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Numerical Features of the Book of Ezra-Nehemiah

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Numerical Features of the Book of Ezra-Nehemiah

A New Approach to its Structural Design

Please read the [General Introduction](#)

There is no doubt about the fact that Ezra-Nehemiah is a single literary work consisting of an Ezra section and a Nehemiah section. In the Masoretic tradition and in the two great codices, the customary Colophon at the end of a book appears only at the end of Nehemiah – compare the Book of Samuel, the Book of Kings, and the Book of Chronicles. It was only in the Christian Greek Bible that it was split into two books by Origen (3rd Century C.E.), and in modern Hebrew Bibles from the 15th Century onwards. The sections differ primarily because of the two totally different main characters: Ezra the priest, whose top priority was the rebuilding of the temple, and Nehemiah the governor, whose main concern was the rebuilding of the walls. Their common concern was the measures against mixed marriages. The book consists for the greater part of sources that were available to the author, especially the reminiscences of these leaders, which bind the two sections inextricably together as a unity. Its purpose was not to offer a historical report, but only to give the readers an impression of the crucial events at the time of the return of the exiles and the enormous problems Ezra and Nehemiah had to face in their efforts to rebuild Jerusalem and to restore the social life of the nation.

In the present literary analysis the book is studied as it lies before us as a non-chronological collage of sources and reminiscences of the period in question. I shall focus exclusively on the structural design of the book and will not go in any detail into the historical problems, because I am convinced that historical problems should neither influence nor determine our work on the literary structure of the book.

Some commentators, who understood the book as a historical report of what happened in Judah at the time of the arrival of the exiles, have rearranged the text to suit their conception of the historical events. A glaring example is to be found in L.W. Batten's commentary, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah*, in: ICC, 1913. He divided the book(s) as follows into nineteen parts:

Ezra 1; Ezra 2,1-69; Ezra 2,70-4,3; Ezra 4,24b-6,18; Ezra 6,19-22; Ezra 4,4-6; Ezra 4,7-24a;
Nehemiah 1 and 2; Neh. 3,1-32; Neh. 3,33-4,17; Nehemiah 5 and 6; Neh. 7,1-5; Nehemiah 11;
Neh. 12,1-26; Neh. 12,27-43; Neh. 12,44-47; Nehemiah 13; **Ezra 7-10; Nehemiah 8-10.**

Of the commentators I review below two have rearranged the text: Becker (1990) and Thorntveit (1992).

The compositional unity of the two sections is underscored by the numerical features they share. Their most striking common feature is the use of the number **11**, which has beyond reasonable doubt been identified as the number signifying fulfilment. See pages 70-73 in my book [Numerical Secrets of the Bible](#).

In the very first verse, Ezra 1,1, reference is made to the *fulfilment* of a divine promise: *"In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfil the word of YHWH spoken by Jeremiah, YHWH stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also to put it in writing."*

Jeremiah cites this divine promise in 29,10: *"Thus says YHWH: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you and bring you back to this place."* For the **70** years, see Ezra 2 in the table below.

The prolific use of the number 11 throughout the book

- Ezra 1 is made up of **11** verses with **781** (71x11) letters.
- The first paragraph, Ezra 1,1-6, has **121** (11x11) words.
- Strikingly, Nehemiah 1 is likewise made up of **11** verses.
- Returning to Ezra, the passage about the men without a genealogy, 2,59-67, has **110** words.
- Ezra 3-6, dealing with the rebuilding of the temple, has **1375** (125x11) words.
- The first part of the Aramaic passage, 4,8-24, has **286** (26x11) words.
- The smaller Aramaic passage, 7,12-26, consists of **264** (24x11) words.
- Ezra's accomplishment: the completion of the temple, Chapter 6, has **22** verses.
- Ezra 9,1-15, the chapter dealing with the problem of mixed marriages, has **286** (26x11) words.
- Ezra's agreement with the people to abandon mixed marriages, Ezra 10, has **44** verses.
- The number **44** also stands for the numerical value of the name עֲזָרָא: 16+7+20+1=44, which signifies Ezra's numerical signature. See my article on [hidden signatures](#).
- In Nehemiah, Chapters 1-2, which form a structural unity, has **572** (26x22=2x26x11) words.
- Nehemiah 3-5, dealing with the rebuilding of the walls, has **1133** (103x11) words.

- Nehemiah 6,1-7,3, about the opposition of Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem, has **22** verses.
- Neh. 9,1-11,2, the public confession of sin and the people's response, has **1023** (93x11) words.
- Nehemiah 13, which is about Nehemiah's second administration, has **473** (43x11) words.
- And to crown it all, there are altogether **11** prayers, with **44** (4x11) words in the introductions.

So there are **18** instances of the use of **11**, which have altogether 5687 words: **63%** of the 9065.

Crucial passages highlighted by the divine name numbers 17 and 26

1. Ezra 1,1-2,67, §§1-5: the return of the exiles and their settlement in Judah: **728** (28x26) words.
2. Ezra 1,7-8: Cyrus let the temple vessels be brought out in charge of the treasurer: **26** words.
3. Ezra 2,43-58, §4: the list of temple servants and royal servants: **104** (4x26) words.
4. Ezra 2,61: special emphasis is laid of the sons of the priests: **17** words and **68** (4x17) letters.
5. Ezra 3,9-13, §9: the foundation of the temple is laid and the fact celebrated: **104** (4x26) words.
6. Ezra 4,3-5: Zerubbabel wants to build, opponents discourage the people: **52** (2x26) words.
7. Ezra 4,8-24, §§11-14: the letter sent to Artaxerxes and its effects: **286** (11x26) words, **17** verses.
8. Ezra 4,12-16, §12: the essence of the letter: **104** (4x26) words.
9. Ezra 5, §§15-17: the urgent appeal to Darius: **17** verses.
10. Ezra 4,8-6,18, §§11-22: the Aramaic section in its entirety: **52** (2x26) verses.
11. Ezra 6,13-18, §§21-22: the completion of the temple and its festive dedication: **102** (6x17) words.
12. Ezra 6,20-22: the report of the celebration of the two main Feasts: **51** (3x17) words.
13. Ezra 7,1-11, §24: Ezra's credentials and his arrival: **136** (8x17) words.
14. Ezra 8,15-30, §28: Ezra takes precautions for a safe return: **238** (14x17) words.
15. Ezra 9,1-15, §30: the problem of the mixed marriages: **286** (11x26) words.
16. Ezra 10,1-4, §31: The decision that the women and children must leave: **68** (4x17) words.
17. Ezra 10,5-9, §32: Ezra calls a sacred assembly: **85** (5x17) words.
18. Ezra 10,10-44, §§33-35: the implementation of the ban of mixed marriages: **312** (12x26) words.
19. Nehemiah 1-2, §§36-40: Nehemiah's top priority: Jerusalem's walls: **572** (22x26) words.
20. Neh. 2,1-9, §§37-38: Nehemiah negotiates successfully with the king: **170** (10x17) words.
21. Neh. 2,10: opposition against rebuilding: **17** words.
22. Neh. 2,12: Nehemiah arises in the night to act: **26** words.
23. Neh. 3,17-32: reparations of the wall by the Levites, temple servants and priests: **208** (8x26) words.
24. Neh. 3,33-35, §42: Sanballat's reaction to the building activities: **52** (2x26) words.
25. Neh. 4,1-8, §44: Sanballat and his accomplices plot together: **119** (7x17) words.
26. Neh. 4,9-5,19, §§45-46: Nehemiah's safety measures and social reforms: **459** (27x17) words.
27. Neh. 5,1-15: Nehemiah listens to the peoples' complaints and takes firm action: **260** (10x26) words.
28. Neh. 5,11-12: Nehemiah orders officials to return to the people all that had been exacted: **17+17** words.
29. Neh. 5,14: for twelve years Nehemiah did not draw the food allowance of the governor: **26** words.
30. Neh. 5,16-19: Nehemiah's humane treatment of the workers, officials, and guests: **68** (4x17) words.
31. Neh. 6,5-7, §48: Sanballat's charge against Nehemiah of rebellion: **51** (3x17) words.
32. Neh. 6,17-18: Support for Tobiah in Judah: **34** (2x17) words.
33. Neh. 6,1-7,3, §§47-51: Sanballat c.s. against Nehemiah and his response: **357** (21x17) words.
34. Neh. 7,1-3, §51: Nehemiah's measures for the safety of the city: **52** (2x26) words.
35. Neh. 7,4-38, §52: the list of other returned exiles: **255** (15x17) words.
36. Neh. 7,39-60, §§53-54: the priests from Jeshua's house and the temple servants: **153** (9x17) words.
37. Nehemiah 8, §§57-61: the promulgation of the law by Ezra: **357** (21x17) words.
38. Neh. 8,2: the law is brought before the assembly: **17** words.
39. Neh. 8,15: the command to fetch branches for the booths: **26** words and **104** (4x26) letters.
40. Neh. 8,17: the unique Feast of Booths: **26** words.
41. Neh. 9,19: YHWH did not forsake the people!: **26** words and **102** (6x17) letters.
42. Neh. 9,36: Behold, today we are slaves: **17** words!
43. Neh. 9,4-37, §63: preparations and performance of the Levitical prayer: **34** (2x17) verses.
44. Neh. 10,35-38: the regulations agreed upon by the people: **78** (3x26) words.
45. Neh. 11,3-14, §67: the settlement of the privileged in Jerusalem: **170** (10x17) words.
46. Neh. 11,15-36, §§68-70: the settlement of the Levites and other people: **182** (7x26) words.
47. Neh. 12,44: men appointed over the storerooms to secure the collection of the priestly revenues: **26** words.
48. Neh. 13,15-22, §77: the Sabbath law must be kept: **153** (9x17) words.
49. Neh. 13,19: Nehemiah's measures to have the gates kept closed until after the Sabbath: **26** words.
50. Neh. 13,10-31, §§76-78: Nehemiah's final measures and actions: **340** (20x17) words.

Outline based on layout markers, content, and numerical features

The **P** and **S** have proved to be very helpful in delimiting the greater and smaller literary units. Generally speaking, they also appear to be reliable. I found only four literary units lacking a layout marker at their outer border, namely, in Nehemiah 2, 6, 7,3, and 10,1-28, which I marked with []. On the whole it was relatively easy to distinguish the layout markers with a delimiting function from those within a literary unit, which serve only to draw attention to what follows or to separate verses in the lists with names (marked green in the table further below), as e.g. in Ezra 2. The passages marked blue are in their entirety highlighted by the divine name numbers **17** and **26**. The numbers with a blue background indicate the passages shaped and highlighted by **11**, the number of fulfillment.

Part I: Ezra 1-2 The return of the exiles under Zerubbabel

A: Ezra 1 The decree of Cyrus: the return begins

§1: 1,1-6 All YHWH's people may go home! **S**

§2: 1,7-11 Sheshbazzar brings the vessels: **P**

11 6 vs; **121 (11x11)** words.
5 vs; 65 words.

