 (7 sections).

**Part 3: 14-19** 14,1-11; 14,12-23; 15,1-8; 16,1-63; 17,1-24; 18,1-32; 19,1-14 (7 sections).

**Part 4: 20-24** 20,1-44; 20,45-49; 21,1-32; 22,1-31; 23,1-49; 24,1-14; 24,15-27 (7 sections).

**Part 5: 25-32** 25,1-7; 25,8-11; 25,12-14; 25,15-17; 26,1-28,19; 28,20-26; 29,1-32,32 (7 sections).

**Part 6: 33-39** 33,1-20; 33,21-33; 34,1-31; 35,1-36,38; 37,1-14; 37,15-28; 38,1-39,29 (7 sections).

**Part 7: 40-48** 40,1-42,20; 43,1-12; 43,13-44,31; 45,1-12; 45,13-46,24; 47,1-12; 47,13-48,35 (7 sections).

## The structural design based on P/S, content, and numerical considerations

The sections marked blue are governed by 17 and 26 in terms of verses and/or words.

### Part 1: Ezekiel 1-7 Ezekiel's visions dating from the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the exile

Section 1: 1,1-3,11	Ezekiel's call and commissioning as YHWH's watchman: []	49 (7x7) vs; 706+
Section 2: 3,12-21	The Spirit brings Ezekiel to the exiles at Telabib: S	10 vs; 152/858 (33x26) words.
Section 3: 3,22-27	YHWH gives Ezekiel instructions about his task: S	6 vs; 91 (13x7) words.
Section 4: 4,1-17	The sign act of the clay tablet portraying Jerusalem: P	17 vs; 264 words.
Section 5: 5,1-17	The sign act of the razor over Ezekiel's head and beard: P	17 vs; 287 words.
Section 6: 6,1-14	The prophecy against the mountains of Israel: P	14 (2x7) vs; 212 words.
Section 7: 7,1-27	The end has come over the four corners of the land: P	27 vs; 343 (7x7x7) words.
<b>Part 1: Sections 1-7 Ezekiel 1-7</b> 35 (5x7) instances of the name YHWH		140 (20x7) vs; 2055 words.

### Part 2: Ezekiel 8-13 Ezekiel's Visions During the 6<sup>th</sup> Year of the Exile

Section 1: 8,1-14	Abominations committed by the Israelites in the temple: S	14 vs; 237 words.
Section 2: 8,15-9,11	Greater abominations and the slaying of the guilty: S	52 15 vs; 280 words.
Section 3: 10,1-11,1	Vision of the divine glory over the Cherubim: P	23 vs; 340 words.
Section 4: 11,2-25	The corrupt rulers of Jerusalem are punished: P	24 vs; 319 words.
Section 5: 12,1-16	The sign act of Ezekiel's baggage signifying the exile: P	16 vs; 229 words.
Section 6: 12,17-20	The sign act of Ezekiel's eating signifying the famine: P	51 4 vs; 51 (3x17) w.
Section 7: 12,21-13,23	Confronted with false visions and false prophecies: []	31 vs; 1076 words.
<b>Part 2: Sections 1-7 Ezekiel 8-13</b> 62 instances of the name YHWH		127 vs; 1933 words.

**Part 3: Ezekiel 14-19 Three Allegories, a Proverb, and a Lamentation**

Section 1: 14,1-11	YHWH's message to the idolatrous elders: P	11 vs; 184 w.
Section 2: 14,12-23	How YHWH judges by means of four plagues: P	12 vs; 207 w. 391 (23x17)
Section 3: 15,1-8	The allegory of the useless wood of the vine: P	8 vs; 103 words.
<b>Section 4: 16,1-63</b>	<b>The allegory of the adulterous wife: S</b>	<b>63 vs; 833 (49x17) words.</b>
Section 5: 17,1-24	The allegory of the two eagles and the vine: P 119	24 vs; 382 w. (119=7x17 vs.).
Section 6: 18,1-32	Proverb concerning individual responsibility: P	32 vs; 474 words.
Section 7: 19,1-14	Lament over the kings in exile: P	14 vs; 157 words.

