

The Structural Design of Segment III: Isaiah 24-27

Please read the [Introduction to Isaiah](#)

Segment III: Isaiah 24-27 YHWH's Judgement on the World and his Glorious Reign

In Segment III 32 of the 69 verses (46%) and 361 of the 824 words (44%) are highlighted.

Randomly selected passages in Isaiah 24-27 highlighted by 17 and 26.

1. The earth will dry up: misery everywhere (24,4-12): **85 (5x17)** words.
2. Cruel nations hold YHWH in honour and for the poor he has been a refuge (25,1-4): **52 (2x26)** words.
3. Moab will be trampled and its defences will be demolished (25,10-12): **34 (2x17)** words.
4. The city is inhabited by a nation that triumphed over their oppressors (26,1-5): **51 (3x17)** words.
5. YHWH achieves everything for Judah, including raising the dead (26,13-19): **78 (3x26)** words.
6. YHWH cares for his vineyard and guards it (27,2-3): **17** words.
7. The survival of Israel for a glorious future (27,2-11): **119 (7x17)** words.
8. YHWH's threshing: the Israelites are the corn, the oppressors the straw (27,12-13): **34 (2x17)** words.
9. Segment III as a whole (Isaiah 24-27) is made up of **510 (30x17)** verses and **17** paragraphs.

The compositional structure of Isaiah 24-27: eleven different divisions

G.B. GRAY (*The Book of Isaiah, I-XXXIX*, in: ICC, Edinburgh, 1912): **24,1-3; 24,4-13; 24,14-16; 24,17-20; 24,21-23; 25,1-5; 25,6-8; 25,9-12; 26,1-1-6; 26,7-11; 26,12-19; 26,20-27,1; 27,2-6; 27,7-11; 27,12-13.**

G. FOHRER (*Das Buch Jesaja, 2. Band Kapitel 24-39*, in: Zürcher Bibelkommentare, Zürich/Stuttgart, 1967²): **24,1-20; 24,21-25,12; 26,1-6; 26,7-21; 27,1-6.12-13 (sic!); 27,7-11.**

WERNER KESSLER (*Gott geht es um das Ganze*, in: Die Botschaft des Alten Testaments, 19, 1967²): **24,1-6; 24,7-16a; 24,16b-20; 24,21-23; 25,1-5; 25,6-8; 25,9-12; 26,1-6; 26,7-10; 26,11-21; 27,1-13.**

L.A. SNIJDERS (*Jesaja, Deel I*, in: POT, Nijkerk, 1969): **24,1-20; 24,21-23; 25,1-5; 25,6-12; 26,1-14; 26,15-21; 27,1-6; 27,7-11; 27,12-13.**

A. SCHOORS (*Jesaja*, in: BOT IXA, Roermond, 1972): **a) 24,1-6; 24,7-13; 24,14-16a; 24,16b-20; 24,21-23; 25,1-5; 25,6-8; b) 25,9-12; 26,1-6; c) 26,7-19; 26,20-27,1; d) 27,2-6; 27,7-11; 27,12-13.**

O. KAISER (*Der Prophet Jesaja / Kapitel 13-39*, in: ATD 18, 1973): **24,1-13; 24,14-16a; 24,16aßb-20; 24,21-23; 25,1-5; 25,6-8; 25,9-10a; 25,10b-12; 26,1-6; 26,7-21; 26,19 (sic!); 27,1; 27,2-6; 27,7-9; 27,10-11; 27,12-13.**

H. WILDBERGER (*Jesaja: 2. Teilband, Jesaja 13-27*, in: BKAT X/2, Neukirchen-Vluyn, 1978): **24,1-13; 24,14-20; 24,21-23; 25,1-5; 25,6-8; 25,9-12; 26,1-6; 26,7-21; 27,1; 27,2-5; 27,6-11; 27,12-13.**

J. BLENKINSOPP (*Isaiah 1-39*, The Anchor Bible, 2000): **24,1-13; 24,14-23; 25,6-8; 25,1-5.9-12; 26,1-6 (sic!); 26,7-27,1; 27,2-6; 27,7-13.**