B: Ezra 2 The exiles who returned and settled in Judah

§3: 2,1-42 List of the men, priests, and Levites: **P**

§4: 2,43-58 The temple- and royal servants: **S**

§5: 2,59-67 Men without a genealogy: **P**

§6: 2,68-70 Contributions and settlements: **S**

70 42 vs; **287** words. **728 (28x26)** words.
16 vs; **104 (4x26)** words.
9 vs; **110 (10x11)** words.
3 vs; 41 words.

Part II: Ezra 3-6 The rebuilding of the temple 1375 (125x11) words

A: Ezra 3 Work on the rebuilding of the temple begins

§7: 3,1-7 The building of the altar: **P**

§8: 3,8 The leaders appoint officials: **P**

§9: 3,9-13 The foundation is laid and celebrated: **P**

13 7 vs; **110 (10x11)** words.
1 vs; 36 words.
5 vs; **104 (4x26)** words.

B: Ezra 4 The work is interrupted by adversaries

§10: 4,1-7 Problems with the locals: **P**

§11: 4,8-11 A letter is sent to Artaxerxes: **P**

§§11-22 in Aramaic:

§12: 4,12-16 The essence of the letter: **P**

4,8-6,18

§13: 4,17-22 The answer of King Artaxerxes: **S**

§14: 4,23-24 Work on the temple is stopped: **P**

17 7 vs; 117 words.
4 vs; 60 words.
5 vs; **104 (4x26)** w.
6 vs; 83 words. **286 (26x11)** words.
2 vs; 39 words.

C: Ezra 5 An urgent appeal to King Darius

§15: 5,1-2 Prophets help: building resumed: **P**

Aramaic: 52 (2x26) vs.

§16: 5,3-5 Building questioned by officials: **P**

§17: 5,6-17 The report sent to Darius: **S**

17 2 vs; 36 words.
3 vs; 54 words.
12 vs; 239 words.

D: Ezra 6 Ezra's accomplishment: the temple completed and dedicated

§18: 6,1-2 In search of Cyrus's document: **P**

§19: 6,3-5 The decree issued by Cyrus: **S**

§20: 6,6-12 Darius draws conclusions: **P**

§21: 6,13-15 The temple is completed: **P**

§22: 6,16-18 Celebrating the dedication: **P**

§23: 6,19-22 Celebrating the return: **P**

22 2 vs; 25 words.
3 vs; 64 words.
7 vs; 142 words.
3 vs; **53+** words.
3 vs; **49/102 (6x17)** words.
4 vs; 60 words.

Part III: Ezra 7-8 The return of Ezra to Jerusalem

A: Ezra 7 Artaxerxes facilitated Ezra's mission

§24: 7,1-11 Ezra, his credentials, and arrival: **P**

§25: 7,12-26 The decree of Artaxerxes: **P**

In Aramaic:

§26: 7,27-28 Ezra's feelings about his mission: **P**

B: Ezra 8 The exiles who arrived in Jerusalem

§27: 8,1-14 List of the returned exiles: **P**

§28: 8,15-30 Ezra takes precautions for a safe return: **P**

§29: 8,31-36 Activities of the returned exiles: **S**

11 vs; **136 (8x17)** words.
15 vs; **264 (24x11)** words.
17 2 vs; 36 words.

36 14 vs; 124 words.
16 vs; **238 (14x17)** words.
6 vs; 101 words.

Part IV: Ezra 9-10 Ezra's top priority: the mixed marriages

A: Ezra 9 Ezra faces the problem of mixed marriages

§30: 9,1-15 The problem of the mixed marriages: **P**

15 vs; **286 (26x11)** words.

B: Ezra 10 Mixed marriages abandoned

§31: 10,1-4 Women and children must leave!: **P**

§32: 10,5-9 Ezra calls a sacred assembly: **P**

§33: 10,10-14 The people agree to take steps: **P**

§34: 10,15-17 Agreement despite opposition: **P**

§35: 10,18-44 Men who put their wives away: **P**

44 4 vs; **68 (4x17)** words.
5 vs; **85 (5x17)** words.
5 vs; 86 words.
3 vs; 46 words. **312 (12x26)** words.
27 vs; 180 words.

Part V: Nehemiah 1-2 Nehemiah's top priority: Jerusalem's walls

§36: 1,1-11 He hears about the situation in Judah: P

§37: 2,1-3 Nehemiah states his case: the walls: S

§38: 2,4-9 The king grants him what he asked: P

§39: 2,10-18 Nehemiah inspects the walls in secret: P

§40: 2,19-20 Three men oppose and charge Nehemiah: []

11 vs; 202 words.

See Ezra 1,1-11!

3 vs; 54+ words.

20 6 vs; 116/170

572 (26x22) words.

9 vs; 157 words.

2 vs; 43 words.

Part VI: Nehemiah 3,1-5,19 Rebuilding impeded by opponents: 1133 (103x11) words.

§41: 3,1-32 Work in progress despite the opponents: P

§42: 3,33-35 The reaction of Sanballat to the building activities: P

§43: 3,36-38 Nehemiah's prayer; the building goes on: P

§44: 4,1-8 Sanballat c.s. plotted together: P

§45: 4,9-17 A dangerous situation: safety measures: S

§46: 5,1-19 Nehemiah's first social reforms: P

32 vs; 466 words.

3 vs; 52 (2x26) words.

3 vs; 37 words.

74 8 vs; 119 (7x17) w.

9 vs; 131 w.

19 vs; 328w. 459 (27x17) words.

Part VII: Nehemiah 6,1-7,3 Sanballat and Tobiah against Nehemiah

§47: 6,1-4 Sanballat versus Nehemiah: S

§48: 6,5-7 Sanballat's charge of intended rebellion: S

§49: 6,8-15 Nehemiah's reaction to the charge: P

§50: 6,16-19 Tobiah tries to oust Nehemiah: []

§51: 7,1-3 Measures for the safety of the city: []

4 vs; 69 words.

3 vs; 51 (3x17) w.

22 8 vs; 118 words.

357 (21x17) words.

4 vs; 67 words.

3 vs; 52 (2x26) w.

Part VIII: Nehemiah 7,4-72 The population of Jerusalem and Judah

§52: 7,4-38 List of other returned exiles: P

§53: 7,39-45 The priests from Jeshua's house: P

§54: 7,46-60 Temple servants: P

§55: 7,61-68 People without a genealogy: S

§56: 7,69-72 Contributions by family heads: P

35 vs; 255 (15x17) w.

7 vs; 55+

69 15 vs; 98/153 (9x17) words.

8 vs; 103 words.

4 vs; 63 words.

Part IX: Nehemiah 8 The promulgation of the law by Ezra

§57: 8,1-4 The people want to hear the law: P

§58: 8,5-8 The people stand to hear the law: P

§59: 8,9-12 The Levites address the people: P

§60: 8,13-15 The Feast of Booths to be kept: P

§61: 8,16-18 The celebration of the feast: P

4 vs; 91 words.

4 vs; 63 words.

18 4 vs; 80 words.

357 (21x17).

3 vs; 58 words.

3 vs; 65 words.

Part X: Nehemiah 9,1-11,2 Sin confessed and an oath taken

§62: 9,1-3 Fasting and law reading begins: P

§63: 9,4-37 Preparations and performance of the Levitical prayer: P

§64: 10,1-28 The binding declaration in writing: P

§65: 10,29-34 An oath to walk in God's law : P

§66: 10,35-11,2 Additional binding obligations : P

3 vs; 39 words.

34 vs; 617 words.

79 28 vs; 111 words. 1023 (93x11)

6 vs; 108 words.

8 vs; 148 words.

Part XI: Nehemiah 11,3-36 Settlers in Jerusalem and the region

§67: 11,3-14 The privileged in Jerusalem: P

§68: 11,15-18 Levites in Jerusalem: P

§69: 11,19-21 The rest of the people: P

§70: 11,22-36 People who live elsewhere: P

12 vs; 170 words.

4 vs; 48 words.

34 3 vs; 25 words.

182 (7x26) words.

15 vs; 109 words.

Part XII: Nehemiah 12 Priests and Levites who came with Zerubbabel

§71: 12,1-7 Priests who came with Zerubbabel: P

§72: 12,8-22 The Levites in the service: P

§73: 12,23-26 The sons of Levi, family heads: P

§74: 12,27-47 The dedication of the walls: P

7 vs; 38 words.

15 vs; 96 words.

47 4 vs; 56 words.

21 vs; 281 words.

Part XIII: 13,1-31 Nehemiah's second administration 473 (43x11) words.

§75: 13,1-9 Cleansing: especially Tobiah's chamber: P

§76: 13,10-14 Tithes are paid to the Levites: P

§77: 13,15-22 The Sabbath law must be kept: P

§78: 13,23-31 Nehemiah's actions against mixed marriages: Colophon

9 vs; 133 words.

5 vs; 69 words.

31 8 vs; 153 (9x17) 340 (20x17) words.

9 vs; 118 words.

Observation 1 In the Ezra section, 173 of the 280 verses (62%) and 2941 of the 3753 words (78%) are shaped and highlighted by the divine name numbers 17 and 26.

In the Nehemiah section it is 223 of the 405 verses (55%) and 3016 of the 5312 words (57%).

The averages in the book as a whole are 58% of the verses and 66% of the words.

As regards the number 11, 5687 (63%) of the 9065 words of the book are shaped by 11.

Seventeen views on the structural design of the book of Ezra-Nehemiah

A. VAN SELMS (*Ezra en Nehemia*, in: *Tekst en Uitleg*, 1935):

Ezra 1,1-4; 1,5-11; 2,1-70; 3,1-5; 3,6-13; 4,1-6; || 4,7-16; 4,17-23; 4,24-5,5; 5,6-17; 6,1-5; 6,6-12; 6,13-18; 6,19-22; || 7,1-10; 7,11-28; 8,1-14; 8,15-20; 8,21-30; 8,31-36; || 9,1-4; 9,5-15; 10,1-6; 10,7-17; 10,18-44.

Nehemiah 1,1-3; 1,4-11; 2,1-10; 2,11-15; 2,16-20; 3,1-32; 3,33-38; 4,1-8; 4,9-17; 5,1-5; 5,6-13; 5,14-19; 6,1-9; 6,10-14; || 6,15-19; 7,1-3; 7,4-5; 7,6-69; 7,69-72a; || 7,72b-8,4; 8,5-8; 8,9-12; 8,13-18; 9,1-5; 9,6-15; 9,16-25; 9,26-31; 9,32-37; || 10,1-28; 10,29-30; 10,31-40; || 11,1-2; 11,3-24; 11,25-36; 12,1-7; 12,8-9; 12,10-11; 12,12-21; 12,22-26; || 12,27-30; 12,31-43; 12,44-47; 13,1-3; 13,4-9; 13,10-14; 13,15-22; 13,23-29; 13,30-31.

A. NOORDTJII (*De Boeken Ezra en Nehemia*, in: *Korte Verklaring der Heilige Schrift*, 1939):

Regarded as the last three main Parts (V, VI, VII) of Great Chronicles:

Part V: Ezra 1,1-6,22: A. 1,1-4; 1,5-11; 2,1-70; B. 3,1-5; 3,6-13; C. 4,1-6; 4,7-16; 4,17-23; 4,24-5,5; 5,6-17; 6,1-5; 6,6-12; 6,13-18; 6,19-22; **Part VI: Ezra 7,1-10,44:** A. 7,1-10; 7,11-28; 8,1-20; 8,21-36; B. 9,1-15; 10,1-17; 10,18-44.