<b>Part 3: Sections 1-7 Ezekiel 14-19</b>	<b>50</b> instances of the name YHWH	164 vs; <b>2340 (90x26) words.</b>
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**Part 4: Ezekiel 20-24 Ezekiel's visions during the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> year of the exile**

Section 1: 20,1-44	Judah's rebellion and guilt in the past: P	44 vs; 733 words.
Section 2: 20,45-49	YHWH's message against the South: P	5 vs; 71 words.
Section 3: 21,1-32	Message about the sword of judgement: P	32 vs; 459 (27x17) words.
<b>Section 4: 22,1-31</b>	<b>Message about the indictment of Jerusalem: P</b>	<b>31 vs; 390 (15x26) words.</b>
Section 5: 23,1-49	Allegory of Oholah and Oholibah: P	49 vs; 621 words.
Section 6: 24,1-14	The allegory of the boiling pot: P	14 vs; 198 words.
Section 7: 24,15-27	The death of Ezekiel's wife as a sign: S	13 vs; 177 words.

<b>Part 4: Sections 1-7 Ezekiel 20-24</b>	<b>71</b> instances of the name YHWH	188 vs; 2649 words.
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**Part 5: Ezekiel 25-32 The Prophecies Against Seven Foreign Nations**

Section 1: 25,1-17	Prophecies against Ammon, Moab, Edom, and Philistea: S	17 vs; 259 words.
Section 2: 26,1-21	YHWH's punishment for Tyre: S	21 vs; 307+
Section 3: 27,1-36	Ezekiel's lamentation over Tyre: S	36 vs; 407/714 (42x17) w.
<b>Section 4: 28,1-19</b>	<b>The fate of the king of Tyre: P</b>	<b>19 vs; 243 words.</b>
Section 5: 28,20-26	The prophecy against Sidon: S	26/7 vs; 109 words.
Section 6: 29,1-30,26	Prophecy against Pharaoh and Egypt: S	47 vs; 686+
Section 7: 31,1-32,32	The fate of Pharaoh and his people: P	50 vs; 793/1479(87x17) w.

<b>Part 5: Sections 1-7 Ezekiel 25-32</b>	<b>78 (3x26)</b> instances of the name YHWH	197 vs; 2804 words.
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**Part 6: Ezekiel 33-39 YHWH's Judgement on Israel, Jerusalem, Se'ir, and Magog**

Section 1: 33,1-22	Ezekiel is appointed YHWH's watchman: P	22 vs; 335 w.
Section 2: 33,23-33	Israel will know that there is a prophet: S	11 vs; 182 (7x26)
Section 3: 34,1-31	Metaphor of the shepherds and the sheep: P	31 vs; 458 w. 1734 w.
<b>Section 4: 35,1-36,15</b>	<b>Prophecy against Mount Se'ir; Israel renewed: S</b>	<b>30 vs; 443 w. (102x17)</b>
Section 5: 36,16-38	YHWH vindicates his name: a new heart: S	23 vs; 316 w.
Section 6: 37,1-28	The signs of the dry bones and two sticks: S	28 vs; 446 w.
Section 7: 38,1-39,29	Prophecies against Gog of the land Magog: P	52 vs; 804 w.

<b>Part 6: Sections 1-7 Ezekiel 33-39</b>	<b>93</b> instances of the name YHWH	197 vs; 2984 words.
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**Part 7: Ezekiel 40-48 Ezekiel's Vision of a New Temple and a New Land**

Section 1: 40,1-42,20	Ezekiel's vision of the temple and the land: []	95 vs; 1379 w. 1513
Section 2: 43,1-9	The arrival of the glory of YHWH: S	153 9 vs; 134 w. (89x17)
Section 3: 43,10-44,31	The ordinances of the temple: P	(9x17) 49 vs; 782 (46x17) w.
<b>Section 4: 45,1-12</b>	<b>The allotment of sacred land: []</b>	<b>12 vs; 209 w.</b>
Section 5: 45,13-46,24	The ordinances of the temple: []	37 vs; 568 w.
Section 6: 47,1-12	The river flowing to the east: []	12 vs; 202 w.
Section 7: 47,13-48,35	The boundaries and division of the land: Colophon	46 vs; 691 w.