J.T. HIBBARD (*Intertextuality in Isaiah 24-27*, in: Forschungen zum Alten Testament 2. Reihe, 16, 2006): **24,1-13; 24,14-20; 24,21-23 + 25,6-8 (sic!); 25,1-5; 25,9-12 (sic!); 26,1-6; 26,7-19; 26,20-27,1; 27,2-6; 27,7-13.**

W.A.M. BEUKEN (*Jesaja 13-27*, HTKAT, 2007): **24; 25; 26,1-27,1; 27,2-13.**

U.F. BERGES (*The Book of Isaiah: Its Composition and Final Form*, Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2012): **24,1-13; 24,14-16a; 24,16b-20; 24,21-23; 25,1-5; 25,6-10a; 25,10b-12; 26,1-6; 26,7-18[19]; 26,20-27,1; 27,2-6; 27,7-11; 27,12-13.1; 27,2-5; 27,6-11; 27,12-13.**

My own division of the text into **3** main parts with **17** paragraphs is primarily based on the layout markers (insofar as they are present), the subject matter, and numerical considerations:

- I. §1: 24,1-3 [] §2: 24,4,12 [] §3: 24,13-15 S §4: 24,16-20 S §5: 24,21-23 P
- II. §6: 25,1-5 P §7: 25,6-12 [] §8: 26,1-6 [] §9: 26,7-8 P §10: 26,9-10 S §11: 26,11 S §12: 26,12-19 S §13: 26,20-21 S §14: 27,1 S
- III. §15: 27,2-6 S §16: 27,7-11 S §17: 27,12-13 [] Aleppo Codex has a P.

The Quantitative Structural Analysis of Isaiah 24-27

Vss	Texts	Words	Letts.	יְהוָה	Sum w.	P/S	Compositional Structure
442	Isa 24,1	9	39	129	5528		§1 YHWH will split the earth and scatter all
443	Isa 24,2	15+ DS 1 20+6	64		5543		<u>24,2-3</u> There will be the same fate for all people
444	Isa 24,3	11/26	39	130	5554/35	[]	and classes, because the earth is stripped bare: 26 .
445	Isa 24,4	10+	39		5564		§2 The earth will dry up: misery everywhere
446	Isa 24,5	12+	45		5576		
447	Isa 24,6	16+	53		5592		The paragraph is in its entirety highlighted by its
448	Isa 24,7	8+	29		5600		85 (5x17) words.
449	Isa 24,8	9+	35		5609		
450	Isa 24,9	7+	24		5616		
451	Isa 24,10	7+	24		5623		
452	Isa 24,11	10+	37		5633		
453	Isa 24,12	6/85 (5x17)	22		5639/85	[]	
454	Isa 24,13	13	47		5652		§3 At harvest time YHWH will be glorified
455	Isa 24,14	8	31	131	5660		
456	Isa 24,15	11	39	132-133	5671/32	S	
457	Isa 24,16	18	67		5689		§4 Despite the singing there is depravity!
458	Isa 24,17	6	22		5695		
459	Isa 24,18	19	76		5714		
460	Isa 24,19	9	39		5723		
461	Isa 24,20	13	56		5736/65	S	
462	Isa 24,21	14	54	134	5750		§5 Punishment in heaven and on earth
463	Isa 24,22	11	42		5761		
464	Isa 24,23	14	61	135	5775/39	P	
23	24,1-23	256	984	7x	256		
465	Isa 25,1	13+	50	136	5788		§6 Praise YHWH for what he has done!
466	Isa 25,2	13/26	50		5801		<u>25,1-4</u> YHWH has done wonderful things so that
467	Isa 25,3	9+	34		5810		cruel nations hold him in honour; moreover, he
468	Isa 25,4	17/26	60		5827		has been a refuge for the poor: 52 (2x26) words.
469	Isa 25,5	11	44		5838/63	P	
470	Isa 25,6	15	66	137	5853		§7 Feast for Judah and ruin for Moab
471	Isa 25,7	14	51		5867		
472	Isa 25,8	19	66	138-139	5886		
473	Isa 25,9	16	69	140	5902		
474	Isa 25,10	13+	49	141	5915		<u>25,10-12</u> Moab will be trampled and its defences
475	Isa 25,11	12+	52		5927		will be levelled to the ground: 34 (2x17) words.
476	Isa 25,12	9/34	36		5936/98	[]	
477	Isa 26,1	14+	53		5950		§8 That day this song will be sung in Judah
478	Isa 26,2	7+	28		5957		<u>26,1-5</u> The city is inhabited by a righteous nation
479	Isa 26,3	8+	26		5965		who trusts in YHWH; he has enabled the oppressed
480	Isa 26,4	9+	32	142-143	5974		to triumph over those who had oppressed them:
481	Isa 26,5	13/51 (3x17)	51		5987		51 (3x17) words.
482	Isa 26,6	6	24		5993/57	[]	
483	Isa 26,7	7	29		6000		§9 YHWH makes the path of the upright level
484	Isa 26,8	9	38	144	6009/16	P	(A first person plural passage)
485	Isa 26,9	15	61		6024		§10 All the world will learn what justice is
486	Isa 26,10	12	42	145	6036/27	S	(A first person singular passage)
487	Isa 26,11	13	46	146	6049/13	S	§11 YHWH's zeal for his people Plural
488	Isa 26,12	10	34	147	6059		§12 YHWH achieves everything for Judah
489	Isa 26,13	9+	39	148	6068		
490	Isa 26,14	13+	48		6081		<u>26,13-19</u> This part of the prayer is highlighted by
491	Isa 26,15	10+	38	149	6091		78 (3x26) words.