Part VII: Nehemiah 1,1-13,31: A. 1,1-11; 2,1-10; B. 2,11-20; 3,1-32; 4,1-6; 4,7-23; C. 5,1-13; 5,14-19; D. 6,1-19; 7,1-5a; 7,5b-72; E. 8,1-13; 8,14-19; 9,1-37; 9,38-10,39; F. 11,1-24; 11,25-36; 12,1-11; 12,12-21; 12,22-26; G. 12,27-43; H. 12,44-47; 13,1-3; 13,4-9; 13,10-14; 13,15-22; 13,23-31.

R.H. PFEIFFER ("*Ezra and Nehemiah, Books of,*" in: *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, Vol. 2, 1962, 215-219):

I. Ezra 1-6: A. 1,1-4; 1,5-11; 2,1-67; 2,68-70; B. 3,1-6; C. 3,7-13; 4,1-5; 4,6-16; 4,17-23; 4,24; 5,1-6,18; 6,19-22;

II. Ezra 7-10: A. 7,1-10; B. 7,11-26; C. 7,27-28; D. 8,1-20; E. 8,21-36; F. 9,1-5; 9,6-15; 10,1-5; 10,6-8; 10,9-17;

10,18-44; **III. Nehemiah 1-13:** A. 1,1-3; 1,4-11; 2,1-8; B. 2,9-20; C. 3-4; D. 5; E. 6,1-7,5a (continued in 11,1-2); F.

7,5b-73a; G. 7,73b-9,37 (perhaps to follow Ezra 10); H. 9,38-10,40; I. 11; J. 12,1-26; K. 12,27-13,3; L. 13,4-31.

P.R. ACKROYD (*I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah*, in: *Torch Bible Commentaries*, 1973, 212-320):

Ezra 1-6: according to the chapter arrangement; **Ezra 7-10:** according to the chapter arrangement.

Nehemiah 1-7: 1-6 according to the chapter arrangement; 7,1-72; **Nehemiah 8-10: 7,73-8,18; 9,1-37; 9,38-10,39;**

Nehemiah 11-13: 11,1-36; 12,1-13,3; 13,4-31.

H.G.M. WILLIAMSON (*Ezra, Nehemiah*, in: *WBC 16*, 1985):

EZRA 1,1-11: Permission to return

2,1-70: The List of Exiles Who Returned

3,1-4,5: The Restoration of Worship

4,6-24: Opposition

5-6: The Rebuilding of the Temple

7,1-10: Introduction to Ezra

7,11-28a: Ezra's Commission

7,28b-8,14: List of Exiles Who Returned with Ezra

8,15-36: Ezra's Journey to Jerusalem

9,1-15: A Report of Mixed Marriages and Ezra's Response

10,1-44: The Problem of Mixed Marriages Resolved

NEHEMIAH 1,1-11: Nehemiah's Vocation

2,1-10: Nehemiah's Commission

2,11-20: Nehemiah's First Steps in Jerusalem

3,1-32: Rebuilding the Walls

3,33-37: Renewed Opposition

3,38-4,17: Further Opposition and Countermeasures

5,1-19: Internal Difficulties

6,1-19: The Completion of the Wall

7,1-72a: The Need to Populate Jerusalem

7,72b-8,18: The Reading of the Law

9,1-37: Confession

10,1-40: A Pledge to Keep the Law

11,1-36: The population of Jerusalem, and related Matters

12,1-26: Priests and Levites

12,27-43: The Dedication of the Wall

12,44-13,14: The Temple Chambers: Use and Abuse

13,15-31: Concluding Reforms.

A.H.J. GUNNEWEG (*Ezra*, in: *KAT Band XIX 1*, 1985. *Nehemia*, in: *KAT Band XIX 2*, 1987):

Erster Hauptteil Ezra 1-6: Erster Abschnitt Ezra 1-3: 1,1-4; 1,5-11; 2,1-67; 2,68-69; 2,70; 3,1-6; 3,7-13;

Zweiter Abschnitt Esra 4: 4,1-5; 4,6-24; Dritter Abschnitt Esra 5,1-6,18.19-22; 5,1-5; 5,6-17; 6,1-12; 6,13-22;
Zweiter Hauptteil Esra 7-10: Erster Abschnitt Esra 7,1-8,36: 7,1-10; 7,11-26; 7,27-28; 8,1-14; 8,15-20; 8,21-30;
 8,31-34; 8,35-36; Zweiter Abschnitt Esra 9: 9,1-5; 9,6-15; Dritter Abschnitt Esra 10: 10,1-6; 10,7-17; 10,18-44.
Dritter Hauptteil Nehemia 1-10: Erster Abschnitt Nehemia 1,1-2,10: 1,1-4; 1,5-11; 2,1-10; Zweiter Abschnitt:
 2,11-15; 2,16-20; 3,1-32; 3,33-4,17; 5,1-13; 5,14-19; 6,1-4; 6,5-9; 6,10-14; 6,15-16; 6,17-19; 7,1-3;
 Dritter Abschnitt Nehemia 7,4-10,40: 7,4-5; 7,6-68; 7,69-71; 7,72a; 7,72b-8,8; 8,9-12; 8,13-18; 9,1-5; 9,6-37;
 10,1-30; 10,31-40;

Vierter Hauptteil Nehemia 11-13: Erster Abschnitt Nehemia 11,1-12,26: 11,1-2; 11,3-36; 12,1-26;
 Zweiter Abschnitt Nehemia 12,27-43: 12,27-30; 12,31-39; 12,40-43; Dritter Abschnitt Nehemia 12,44-13,31:
 12,44-47; 13,1-3; 13,4-9; 13,10-14; 13,15-22; 13,23-29; 13,30-31.

J. BLENKINSOPP (*Ezra-Nehemiah*, in: Old Testament Library, 1988): I. **Ezra 1-6:** 1,1-4; 1,5-11; 2,1-67; 2,68-3,6; 3,7-13; 4,1-5; 4,6-24; 5,1-2; 5,3-17; 6,1-5; 6,6-12; 6,13-18; 6,19-22.

II. **Ezra 7-10:** 7,1-10; 7,11-26; 7,27-8,14; 8,15-20; 8,21-30; 8,31-36; 9,1-5; 9,6-15; 10,1-8; 10,9-17; 10,18-44.

III. **Nehemiah 1,1-7,5a:** 1,1-4; 1,5-11a; 1,11b-2,10; 2,11-20; 3,1-32; 3,33-38; 4,1-8; 4,9-17; 5,1-13; 5,14-19; 6,1-14; 6,15-19; 7,1-5a; 7,5b-72a; 7,72b-8,12; 8,13-18; 9,1-5; 9,6-37; 10,1-40; 11,1-24; 11,25-36; 12,1-26; 12,27-43; 12,44-13,3; 13,4-14; 13,15-22; 13,23-31.

E. YAMAUCHI (*Ezra, Nehemiah*, in: The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Vol. 4, 1988, 565-771):

EZRA I. The First Return From Exile and the Rebuilding of the Temple

- A. 1,1-11: The First Return of the Exiles: 1,1-4; 1,5-11
- B. 2,1-70: The List of Returning Exiles
- C. 3,1-13: The Revival of Temple Worship: 3,1-3: The Rebuilding of the Altar; 3,4-6: The Festival of the Booths; 3,7-13: The beginning of temple reconstruction
- D. 4,1-24: The Opposition to the Rebuilding
 1. 4,1-5: Opposition During the Reign of Cyrus
 2. 4,6: Opposition during the Reign of Xerxes
 3. 4,7-23: Opposition during the reign of Artaxerxes
 4. 4,24: Resumption of work under Darius
- E. 5,1-6,22: The Completion of the Temple
 1. 5,1-2: A new beginning inspired by Haggai and Zechariah
 2. 5,3-5: The intervention of the governor Tattenai
 3. 5,6-7: The report to Darius
 4. 6,1-5: The search for the decree of Cyrus
 5. 6,6-12: Darius's order for the rebuilding of the temple
 6. 6,13-15: The Completion of the temple
 7. 6,16-18: The dedication of the temple
 8. 6,19-22: The celebration of Passover

II. 7,1-10,44: Ezra's Return and Reforms

- A. 7,1-8,30: Ezra's return to Palestine
 1. 7,1-10: Preparations
 2. 7,11-26: The authorization by Artaxerxes
 3. 7,27-28: Ezra's doxology
 4. 8,1-14: Returnees with Ezra
 5. 8,15-20: The search for Levites
 6. 8,21-23: Prayer and Fasting
 7. 8,24-30: The assignment of the precious objects
 8. 8,31-36: The journey and arrival in Jerusalem
- B. 9,1-10,44: Ezra's Reforms
 1. 9,1-6a: The offence of mixed marriages
 2. 9,6b-15: Ezra's confession and prayer
 3. 10,1-4: The people's response
 4. 10,5-15: The calling of a public assembly
 5. 10,16-17: Investigation of the offenders
 6. 10,18-43: The list of offenders
 7. 10,44: The dissolution of the mixed marriages.

NEHEMIAH I. 1,1-12,47: Nehemiah's First Administration

- A. 1,1-11: Nehemiah's Response to the Situation in Jerusalem
 - 1,1-4: News of the plight of Jerusalem

- 1,5-11: Nehemiah's prayer
- B. 2,1-20: Nehemiah's Journey to Palestine
 - 2,1-8: The king's response
 - 2,9-10: The journey to Palestine
 - 2,11-16: Nehemiah's nocturnal inspection of the walls
 - 2,17-18: Nehemiah's exhortation to rebuild the walls
 - 2,19-20: the opposition of Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem
- C. 3,1-32: List of the builders of the walls
 - 3,1-7: The northern section
 - 3,8-13: The western section
 - 3,14: The southern section
 - 3,15-32: The eastern section
- D. 4,1-23: Opposition to the Rebuilding of the Walls
 - 4,1-5: The derision of Sanballat and Tobiah
 - 4,6-15: The threat of attack
 - 4,16-23: The rebuilding of the walls
- E. 5,1-19: Social and Economic Problems
 - 5,1-5: The complaints of the poor
 - 5,6-13: The cancellation of debts
 - 5,14-19: Nehemiah's unselfish example
- F. 6,1-19: the Completion of the Walls Despite Opposition
 - 6,1-9: Attempts to snare Nehemiah
 - 6,10-14: The hiring of false prophets
 - 6,15-19: The completion of the walls
- G. 7,1-72a: The List of Exiles
 - 7,1-3: Provisions for the protection of Jerusalem
 - 7,4-5: Nehemiah's discovery of the list
 - 7,6-69: The list of exiles
- H. 7,72b-10,39: Ezra's Preaching and the Outbreak of Revival
 - 7,72b-8,12: The public proclamation of the Scriptures
 - 8,13-18: The festival of Booths
 - 9,1-5a: A day of fasting, confession, and prayer
 - 9,5b-31: A recital of God's dealings with Israel
 - 9,32-37: Confession of sins
 - 9,38: A binding agreement
 - a 10,1-29: A list of those who sealed it
 - b 10,30-39: Provisions of the agreement
- I. 11,1-36: The New Residents of Judah and Jerusalem
 - 11,1-2: Selection of the new residents
 - 11,3-24: The provincial leaders
 - 11,25-30: Places settled by those from Judah
 - 11,31-35: Places settled by those from Benjamin
 - 11,36: Transfer of Levites from Judah to Benjamin
- J. 12,1-47: Lists of Priests and the Dedication of the Wall
 - 12,1-9: Priests and Levites from the first return
 - 12,10-26: High priests and Levites since Joiakim
 - 12,27-43: Dedication of the walls of Jerusalem
 - 12,44-47: Regulations of the temple offerings and services
- II 13,1-31: Nehemiah's Second Administration
 - A. 13,1-5: Abuses during his absence
 - B. 13,6-7: Nehemiah's Return
 - C. 13,8-9: Nehemiah's expulsion of Tobiah
 - D. 13,10-31: Reorganization and Reforms
 - 13,10-14: Offerings for the temple staff
 - 13,15-22: The abuse of the Sabbath
 - 13,23-29: Mixed marriages
 - 13,30-31: Provisions of wood and firstfruits.