<b>Part 7: Sections 1-7 Ezekiel 40-48</b>	<b>45</b> instances of the name YHWH	<b>260 vs; 3965 w.</b>
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<b>Parts 1-7: Ezekiel 1-48</b>	<b>434</b> instances of the name YHWH	1273 vs; 18730 w.
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**Observation 1** A sizeable proportion of the text of Ezekiel (86%) is highlighted by multiples of 17 and 26:

Part 1: 1-7	131 of the 140 verses ( <b>94%</b> ) and 1641 of the 2055 words ( <b>80%</b> ).
Part 2: 8-13	81 of the 127 verses ( <b>64%</b> ) and 1262 of the 1933 words ( <b>63%</b> ).
Part 3: 14-19	104 of the 164 verses ( <b>63%</b> ) and <b>2340</b> of the <b>2340</b> (90x26) words ( <b>100%</b> ).
Part 4: 20-24	146 of the 188 verses ( <b>78%</b> ) and 2088 of the 2649 words ( <b>79%</b> ).
Part 5: 25-32	180 of the 197 verses ( <b>91%</b> ) and 2613 of the 2804 words ( <b>93%</b> ).
Part 6: 33-39	191 of the 197 verses ( <b>97%</b> ) and 2526 of the 2984 words ( <b>85%</b> ).
Part 7: 40-48	<b>260</b> of the <b>260</b> verses ( <b>100%</b> ) and 3527 of the 3965 words (89%)
<b>Ezekiel 1-48</b>	<b>1093</b> of the <b>1273</b> verses ( <b>86%</b> ) and <b>15997</b> of the <b>18730</b> words ( <b>85%</b> ).

**Observation 2** In comparison with other prophetic books, the book of Ezekiel has also a relatively high percentage of **words ascribed to God (82%)**:

- In Part 1: Ezekiel 1-7 **1481** of the 2055 words are ascribed to God: **72%**.
- In Part 2: Ezekiel 8-13 **1178** of the 1933 words are ascribed to God: **61%**.
- In Part 3: Ezekiel 14-19 **2298** of the 2340 words are ascribed to God: **98%**.
- In Part 4: Ezekiel 20-24 **2529** of the 2649 words are ascribed to God: **98%**.
- In Part 5: Ezekiel 25-32 **2690** of the 2804 words are ascribed to God: **96%**.
- In Part 6: Ezekiel 33-39 **2835** of the 2984 words are ascribed to God: **95%**.
- In Part 7: Ezekiel 40-48 **2431 (143x17)** of the 3965 words are ascribed to God: **61%**.

**In Parts 1-7: Ezekiel 1-48 15442** of the 18730 words are ascribed to God: **82%**.

**Observation 3** **Part 7** (40-48) stands out by having **2431 (143x17)** words in the words ascribed to God and **1534 (59x26)** words in the remaining narrative sections: altogether **2431 + 1534 = 3965**.

**Observation 4** Another distinctive feature of the book of Ezekiel is the exceptionally frequent use of the divine designation אֲדֹנֵי יְהוָה. It occurs no less than 217 times, compared to the Torah (4x), Isaiah (25x), Jeremiah (14x), and the Psalms (4x). It is only in the book of Amos that we find a relatively high occurrence: 21x.

**Observation 5** The key-term בֶּן־אָדָם occurs 93x from 2,1 (the first divine speech) through 47,6. The most commonly used introductory formula וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי occurs **35x**, from 1,1 through 47,8. The key-word רִיחַ singular occurs 50x, plural 2x (37,9; 42,20), together **52x** from 1,4 through 43,5. The term אֲדַמַּת יִשְׂרָאֵל (7,2), which is to be found only in the book of Ezekiel, occurs **17x** (7,2; 11,17; 12,19.22; 13,9; 18,2; 20,38.42; 21,7.8; 25,3.6; 33,24; 36,6; 37,12; 38,18.19). The name יְהוֹקָאֵל occurs only 2x in the book: in 1,3, where the prophet is introduced, and in 24,24, YHWH's answer to a question of the Israelites: "Thus shall Ezekiel be to you a sign; according to all that he has done you shall do. When this comes, then you will know that I am Adonay YHWH". See also 12,6b.11, where YHWH says to Ezekiel: "I have made you a sign for the house of Israel." The phrase כִּי אֲנִי אֲדֹנֵי יְהוָה occurs 5x (13,9; 23,49; 24,24; 28,24; 29,16).

**Observation 6** It is most intriguing to find that the passage in which YHWH commissions Ezekiel as his spokesman (2,1-10) is made up of **156 (6x26)** words, the decimal value of the name יְהוֹקָאֵל, 10+8+7+100+1+30=156 (Klaas Eikelenboom). In this way Ezekiel's signature has been imprinted in the text of the book. For the use of the numerical signature of the main character in a book, see pages 13-14 in the [General Introduction](#).

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