492	Isa 26,16	7+	27	150	6098		
493	Isa 26,17	11+	45	151	6109		
494	Isa 26,18	13+	48		6122		
495	Isa 26,19	15/78 (3x26)	60		6137/88	S	
496	Isa 26,20	13	46		6150		§13 Judah is to wait while YHWH acts
497	Isa 26,21	19	69	152	6169/32	S	24,1-26,21 has altogether 650 (25x26) words.
33	Isa 25-26	394	1511	17x	394		Chapters 25-26 are sealed by 17 instances of יהוה.
498	Isa 27,1	21	85	153	6190/21	S	§14 In that day YHWH will punish Leviathan
1	Isa 27,1	21	85	1x	415		Until this point: 153 (9x17) instances of יהוה.
499	Isa 27,2	2+4 DS 4+32	19		6196		§15 YHWH's pleasant vineyard
500	Isa 27,3	11/17	45	154	6207		YHWH sings the song of the vineyard.
501	Isa 27,4	12	44		6219		27,2-3 YHWH cares for it and guards it: 17 words.
502	Isa 27,5	9	32		6228		
503	Isa 27,6	10	42		6238/48	S	
504	Isa 27,7	7+	27		6245		§16 The complete expiation of Israel
505	Isa 27,8	8+	37		6253		
506	Isa 27,9	21+	79		6274		27,7-10 Israel's punishment is limited: they have
507	Isa 27,10	15/51 (3x17)	55		6289		survived for a glorious future: 51 (3x17) words.
508	Isa 27,11	20	75		6309/71	S	§§15 and 16 (27,2-11) have 119 (7x17) words.
509	Isa 27,12	16+	63	155	6325	S	§17 YHWH's threshing: he will gather the corn
510	Isa 27,13	18/34 (2x17)	85	156	6343/34	[]	This S makes v. 13 a focus of attention.
12	27,2-13	153 (9x17)	603	3x	153 (9x17)		27,1-12 has 156 (6x26) words.
69	Segment III	824	3183	28x	824		Until this point in the book: 510 (30x17) verses.
510	1,1-27,13	6343	24980	156x	6343		and 156 (6x26) occurrences of יהוה.

Observation 1 Segment III (24-27) is concluded by 34 (2x17) words (27,12-13) expressing the end of Israel's punishment and the beginning of the return to Jerusalem for a glorious future.

At the same time it concludes the first part of the book (Chapters 1-27), which stands out in three respects:

1. Isaiah 1-27 is finalized and sealed by means of 510 (30x17) verses.
2. Isaiah 1-27 is finalized and sealed by a unifying string of 156 (6x26) occurrences of the name יהוה.
3. In Isaiah 1-27 there are no less than 40 occurrences of ביום ההוא, 'on that day' (18x in 1-12; 15x in 13-23 and 7x in 24-27) compared to only 4 in the rest of the book (28,5; 30,23; 31,7; and 52,6).