J. BECKER (*Ezra/Nehemiah*, in: Die neue Echter Bibel, 1990): *A drastic rearrangement of the text.*

Esra 1,1-6,22: 1,1-11; 2,1-35; Neh 7,6-38; 2,36-63; Neh 7,39-65; 2,64-70; Neh 7,66-72; **Esra 3,1-13; 4,1-16; 4,17-24; 5,1-17; 6,1-12; 6,13-22; Esra 7,1-10,44:** 7,1-10; 7,11-23; 7,24-28; 8,1-20; 8,21-26; 9,1-4; 9,5-15; 10,1-17; 10,18-44. **Nehemiah 1,1-6,19:** 1,1-11; 2,1-10; 2,11-20; 3,1-32; 3,33-38; 4,1-17; 5,1-13; 5,14-19; 6,1-19; **Nehemiah 7,1-13,31:** 7,1-3; 7,4-38; 7,39-65; Esra 2,36-63; 7,66-72; Esra 2,64-70; 8,1-12; 8,13-18; 9,1-5; 9,6-37; 10,1-40; 11,1-19; 11,20-36; 12,1-26; 12,27-43; 12,44-47; 13,1-14; 13,15-22; 13,23-31.

R.W. KLEIN ("*Ezra-Nehemiah, Books of,*" in: The Anchor Bible Dictionary, Vol. 2, 1992, 731-742):

I. Esra 1-6: A. 1,1-11; B. 2,1-70; C. 3,1-6; D. 3,7-13; E. 4,1-3; F. 4,4-5; G. 4,6; H. 4,7; I. 4,8-6,18 (Aramaic); J. 6,19-22;

II. Esra 7-10: A. 7,1-10; B. 7,11; C. 7,12-26 (Aramaic); D. 7,27-9,15; E. 10,1-44;

III. Nehemiah 1-7,27a: A. 1,1-11; B. 2,1-10; C. 2,11-15; D. 2,16-20; E. 3,1-32; F. 3,33-37; G. 3,38-4,17; H. 5,1-13;

I. 5,14-19; J. 6,1-14; K. 6,15-19; L. 7,1-5; M. 7,6-72a; **IV. A.** 7,72b-8,12; B. 8,13-18; C. 9,1-5a; D. 9,5b-37; E. 12,1-9;

F. 12,12-26; G. 12,27-43; H. 12,44-47; I. 13,1-3; J. 13,4-31.

D.A. DORSEY (*The Literary Structure of the Old Testament: A Commentary on Genesis-Malachi*, Baker Academic, 1999):

The book 'comprises seven well-defined units that form a structural whole.' (page 158)

Ezra 1-2: Zerubbabel's return

Ezra 3-6: Zerubbabel's accomplishment: the rebuilding of the Temple

Ezra 7-8: Ezra's return

Ezra 9-10: Ezra's accomplishments (*in pride of place at the centre*)

Nehemiah 1-2: Nehemiah's return

Nehemiah 3,1-7,3: Nehemiah's accomplishment

Nehemiah 7,4-13,31: Final reforms and lists.

Within this framework, Dorsey presents in more detail the beautiful symmetry in the book:

a Ezra 1-2: **Zerubbabel's return and list of the returnees**

- List of returnees, gold, silver, priestly garments (2,1-70)

b Ezra 3-6: **Building of temple and opposition from enemies**

- Themes: opposition, the story of the Jews' success

c Ezra 7-8: **Ezra's return**

- Dealings with king
- Orders from king to Transeuphrates governors to assist Jews
- Recounted in first-person

d Ezra 9-10: **CENTER: purification of people**

c Neh. 1-2: **Nehemiah's return**

- Dealings with the king
- Orders from king to Transeuphrates governors to assist Jews
- Recounted in first person

B Neh. 3,1-7,3: **Building of walls and opposition from enemies**

- Themes: opposition, the story of the Jews' success

a Neh. 7,4-13,31: **Zerubbabel's return and list of the returnees**

- List of returnees, gold, silver, priestly garments (7,4-73). *If anything demonstrates the compositional unity of the book, it is, in my view, Dorsey's outline.*

T.C. ESKENAZI ("*Ezra, Book of,*" in: Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible, 2000, 449-451):

I. Esra 1,1-4: Cyrus' decree to restore the house of God in Jerusalem

II. Esra 1,5-Neh. 7,72: Implementation of the decree

A. Esra 1,5-2,1-70: Introduction with a list of returning exiles

B. Esra 3,1-Neh 7,72: Implementation of the decree in three movements

1. Esra 3,1-6,22: First movement: Building of the temple under Zerubbabel and Joshua's leadership
2. Esra 7,1-10,44: Second movement: Building community under Ezra's leadership in 458-457
3. Neh. 1,1-7,5: Third movement: Building Jerusalem's walls under Nehemiah's leadership in 445-444

C. Neh. 7,6-72: Conclusion with a recapitulation of the list of returning exiles

III. Neh. 8,1-13,3: Celebration of reconstruction under Ezra and Nehemiah with Torah at the center

IV. Neh. 13,4-31: Coda: Nehemiah's report. *Like Dorsey's, in my view, a very persuasive outline, which demonstrates the unity of the book in a special way.* Compare also T.C. Eskenazi, *In an Age of Prose: A Literary Approach to Ezra-Nehemiah*. SBLMS 36 (Atlanta 1988).

See the fascinating concentric arrangement of 'The History of Nehemiah,' (1,1-7,3) in the little article written by M.A. THORNTVEIT, "*Nehemiah, the Book of,*" in: Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible, 2000, 955-957. *This article corroborates the compositional unity of this part of the Nehemiah section.*

D.L. SMITH-CHRISTOPHER (“15. *Ezra-Nehemiah*,” in: *The Oxford Bible Commentary*, 2001, 308-324):

Ezra 1-6: Events Following Persian Conquest of Babylon (Chapter arrangement)

Ezra 7-10: Description of Events in Career of Ezra the Priest (Chapter arrangement)

Neh 1-7 (mistakenly 8): Nehemiah’s Memoirs (Chapter arrangement)

Neh 8-13: Displaced Ezra Sections (Chapter arrangement).

L.L. GRABBE (in: *Eerdmans Commentary of the Bible*, 2003, *Ezra*, 313-319, *Nehemiah*, 320-328):

“The Ezra and Nehemiah traditions seem to have developed independently but were brought together by an editor in these two books.”

Ezra 1-7 according to the chapter arrangement.

Ezra 8: 1-14; 15-20; 21-35; 36; **Ezra 9-10:** 9,1-2; 9,3-15; 10,1-8; 10,9-17; 10,18-44.

Nehemiah 1,1,2-10; 2,11-3,32; 3,33-4,17; 5,1-13; 5,14-19; 6,1-16? 6,17-19; 7,1-5; 7,6-72; 8,1-8; 8,9-12; 8,13-18; 9,1-5; 9,6-35; 9,36-37; 9,38; 10,1-28; 10,29-31; 10,32.

M.A THORNTVEIT (*Ezra-Nehemiah*, in: *Interpretation*, 1992): *A slight rearrangement: putting Neh 5,1-19 at the end.*

PART ONE: Ezra 1,1-Nehemiah 7,3:

Ezra 1-6: Return under Zerubbabel and Reconstruction of the Temple:

1-2 Continuity with the Past

1,1-4: That It Might Be Accomplished

1,5-11: A Second Exodus

2,1-70: Israel Transplanted

3-6 Continuity and Opposition

3,1-4,5: First Things First

4,6-24: Back to the Future

5-6: The Temple Reconstructed

Ezra 7-10: Return under Ezra and Reconstruction of the Community

7-8: The Hand of Their God Was upon Them

9-10: The Judgment of Grace

9,1-10,1a: Ezra’s Prayer: The Judgment of Grace

10,1b-44: The Community’s Response

Nehemiah 1-4; 6,1-7,3: Return Under Nehemiah Hand Reconstruction of the Walls

1-2 Jerusalem as Reproach

1,1b-11a: Encounter with God

1,11b-2,8: Encounter with Artaxerxes

2,9-10: Opposition

2,11-16: Encounter with Reality

2,17-20: Encounter with the people: Nehemiah’s Night Ride

3-4: Narrowing Reproach: The Builders Repair, and Defence

3 Repair of the Walls

4 Defence of the City

6,1-7,3 Narrowing Reproach: Nehemiah

6,1-9, 10-14, 17-19: Three Schemes of Intimidation

6,15-16; 7,1-3: Building Reports

PART TWO Nehemiah 7,4-12,43:

7,4-72a: Community Renewal

7,72b-8,12: Scene One: Joyous Renewal

8,13-18: Scene 2: Festive Renewal

9,1-10,39: Scene Three: Covenant Renewal

9,1-3: Preparations

9,4-37: Application: Sermon-Prayer of Confession

9,38-10,39: Response: Faithful Covenant

11,1-12,43: Joyous Dedication

11,1-12,26: The Tithing of God’s People

12,27-43: Joyous Dedication

CODA: Remember me, O My God 12,44-13,31

12,44-13,31: An Idealized Picture of the Community?

5,1-19: A Second Memoir.

L. ALLEN and T. LANIAK (*Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther*, in: New International Biblical Commentary, 2003):

Ezra (Leslie C. Allen)

- §1 1,1-4: The Long Awaited Signal
- §2 1,5-11: Preparations for Implementing the Mission
- §3 2,1-70: The Return of the True People of God
- §4 3,1-13: Making a Start
- §5 4,1-24: A Temporary and Typical Setback
- §6 5,1-17: Back on Track
- §7 6,1-22: The Green Light
- §8 7,1-28a Ezra's Commission
- §9 7,28b-8,36: Bringing Glory to the Temple
- §10 9,1-15: Ezra's Challenging Prayer
- §11 10,1-44: The Message Hits Home

Nehemiah (Leslie C. Allen)

- §1 1,1-11: The Background to Nehemiah's Mission
- §2 2,1-10: The Assignment of the Mission
- §3 2,11-20: Nehemiah's Private and Public Measure
- §4 3,1-32: Details of the Wall Building
- §5 4,1-23: Hurdles to Get Over
- §6 5,1-19: Trouble on the Farm
- §7 6,1-19: Success in Spite of Intimidation
- §8 7,1-72a Preparations for Consolidating the City
- §9 7,72b-8,18: Back to Basics
- §10 9,1-37: Restoring Right Relations with God
- §11 9,38-10,39: A Communal Pledge of Obedience
- §12 11,1-12,26: Moving into the Holy City
- §13 12,27-43: The Grand Finale
- §14 12,44-13,31: Guidelines Established and Monitored.

P.A. NOSS and K.J. THOMAS (*A Handbook on Ezra and Nehemiah*, UBS Handbook Series, 2005):

- I. Ezra 1,1-4: Introduction
- II. Part One: Ezra 1,5-6,22: Building the Temple
- III. Part Two: Ezra 7,1-10,44: Building the Community
- IV. Part Three: Nehemiah 1,1-7,72a: Building the Wall
- V. Part Four: Nehemiah 7,72b-13,3: Building the Community according to the Law
- VI. Part Five: Nehemiah 13,4-31: Reforms of Nehemiah.

Quantitative structural analysis of the book of Ezra-Nehemiah

It cannot be excluded that some of the multiples of **17** and **26** are due to coincidence.
The paragraphs marked **blue** in Columns 1-3 are in their entirety highlighted by **17** or **26**.

Vs.	Texts	Words	Letts.	יהוה	Sum w.	S/P	Structural Design
Part I		Ezra 1-2		The return of exiles under Zerubbabel			
A:		Ezra 1		The decree of Cyrus; the return begins			
1	Ezr 1,1	24	90	1-2	24		§1: 1,1-6 All YHWH's people may go home! Strikingly, the first paragraph has 11x11 words. The first chapter is made up of 11 verses and 71x11 letters. The number of fulfilment, 11 , has consciously been used in order to signify the fulfilment of the prophecy in Jer. 29,10.
2	Ezr 1,2	22	80	3	46		
3	Ezr 1,3	21	83	4	67		
4	Ezr 1,4	21 121	90		88		
5	Ezr 1,5	19	88	5	107		
6	Ezr 1,6	14	63		121 (11x11)	S	
7	Ezr 1,7	14+	63	6	135		§2: 1,7-11 Sheshbazzar brings the vessels <u>1,7-8</u> Cyrus let the temple vessels be brought out in charge of the treasurer: 26 words.
8	Ezr 1,8	12/26	54		147		
9	Ezr 1,9	11	51		158	S	
10	Ezr 1,10	12	51		170	S	
11	Ezr 1,11	16	68		186/65	P	
11	Ezra 1	186	781	6x	186		781 = 71x11 letters.
B:		Ezra 2		The exiles who returned and settled			
12	Ezr 2,1	17	80		203		§3: 2,1-42 List of the men, priests, and Levites <u>2,1</u> Particulars about the list of returnees: 17 w. The fact that Ezra 2 has 70 verses is, in my view, not a matter of chance: the author/redactor used it as a device to signify the end of the Babylonian exile after 70 years. For the same technique, see Jer. 25,8-11 (70 words!), where the 70 years are explicitly mentioned. See also the concluding paragraph in the book of Jeremiah (52,31-34, with its 70 words), which preludes on the ending of the exile and signifies a happy end with the release of King Jehoiachin. Compare my analysis of Jeremiah 46-52 , p. 18.
13	Ezr 2,2	18	71		221	S	
14	Ezr 2,3	6	25		227	S	
15	Ezr 2,4	6	25		233	S	
16	Ezr 2,5	6	23		239	S	
17	Ezr 2,6	11	43		250	S	
18	Ezr 2,7	6	26		256	S	
19	Ezr 2,8	6	26		262	S	
20	Ezr 2,9	5	18		267	S	
21	Ezr 2,10	6	23		273	S	
22	Ezr 2,11	6	22		279	S	
23	Ezr 2,12	6	25		285	S	
24	Ezr 2,13	6	23		291	S	
25	Ezr 2,14	5	21		296	S	
26	Ezr 2,15	6	26		302	S	
27	Ezr 2,16	5	23		307	S	
28	Ezr 2,17	6	23		313	S	
29	Ezr 2,18	5	18		318	S	
30	Ezr 2,19	5	21		323	S	
31	Ezr 2,20	4	16		327	S	
32	Ezr 2,21	6	22		333	S	
33	Ezr 2,22	4	17		337	S	
34	Ezr 2,23	5	22		342	S	
35	Ezr 2,24	4	19		346	S	
36	Ezr 2,25	9	41		355	S	
37	Ezr 2,26	7	26		362	S	
38	Ezr 2,27	5	21		367	S	
39	Ezr 2,28	7	28		374	S	
40	Ezr 2,29	4	16		378	S	
41	Ezr 2,30	5	20		383	S	
42	Ezr 2,31	7	29		390	S	
43	Ezr 2,32	5	19		395	S	
44	Ezr 2,33	8	31		403	S	
45	Ezr 2,34	6	25		409	S	
46	Ezr 2,35	7	29		416	S	
47	Ezr 2,36	9	39		425	S	
48	Ezr 2,37	5	19		430	S	
49	Ezr 2,38	6	27		436	S	
50	Ezr 2,39	5	17		441	S	

51	Ezr 2,40	8	40		449	S	
52	Ezr 2,41	6	26		455	P	
53	Ezr 2,42	18	67		473/287	P	
54	Ezr 2,43	7	30		480		§4: 2,43-58 The temple- and royal servants This paragraph is highlighted by 104 words.
55	Ezr 2,44	6	21		486		
56	Ezr 2,45	6	21		492		
57	Ezr 2,46	6	19		498		
58	Ezr 2,47	6	19		504		
59	Ezr 2,48	6	21		510		
60	Ezr 2,49	6	18		516		
61	Ezr 2,50	6	104 (4x26)	25	522		
62	Ezr 2,51	6	24		528		
63	Ezr 2,52	6	23		534		
64	Ezr 2,53	6	22		540		
65	Ezr 2,54	4	15		544		
66	Ezr 2,55	9	33		553		
67	Ezr 2,56	6	21		559		
68	Ezr 2,57	9	34		568		
69	Ezr 2,58	9	38		577/104	S	
70	Ezr 2,59	18	66		595		§5: 2,59-67 Men without a genealogy
71	Ezr 2,60	10	39		605	S	
72	Ezr 2,61	17	68		622		2,61 Special emphasis is laid of the sons of the priests: 17 words.
73	Ezr 2,62	9	40		631		
74	Ezr 2,63	13	54		644		
75	Ezr 2,64	9	34		653		
76	Ezr 2,65	14	69		667		
77	Ezr 2,66	9	44		676		
78	Ezr 2,67	11	50		687/110	P	
79	Ezr 2,68	13	64	7	700		§6: 2,68-70 Contributions and settlements
80a	Ezr 2,69a	9	41		709	S	
80b	Ezr 2,69b	7	30		716	S	
81	Ezr 2,70	12	67		728/41	S	
70	Ezra 2	542	2228	1x	542		Ezra 1-2 has 7 instances of the name YHWH.
81	Part I: 1-2	728 (28x26)	3009	7x	728 (28x26)		Part I is finalized and sealed by 728 words.
Part II		Ezra 3-6					The rebuilding of the temple
A:		Ezra 3					Work on the rebuilding begins
82a	Ezr 3,1a	6	28		734	S	§7: 3,1-7 The building of the altar The 10x11 words in this paragraph may also be conscious design to emphasize the restoration of the cult service. See Ezra 1,1-6 and Neh 13. 3,6-7 The first offerings and measures to start up the rebuilding of the temple: 34 (2x17) words,
82b	Ezr 3,1b	6	24		740	S	
83	Ezr 3,2	23	102		763		
84	Ezr 3,3	16	72	8	779		
85	Ezr 3,4	13	51		792		
86	Ezr 3,5	12	59	9-10	804		
87	Ezr 3,6	12+	50	11-12	816		
88	Ezr 3,7	22/34 (2x17)	97		838/110	P	
89	Ezr 3,8	36	159	13	874/36	P	
90a	Ezr 3,9a	15	66		889	S	
90b	Ezr 3,9b	5	23		894		
91	Ezr 3,10	21	104 (4x26)	14-15	915		
92	Ezr 3,11	22	86	16-18	937	S	
93	Ezr 3,12	23	106		960		
94	Ezr 3,13	18	74		978/104	P	
13	Ezra 3	250	1089	11x	250		
B:		Ezra 4					Building is interrupted by adversaries
95	Ezr 4,1	12	53	19	990		§10: 4,1-7 Problems with the locals 4,3-5 Zerubbabel is adamant about the building of the temple, but opponents discourage the people of Judah: 52 words.
96	Ezr 4,2	25	99		1015		
97	Ezr 4,3	27	111	20	1042		
98	Ezr 4,4	10	52 (2x26)	41	1052		
99	Ezr 4,5	15	59		1067		
100	Ezr 4,6	10	51		1077	S	

101	Ezr 4,7	18	84		1095/117	P	
102	Ezr 4,8	13	55		1108		§11: 4,8-11 A letter is sent to Artaxerxes 4,8-6,18 in Aramaic: 52 (2x26) verses and 948 words.
103	Ezr 4,9	17	86		1125		
104	Ezr 4,10	16	64		1141		
105	Ezr 4,11	14	58		1155/60	P	
106	Ezr 4,12	20	90		1175		
107	Ezr 4,13	19	80		1194		§12: 4,12-16 The essence of the letter This crucial paragraph is highlighted by 104 w.
108	Ezr 4,14	18	104 (4x26)	68	1212		
109	Ezr 4,15	29		121	1241		
110	Ezr 4,16	18		73	1259/104	P	
111	Ezr 4,17	19		75	1278	S	
112	Ezr 4,18	7	30		1285		§13: 4,17-22 The answer of King Artaxerxes 4,8-24 §§11-14 is sealed and highlighted by 60+104+83+39=286 (26x11) words.
113	Ezr 4,19	18	71		1303		
114	Ezr 4,20	14	60		1317		
115	Ezr 4,21	14	51		1331		
116	Ezr 4,22	11	45		1342/83	S	
117	Ezr 4,23	23	102		1365	S	§14: 4,23-24 Work on the temple is stopped
118	Ezr 4,24	16	65		1381/39	P	
24	Ezra 4	403	1692	2x	403		
C: Ezra 5							An urgent appeal to King Darius
119	Ezr 5,1	16	72		1397	S	§15: 5,1-2 Prophets help: building resumed
120	Ezr 5,2	20	88		1417/36	P	
121	Ezr 5,3	24	93		1441	S	§16: 5,3-5 Building questioned by officials
122	Ezr 5,4	12	45		1453		
123	Ezr 5,5	18	70		1471/54	P	§17: 5,6-17 The report sent to Darius 5,7-17 The report sent to Darius: 221 words.
124	Ezr 5,6	18	72		1489		
125	Ezr 5,7	10	44		1499	S	
126	Ezr 5,8	23	101		1522	S	
127	Ezr 5,9	17	67		1539		
128	Ezr 5,10	11	47		1550	S	
129	Ezr 5,11	25	221 (4x17)	105	1575		
130	Ezr 5,12	20	78		1595	S	
131	Ezr 5,13	15	51		1610		
132	Ezr 5,14	34	127		1644		
133	Ezr 5,15	16	59		1660	S	
134	Ezr 5,16	18	63		1678		
135	Ezr 5,17	32	111		1710/239	S	
17	Ezra 5	329	1293	0x	329		Ezra 5 has 17 verses.
D: Ezra 6							Ezra's accomplishment: the temple built
136	Ezr 6,1	13	53		1723		§18: 6,1-2 In search of Cyrus's document
137	Ezr 6,2	12	54		1735/25	P	
138	Ezr 6,3	25	104		1760		§19: 6,3-5 The decree issued by Cyrus.
139	Ezr 6,4	14	50		1774		
140	Ezr 6,5	25	107		1799/64	S	
141	Ezr 6,6	16	64		1815		§20: 6,6-12 Darius draws conclusions
142	Ezr 6,7	15	59		1830		
143	Ezr 6,8	29	110		1859		
144	Ezr 6,9	25	101		1884		
145	Ezr 6,10	10	48		1894		
146	Ezr 6,11	22	78		1916		
147	Ezr 6,12	25	91		1941/142	P	
148	Ezr 6,13	16	66		1957		
149	Ezr 6,14	22	100		1979		
150	Ezr 6,15	15	54		1994/53	P	§22: 6,16-18 Celebrating the dedication 6,13-18, §21-22, is sealed by 53+49=102 words.
151	Ezr 6,16	13	102 (6x17)	54	2007		
152	Ezr 6,17	23		95	2030		
153	Ezr 6,18	13		63	2043/49	P	