All this means that there is a very strong caesura between 27 and 28, which has been taken into account when we discussed the coming into existence of the book as a whole in the analysis of [Segment I \(1-12\)](#). This caesura suggests a tripartite structure: 1-27; 28-35; 36-66, which overrules the traditional tripartite structure. However, there is strong evidence for a sevenfold structure: 1-12; 13-23; 24-27; 28-35; 36-39; 40-55; 56-66.

Observation 2 How do we explain the lack of a layout marker after 27,13? Most significantly, there is a S after 27,12 delimiting 24,1-27,12 as a literary entity, with verse 13 as an appendix. As we have seen, 27,13 marks the preliminary end of the book at this point since 1,1-27,13 is finalized and sealed by 510 (30x17) verses and 156 (6x26) occurrences of the name YHWH. As Klaas Eikelenboom has observed, 24,1-27,12 is rounded off and sealed as a distinct literary unit by means of 806 (31x26) words. Moreover, it divides into two sections: 24,1-26,21, with 650 (25x26) words, and 27,1-12, with 156 (6x26) words.

Observation 3 According to Eikelenboom, the 30-word passage 26,3-5 in Isaiah 25-26 stands out because it occupies pride of place at the mathematical centre:

25,1-26,2 is made up of 182 (7x26) words

26,3-5 has altogether 30 words

26,6-21 is made up of 182 (7x26) words.

The two chapters have altogether 394 words, which is 2x197, the decimal value of the name Immanuel signifying the *presence* of YHWH in the midst of his people: עִמָּנוּ אֵל (70+40+50+6+1+30=197). Compare Observation 5 in my analysis of [Isaiah 1-12](#) in connection with the passage in which the names of Immanuel and Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz are mentioned (6,1-8,4), which has 591 (3x197) words.

The **394** words of Isaiah 25-26, in their turn, have a conspicuous meaningful centre in pride of place at the mathematical centre: **394**=195+4+195. The four words in 26,4b, **בֵּית יְהוָה צוֹר עוֹלָמִים**, 'As YH, YHWH is an everlasting rock', constitute the gist of the message of these chapters: YHWH's trustworthy presence.

Observation 4 The **34**-word conclusion in 27,12-13: the *end* of the exile and the beginning of the return, may be understood as a *cliffhanger* anticipating the good tidings expressed in 34-35 and especially in 40,2:

"Speak kindly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her term of bondage is served, her penalty is paid, for she has received at YHWH's hand double measure for all her sins."

For the literary device of a *cliffhanger*, see Observation 18 in [2 Samuel](#).

Observation 5 The key-phrase, 'on that day', occurs **7x** in a unifying string in 24-27, with the prophecy concerning Leviathan (27,1) in pride of place at the centre by which it is made a special focus of attention: 24,21; 25,9; 26,1; **27,1**; 27,2; 27,12; 27,13. Isaiah 27,1 must be the source of the Jewish tradition (Talmud: Baba Bathra 75a) that the female sea-monster Leviathan, along with the male land-monster Behemoth, will be slain and its flesh served as a feast to the righteous in the time to come. In its present context the Leviathan represents the powers of chaos which are on the point of being triumphed over by YHWH.

The words attributed to YHWH in Isaiah 24-27

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

DSS	Texts	Intro's/Refs	Speaker>> Addressees	Words	Totals
1	24,2-3	6 Reference	Words spoken by YHWH	20+	26
2	27,2-5	4 Introduction	YHWH sings The Pleasant Vineyard	32/52 (2x26)	36

Observation 6 Exactly **26** words are devoted to Speech 1 (including the reference to God's words in 3b). Altogether **52 (2x26)** words are attributed to YHWH. In 24-27, the two DSS form an inclusion.

Observation 7 The Song of the Pleasant Vineyard in Isaiah 27 clearly harks back to the Song of the Vineyard in Isaiah 5. This is numerically expressed, according to Klaas Eikelenboom, by the fact that Isaiah 5,1-27,6 (the entire passage beginning and ending with a vineyard song) has been finalized and sealed by its **5287 (311x17)** words. Note that 27,6 belongs to the Song of the Pleasant Vineyard, for it contains the explanation of the metaphor of the vineyard as relating to Israel, who will fill the whole earth with fruit.

[Next Segment: Isaiah 28-35](#)