154	Ezr 6,19	9	38		2052		§23: 6,19-22 Celebrating the return 6,20-22 The report of the celebration of
155	Ezr 6,20	15+	70		2067		
156	Ezr 6,21	15+	67	21	2082		Passover and the Feast of unleavened bread: 51 words, to round off Part I.
157	Ezr 6,22	21/51 (3x17)	85	22	2103/60	P	
22	Ezra 6	393	1611	2x	393		Ezra 6 has 22 verses.
69	Part II: 3-6	1375(125x11)	5685	15x	1375		Part II is made up of 1375 (125x11) words.
157	Ezra 1-6	2103	8694	22x	2103		Ezra 1-6: 2x11 instances of the name YHWH.
Part III Ezra 7-8		The return of Ezra to Jerusalem					
A: Ezra 7		Artaxerxes facilitated Ezra's mission					
158	Ezr 7,1	14	58		2117		§24: 7,1-11 Ezra, his credentials, and arrival This important paragraph has 11 verses.
159	Ezr 7,2	6	20		2123		
160	Ezr 7,3	6	21		2129		
161	Ezr 7,4	6	17		2135		
162	Ezr 7,5	10	36		2145		
163	Ezr 7,6	23 136 (8x17)	85	23-24	2168	P	The paragraph is highlighted and sealed by 136 (8x17) words.
164	Ezr 7,7	15	80		2183		
165	Ezr 7,8	8	37		2191		
166	Ezr 7,9	18	73		2209		
167	Ezr 7,10	13	52	25	2222	S	Until 7,11 26 instances of the name YHWH. 7,11 Introduction to the king's letter: 17 words.
168	Ezr 7,11	17	72	26	2239/136	P	
169	Ezr 7,12	12	49		2251		§25: 7,12-26 The decree of Artaxerxes In Aramaic: 264 (24x11) words. Significantly, 264 is also a multiple of 44 (6x44), the numerical value of the name עזרא: 16+7+20+1=44. See Ezra 10 below.
170	Ezr 7,13	16	64		2267		
171	Ezr 7,14	17	62		2284		
172	Ezr 7,15	12	56		2296		
173	Ezr 7,16	17	71		2313		
174	Ezr 7,17	21	91		2334		
175	Ezr 7,18	13	54		2347		
176	Ezr 7,19	11	45		2358		
177	Ezr 7,20	13	45		2371		
178	Ezr 7,21	24	92		2395		
179	Ezr 7,22	20	65		2415		
180	Ezr 7,23	19	67		2434		
181	Ezr 7,24	20	83		2454		
182	Ezr 7,25	25	93		2479		
183	Ezr 7,26	24	87		2503/264	P	
184	Ezr 7,27	15	59	27-28	2518		§26: 7,27-28 Ezra's reaction to his mission
185	Ezr 7,28	21	92	29	2539/36	P	
28	Ezra 7	436	1726	7x	436		
B: Ezra 8		The arrival of the exiles in Jerusalem					
186	Ezr 8,1	10	51		2549	S	§27: 8,1-14 List of the returned exiles
187a	Ezr 8,2a	3	13		2552	S	
187b	Ezr 8,2b	3	14		2555	S	
187c	Ezr 8,2c	3	12		2558	S	
188a	Ezr 8,3a	2	9		2560	S	
188b	Ezr 8,3b	8	37		2568	S	
189	Ezr 8,4	9	42		2577	S	
190	Ezr 8,5	8	34		2585	S	
191	Ezr 8,6	8	34		2593	S	
192	Ezr 8,7	8	36		2601	S	
193	Ezr 8,8	8	37		2609	S	
194	Ezr 8,9	10	43		2619	S	
195	Ezr 8,10	8	37		2627	S	
196	Ezr 8,11	9	38		2636	S	
197	Ezr 8,12	9	38		2645	S	
198	Ezr 8,13	11	58		2656	S	
199	Ezr 8,14	7	33		2663/124	P	
200	Ezr 8,15	18	69		2681		§28: 8,15-30 Ezra takes precautions for safety
201	Ezr 8,16	14	89		2695		
202	Ezr 8,17	22	101		2717		

203	Ezr 8,18	19	77		2736		
204	Ezr 8,19	9	40		2745	S	
205	Ezr 8,20	13	63		2758		
206	Ezr 8,21	17	71		2775		
207	Ezr 8,22	25	96		2800		
208	Ezr 8,23	7	32		2807		
209	Ezr 8,24	10	50		2817		
210	Ezr 8,25	18	81		2835		
211	Ezr 8,26	15	56		2850		
212	Ezr 8,27	12	53		2862		
213	Ezr 8,28	13	58	30-31	2875		
214	Ezr 8,29	15	70	32	2890		
215	Ezr 8,30	11/238	58		2901/238	P	
216	Ezr 8,31	19	84		2920		§29: 8,31-36 Activities of the returned exiles
217	Ezr 8,32	6	25		2926		
218	Ezr 8,33	26+	110		2952		8,33-34 The vessels handed over to the priest Meremoth; their weight recorded: 34 words.
219	Ezr 8,34	8/34 (2x17)	32		2960	P	Ezra 8,15-35 has 22 verses.
220	Ezr 8,35	27	115	33	2987	P	Ezra 1-8 is sealed by 221 (13x17) verses.
221	Ezr 8,36	15	62		3002/101	S	
22	Ezr 8,15-36	339	1492	4x	339		More instances of the use of the number 11.
36	Ezra 8	463	2058	4x	463		Until this point, 33x YHWH.
64	Part III: 7-8	899	3784	11x	899		11x YHWH.
Part IV Ezra 9-10							The history of Ezra the scribe continued
A: Ezra 9							Ezra faces the problem of mixed marriages
222	Ezr 9,1	23	114		3025		§30: 9,1-15 Ezra asks God for guidance
223	Ezr 9,2	17	79		3042	S	
224	Ezr 9,3	14	61		3056		
225	Ezr 9,4	16	61		3072		
226	Ezr 9,5	15	68	34	3087		
227	Ezr 9,6	17	74		3104		
228	Ezr 9,7	23	106		3127		
229	Ezr 9,8	23	102	35	3150		
230	Ezr 9,9	28	120		3178	S	
231	Ezr 9,10	9	36		3187		
232	Ezr 9,11	24	97		3211		
233	Ezr 9,12	25	109		3236		
234	Ezr 9,13	18	82		3254		
235	Ezr 9,14	15	67		3269	P	
236	Ezr 9,15	19	78	36	3288/286	P	
15	Ezra 9	286 (26x11)	1254	3x	286 (26x11)		Note the multiple of 11.
B: Ezra 10							Mixed marriages abandoned
237	Ezr 10,1	22+	95		3310	S	§31: 10,1-4 Women and children must leave!
238	Ezr 10,2	22+	94		3332		The paragraph about this crucial decision is finalized and sealed by 68 words.
239	Ezr 10,3	16+	76		3348		
240	Ezr 10,4	8/68 (4x17)	29		3356/68	P	
241	Ezr 10,5	13	55		3369		§32: 10,5-9 Ezra calls a sacred assembly
242	Ezr 10,6	24	86		3393	S	
243	Ezr 10,7	9 85 (5x17)	45		3402		
244	Ezr 10,8	16	66		3418	S	10,1-9 sealed by 68+85=153 (9x17) words.
245	Ezr 10,9	23	106		3441/85	P	
246	Ezr 10,10	14	62		3455		§33: 10,10-14 The people agree to take steps
247	Ezr 10,11	14	64	37	3469		
248	Ezr 10,12	10	42		3479		
249	Ezr 10,13	20	75		3499		
250	Ezr 10,14	28/86	114		3527/86	P	
251	Ezr 10,15	14	53		3541		§34: 10,15-17 Agreement despite opposition
252	Ezr 10,16	21	92		3562		
253	Ezr 10,17	11/46	47		3573/46	P	

254	Ezr 10,18	16	76		3589		§35: 10,18-44 Men who put their wives away	
255	Ezr 10,19	9	38		3598	S		
256	Ezr 10,20	4	18		3602	S		
257	Ezr 10,21	7	35		3609			
258	Ezr 10,22	8	45		3617	S		
259	Ezr 10,23	10	48		3627	S		
260	Ezr 10,24	8	37		3635	S		
261	Ezr 10,25	10	52		3645	S		
262	Ezr 10,26	8	41		3653	S		
263	Ezr 10,27	8	43		3661	S		
264	Ezr 10,28	6	26		3667	S		
265	Ezr 10,29	8	34		3675	S		
266	Ezr 10,30	11	49		3686	S		
267	Ezr 10,31	7	32		3693	S		
268	Ezr 10,32	3	14		3696	S		
269	Ezr 10,33	9	36		3705	S		
270	Ezr 10,34	5	20		3710	S		
271	Ezr 10,35	3	12		3713			
272	Ezr 10,36	3	15		3716			
273	Ezr 10,37	3	14		3719			
274	Ezr 10,38	3	13		3722			
275	Ezr 10,39	3	15		3725			
276	Ezr 10,40	3	12		3728			
277	Ezr 10,41	3	17		3731			
278	Ezr 10,42	3	13		3734	S		
279	Ezr 10,43	9	37		3743			
280	Ezr 10,44	10	39		3753/180	P		
44	Ezra 10	465	2032	1x	465			Ezra 10 is highlighted and sealed by 44 verses.
59	Part IV: 9-10	751	3286		751			44 is the numerical value of the name עזרא:
280	Ezra 1-10	3753	15764	37x	3753			16+7+20+1=44. See Ezra 7,12-26 above.
Part V Neh 1-2							Nehemiah's top priority: the walls	
281	Neh 1,1	13	55		3766		§36: The situation in Judah and Jerusalem	
282	Neh 1,2	17	74		3783			
283	Neh 1,3	18	80		3801			
284	Neh 1,4	15	67		3816			
285	Neh 1,5	14	64	38	3830			
286	Neh 1,6	33	131		3863			
287	Neh 1,7	16	59		3879			
288	Neh 1,8	16	55		3895			
289	Neh 1,9	22	90		3917			
290	Neh 1,10	9	38		3926			
291	Neh 1,11	29	115		3955/202	P		
292	Neh 2,1	18	75		3973		§37: 2,1-3 Nehemiah states his case: the walls	
293	Neh 2,2	18	60		3991			
294	Neh 2,3	18	70		4009/54	S		
295	Neh 2,4	12	41		4021		§38: 2,4-9 The king grants him what he asked <u>2,1-9</u> Nehemiah finds favour in the eyes of King Artaxerxes: 54+116=170 words.	
296	Neh 2,5	19	71		4040			
297	Neh 2,6	19	77		4059			
298	Neh 2,7	20	72		4079			
299	Neh 2,8	30	111		4109			
300	Neh 2,9	16	62		4125/116	P		
301	Neh 2,10	17	69		4142			§39: 2,10-18 Nehemiah inspects the walls <u>2,10</u> Opposition against rebuilding: 17 words. <u>2,12</u> Nehemiah arises in the night to act: 26 w.
302	Neh 2,11	7	27		4149			
303	Neh 2,12	26	93		4175			
304	Neh 2,13	20	84		4195			
305	Neh 2,14	12	46		4207			
306	Neh 2,15	12	50		4219			
307	Neh 2,16	19	83		4238			
308	Neh 2,17	23	90		4261			
309	Neh 2,18	21	80		4282/157	P		

310	Neh 2,19	23	98		4305		§40: 2,19-20 Three men charge Nehemiah Note that 572 is a multiple of 2x11. Neh. 1-2 is finalized and sealed by 572 words.
311	Neh 2,20	20	89		4325/43	[]	
31	Part V: 1-2	572 (26x22)	2276	1x	572 (26x22)		
Part VI 3,1-5,19							Rebuilding impeded by opponents Opposition and plots by enemies
Nehemiah 3							
312	Neh 3,1	21	94		4346	S	§41: 3,1-32 Work in progress; opponents 3,17-32 Reparations by the Levites, the temple servants and the priests: 208 (8x26) words and 850 (50x17) letters.
313a	Neh 3,2a	5	17		4351	S	
313b	Neh 3,2b	6	19		4357	S	
314	Neh 3,3	12	57		4369	S	
315a	Neh 3,4a	8	29		4377	S	
315b	Neh 3,4b	8	31		4385	S	
315c	Neh 3,4c	6	21		4391	S	
316	Neh 3,5	10	49		4401	S	
317	Neh 3,6	16	75		4417	S	
318	Neh 3,7	14	62		4431	S	
319a	Neh 3,8a	7	28		4438	S	
319b	Neh 3,8b	11	48		4449	S	
320	Neh 3,9	10	34		4459	S	
321a	Neh 3,10a	8	30		4467	S	
321b	Neh 3,10b	6	23		4473		
322	Neh 3,11	13	50		4486	S	
323	Neh 3,12	12	46		4498	S	
324	Neh 3,13	19	83		4517		
325	Neh 3,14	17	72		4534	S	
326	Neh 3,15	29	123		4563	S	
327	Neh 3,16	20	75		4583	S	
328	Neh 3,17	15	58		4598	S	
329	Neh 3,18	10	38		4608	S	
330	Neh 3,19	14	49		4622	S	
331	Neh 3,20	16	61		4638	S	
332	Neh 3,21	16	65		4654	S	
333	Neh 3,22	5	26		4659		
334a	Neh 3,23a	6	208 (8x26)	27	4665	S	
334b	Neh 3,23b	9	36		4674	S	
335	Neh 3,24	13	51		4687		
336	Neh 3,25	17	71		4704	S	
337	Neh 3,26	11	48		4715	S	
338	Neh 3,27	12	54		4727		
339	Neh 3,28	8	35		4735	S	
340a	Neh 3,29a	7	26		4742	S	
340b	Neh 3,29b	8	34		4750	S	
341a	Neh 3,30a	11	41		4761	S	
341b	Neh 3,30b	7	29		4768	S	
342	Neh 3,31	15	62		4783		
343	Neh 3,32	8	39		4791/466	P	
344	Neh 3,33	16	64		4807		
345	Neh 3,34	22	52 (2x26)	104	4829		
346	Neh 3,35	14	56		4843/52	P	
347	Neh 3,36	13	51		4856		
348	Neh 3,37	12	48		4868		
349	Neh 3,38	12	44		4880/37	P	
38	Nehemiah 3	555	2283	0x	555		
Nehemiah 4							Opposition and plots of enemies §44: 4,1-8 Sanballat and others plot together The paragraph is sealed by 119 words.
350	Neh 4,1	20+	94		4900		
351	Neh 4,2	9+	41		4909		
352	Neh 4,3	9+	44		4918		
353	Neh 4,4	12+	50		4930		
354	Neh 4,5	15+	61		4945		
355	Neh 4,6	15+	67		4960		

356	Neh 4,7	14+	76		4974		
357	Neh 4,8	25/119 (7x17)	108		4999/119	P	
358	Neh 4,9	18	71		5017		§45: 4,9-17 A dangerous situation: measures
359	Neh 4,10	19	91		5036		
360	Neh 4,11	12	56		5048		
361	Neh 4,12	10	48		5058		
362	Neh 4,13	18	77		5076		
363	Neh 4,14	12	49		5088		
364	Neh 4,15	11	55		5099		
365	Neh 4,16	16	66		5115		
366	Neh 4,17	15	63		5130/131	S	
17	Nehemiah 4	250	1117	0x	250		
Nehemiah 5				Social-economic problems to face			
367	Neh 5,1	8	36		5138		§46: 5,1-19 Nehemiah's social reforms 5,1-15 Nehemiah listens to the peoples' complaints and takes firm action: 260 words. This S draws attention to Nehemiah's reaction. 5,11-12 Nehemiah commands the officials to return to the people all that had been exacted of them: 17+17 words. 5,14 For twelve years Nehemiah did not draw the food allowance of the governor: 26 words. 5,16-19 Nehemiah's humane treatment of the workers, officials, and guests: 68 words. Neh 5 is sealed by 328=260+68 words, and Neh 4-5 by 119+131+328=578 (34x17) words.
368	Neh 5,2	11	51		5149		
369	Neh 5,3	11	52		5160		
370	Neh 5,4	9	40		5169		
371	Neh 5,5	23	112		5192		
372	Neh 5,6	10	38		5202		
373	Neh 5,7	19	78		5221		
374	Neh 5,8	22 260	94		5243	S	
375	Neh 5,9	14	60		5257		
376	Neh 5,10	13	44		5270		
377	Neh 5,11	17	77		5287		
378	Neh 5,12	17	69		5304		
379	Neh 5,13	33	123	39	5337		
380	Neh 5,14	26	103		5363		
381	Neh 5,15	27	107		5390		
382	Neh 5,16	14	58		5404		
383	Neh 5,17	13	63		5417		
384	Neh 5,18	31 68 (4x17)	107		5448		
385	Neh 5,19	10	33		5458/328	P	
19	Nehemiah 5	328	1345	1x	328		Neh 3-5 is sealed by 1133 (103x11) words.
74	Part VI: 3-5	1133(103x11)	4745	1x	1133		
Part VII Neh 6,1-7,3				Sanballat and Tobiah against nehemiah			
386	Neh 6,1	25	101		5483		§47: 6,1-4 Sanballat versus Nehemiah
387	Neh 6,2	16	69		5499		
388	Neh 6,3	18	80		5517		
389	Neh 6,4	10	41		5527/69	S	
390	Neh 6,5	12	49		5539		§48: 6,5-7 The charge of intended rebellion The paragraph is highlighted by 51 words.
391	Neh 6,6	21 51 (3x17)	84		5560		
392	Neh 6,7	18	81		5578/51	S	§49: 6,8-15 Nehemiah's reaction to the charge 6,12-13 Nehemiah distrusts Shemaiah: 26 w. This P draws attention to Nehemiah's prayer in verse 14.
393	Neh 6,8	14	54		5592		
394	Neh 6,9	15	56		5607		
395	Neh 6,10	27	110		5634		
396	Neh 6,11	13	49		5647		
397	Neh 6,12	12+	51		5659		
398	Neh 6,13	14/26	55		5673	P	
399	Neh 6,14	15	74		5688		
400	Neh 6,15	8	40		5696/118	P	
401	Neh 6,16	20	90		5716		
402	Neh 6,17	14+	62		5730		
403	Neh 6,18	20/34 (2x17)	70		5750		
404	Neh 6,19	13	56		5763/67	[]	
405	Neh 7,1	10	57		5773		§51: 7,1-3 Measures for the safety of the city 7,1-3: 52 words. Compare the 52 days in 6,15! 6,16-7,3 (§§50-51) sealed by 119 (7x17) words.
406	Neh 7,2	18 52 (2x26)	66		5791		
407	Neh 7,3	24	101		5815/52	[]	
22	Neh 6,1-7,3	357 (21x17)	1496	0x	357 (21x17)		6,1-7,3 is sealed by 22 vs; 357 (21x17) words.

Part VIII Neh 7,4-72						§52: Population of Jerusalem and Judah
408	Neh 7,4	10	44		5825	
409	Neh 7,5	20	83		5845	P
410	Neh 7,6	16+	75		5861	
411	Neh 7,7	18/34 (2x17)	77		5879	S
412	Neh 7,8	6	26		5885	S
413	Neh 7,9	6	25		5891	S
414	Neh 7,10	6	22		5897	S
415	Neh 7,11	11	44		5908	S
416	Neh 7,12	6	26		5914	S
417	Neh 7,13	6	26		5920	S
418	Neh 7,14	5	18		5925	S
419	Neh 7,15	6	24		5931	S
420	Neh 7,16	6	22		5937	S
421	Neh 7,17	7	29		5944	S
422	Neh 7,18	6	24		5950	S
423	Neh 7,19	5	21		5955	S
424	Neh 7,20	6	23		5961	S
425	Neh 7,21	5	22		5966	S
426	Neh 7,22	6	23		5972	S
427	Neh 7,23	6	24		5978	S
428	Neh 7,24	5	17		5983	S
429	Neh 7,25	4	18		5987	S
430	Neh 7,26	7	28		5994	S
431	Neh 7,27	5	22		5999	S
432	Neh 7,28	5	23		6004	S
433	Neh 7,29	9	42		6013	S
434	Neh 7,30	7	27		6020	S
435	Neh 7,31	5	22		6025	S
436	Neh 7,32	7	26		6032	S
437	Neh 7,33	5	20		6037	S
438	Neh 7,34	7	29		6044	S
439	Neh 7,35	5	19		6049	S
440	Neh 7,36	6	25		6055	S
441	Neh 7,37	8	31		6063	S
442	Neh 7,38	7	29		6070/255	P
443	Neh 7,39	9	39		6079	S
444	Neh 7,40	5	19		6084	S
445	Neh 7,41	6	27		6090	S
446	Neh 7,42	5	16		6095	P
447	Neh 7,43	8	40		6103	S
448	Neh 7,44	6	27		6109	S
449	Neh 7,45	16	60		6125/55	S
450	Neh 7,46	7	28		6132	
451	Neh 7,47	6	21		6138	
452	Neh 7,48	6	21		6144	
453	Neh 7,49	6	18		6150	
454	Neh 7,50	6	22		6156	
455	Neh 7,51	6	18		6162	
456	Neh 7,52	6	25		6168	
457	Neh 7,53	6	24		6174	
458	Neh 7,54	6	23		6180	
459	Neh 7,55	6	22		6186	
460	Neh 7,56	4	15		6190	
461	Neh 7,57	9	34		6199	
462	Neh 7,58	6	21		6205	
463	Neh 7,59	9	35		6214	
464	Neh 7,60	9	38		6223/98	P

In terms of content, there is no break after 7,5. So this P does not have a delimiting function.

7,6-7 People who came with their leaders: 34 w. Note that there are 12 leaders: Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, and 9 others.

255 = 15x17.

§53: 7,39-45 The priests from Jeshua's house

§54: 7,46-60 Temple servants

465	Neh 7,61	18	69		6241		§55: 7,61-68 People without a genealogy 7,63 Special emphasis on the priests: 17 words.
466	Neh 7,62	10	41		6251	S	
467	Neh 7,63	17 17	66		6268		
468	Neh 7,64	9	39		6277		
469	Neh 7,65	13	55		6290		
470	Neh 7,66	9	35		6299		
471	Neh 7,67	16	81		6315	S	
472	Neh 7,68	11	49		6326/103	S	
473	Neh 7,69	18	85		6344		§56: 7,69-72 Contributions by family heads The position of this P is out of place; it should be moved to the next verse. 7,72 The settlement of these exiles: 17 words.
474	Neh 7,70	13	63		6357		
475	Neh 7,71	15	66		6372	P	
476	Neh 7,72	17	90		6389/63	P	
67	Neh 7,6-72	544 (32x17)	2261	0x	544 (32x17)		
69	Neh 7,4-72	574	2388	0x	574		
Part IX 8,1-18 The promulgation of the law by Ezra							
477	Neh 8,1	24	88	40	6413		§57: 8,1-4 The people want to hear the law 8,2 The law is brought before the assembly: 17.
478	Neh 8,2	17	66		6430		
479	Neh 8,3	23	90		6453		
480	Neh 8,4	27	122		6480/91	P	§58: 8,5-8 The people stand up to hear the law
481	Neh 8,5	15	51		6495		
482	Neh 8,6	18	75	41-42	6513		
483	Neh 8,7	21	92		6534		
484	Neh 8,8	9 234 (9x26)	43		6543/63	S	
485	Neh 8,9	30	120	43	6573		§59: 8,9-12 The Levites address the people
486	Neh 8,10	23	93	44	6596		
487	Neh 8,11	11	41		6607		§§57-59 are especially highlighted by 234 words.
488	Neh 8,12	16	69		6623/80	S	
489	Neh 8,13	16	69		6639		§60: 8,13-15 The Feast of Booths to be kept 8,15 The command to fetch branches: 26 words.
490	Neh 8,14	16	64	45	6655		
491	Neh 8,15	26	104		6681/58	P	§61: 8,16-18 The celebration of the feast 8,17 The unique Feast of Booths: 26 words.
492	Neh 8,16	19	86		6700		
493	Neh 8,17	26	92		6726		
494	Neh 8,18	20	85		6746/65	P	The whole chapter is sealed by 357 words.
18	Neh 1,1-18	357 (21x17)	8460	6x	357 (21x17)		
Part X Neh 9,1-11,2 Sin confessed and an oath taken							
495	Neh 9,1	12	56		6758		§62: 9,1-3 Fasting and reading of the law begins
496	Neh 9,2	12	56		6770		
497	Neh 9,3	15	76	46-47	6785/39	P	
498	Neh 9,4	18	75	48	6803		§63: 9,4-37 The Levitical prayer for confession Call to prayer (9,5): 10 words introduction (5aα) and 17 the call to bless and praise (5aβ-37). 9,6-37 The Levitical prayer for confession of sin: 572 (22x26) words. §63 is in its entirety sealed by 34 (2x17) verses and 2600 letters.
499	Neh 9,5	27 (10+17)	117	49	6830		
500	Neh 9,6	28	101	50	6858		
501	Neh 9,7	13	56	51	6871		
502	Neh 9,8	25	104		6896		
503	Neh 9,9	11	40		6907		
504	Neh 9,10	19	71		6926		
505	Neh 9,11	15	66		6941		
506	Neh 9,12	14	54		6955		
507	Neh 9,13	16	67		6971		
508	Neh 9,14	13	51		6984		
509	Neh 9,15	22	82		7006		
510	Neh 9,16	10	41		7016		
511	Neh 9,17	27	114		7043		
512	Neh 9,18	15	58		7058		
513	Neh 9,19	26	102		7084		9,19 YHWH did not forsake the people: 26 w.
514	Neh 9,20	12	51		7096		
515	Neh 9,21	12	52		7108		
516	Neh 9,22	19	75		7127		
517	Neh 9,23	12	55		7139		
518	Neh 9,24	21	93		7160		

519	Neh 9,25	23	111		7183	
520	Neh 9,26	19	81		7202	
521	Neh 9,27	20	92		7222	
522	Neh 9,28	20	94		7242	
523	Neh 9,29	25	103		7267	
524	Neh 9,30	15	63		7282	
525	Neh 9,31	12	46		7294	
526	Neh 9,32	30	137		7324	
527	Neh 9,33	11	41		7335	
528	Neh 9,34	16	73		7351	
529	Neh 9,35	19	82		7370	
530	Neh 9,36	17	70		7387	
531	Neh 9,37	15/572	82		7402/617	P
37	Neh 9,1-37	656	2788	6x	656	
10-1,11,2						
532	Neh 10,1	11	51		7413	
533	Neh 10,2	7	34		7420	
534	Neh 10,3	3	14		7423	
535	Neh 10,4	3	15		7426	
536	Neh 10,5	3	13		7429	
537	Neh 10,6	3	13		7432	
538	Neh 10,7	3	14		7435	
539	Neh 10,8	3	12		7438	
540	Neh 10,9	5	23		7443	S
541	Neh 10,10	8	36		7451	
542	Neh 10,11	6	29		7457	
543	Neh 10,12	3	13		7460	
544	Neh 10,13	3	14		7463	
545	Neh 10,14	3	13		7466	S
546	Neh 10,15	8	29		7474	
547	Neh 10,16	3	10		7477	
548	Neh 10,17	3	13		7480	
549	Neh 10,18	3	12		7483	
550	Neh 10,19	3	11		7486	
551	Neh 10,20	3	13		7489	
552	Neh 10,21	3	14		7492	
553	Neh 10,22	3	15		7495	
554	Neh 10,23	3	12		7498	
555	Neh 10,24	3	13		7501	
556	Neh 10,25	3	13		7504	
557	Neh 10,26	3	14		7507	
558	Neh 10,27	3	11		7510	
559	Neh 10,28	3	11		7513/111	[]
560	Neh 10,29	20	96		7533	
561	Neh 10,30	25	116	52	7558	
562	Neh 10,31	11	43		7569	
563	Neh 10,32	23	87		7592	
564	Neh 10,33	11	51		7603	
565	Neh 10,34	18	92		7621/108	S
566	Neh 10,35	24	112	53	7645	
567	Neh 10,36	13	49	54	7658	
568	Neh 10,37	17 78 (3x26)	90		7675	
569	Neh 10,38	24	112		7699	
570	Neh 10,39	19	78		7718	
571	Neh 10,40	25	113		7743	
572	Neh 11,1	19+	83		7762	
573	Neh 11,2	7/26	37		7769/148	P
42	10,1-11,2	367	1644	3x	367	

9,36 Behold, today we are slaves: **17** words!

9,6-37 The prayer: **572 (22x26)** words.

Until Chapter 9: **51x YHWH** in Ezra-Nehemiah.

List of officials on a sealed document

§64: The binding declaration in writing

§65: 10,29-34 An oath to walk in God's law

§66: 10,35-11,2 Additional binding obligations

10,35-38 Regulations agreed upon: **78** words.

11,1-2 The settlement in Jerusalem: **26** words.

Part XI		11,3-36		Settlers in Jerusalem and in the region			
574	Neh 11,3	19+	94		7788	§67: 11,3-14 The privileged in Jerusalem Paragraph finalized and sealed by 170 words.	
575	Neh 11,4	21+	86		7809		
576	Neh 11,5	16+	53		7825		
577	Neh 11,6	11+	45		7836		S
578	Neh 11,7	18+	62		7854		
579	Neh 11,8	7+	29		7861		
580	Neh 11,9	11+	44		7872		P
581	Neh 11,10	6+	25		7878		
582	Neh 11,11	14+	50		7892		
583	Neh 11,12	21+	82		7913		
584	Neh 11,13	15+	63		7928		
585	Neh 11,14	11/170	52		7939/170		S
586	Neh 11,15	11	40		7950		§68: 11,15-18 Levites in Jerusalem
587	Neh 11,16	9	45		7959		
588	Neh 11,17	21	81		7980		
589	Neh 11,18	7	31		7987/48	P	
590	Neh 11,19	9	48		7996	§69: 11,19-21 The rest of the people	
591	Neh 11,20	9	40		8005		
592	Neh 11,21	7	36		8012/25		P
593	Neh 11,22	19	77		8031	§70: 11,22-36 People who live elsewhere The three cohesive paragraphs 68-70 are sealed by 48+25+109=182 (7x26) words.	
594	Neh 11,23	10	40		8041		
595	Neh 11,24	12	45		8053		
596	Neh 11,25	13	69		8066		
597	Neh 11,26	4	182 (7x26)	21	8070		
598	Neh 11,27	5	23		8075		
599	Neh 11,28	3	19		8078		
600	Neh 11,29	4	22		8082		
601	Neh 11,30	13	54		8095		
602	Neh 11,31	8	33		8103		
603	Neh 11,32	3	12		8106		
604	Neh 11,33	3	11		8109		
605	Neh 11,34	3	13		8112		
606	Neh 11,35	4	15		8116		
607	Neh 11,36	5	26		8121/109		P
34 (2x17)	Neh 11,3-36	352	1486	0x	352	§§68-70 are additionally sealed by 34 verses.	
Part XII		12,1-47		A list arranged by periods and functions			
608	Neh 12,1	13	56		8134	§71: 12,1-7 Priests who came with Zerubbabel	
609	Neh 12,2	3	13		8137		
610	Neh 12,3	3	12		8140		
611	Neh 12,4	3	13		8143		
612	Neh 12,5	3	14		8146		
613	Neh 12,6	3	17		8149		
614	Neh 12,7	10	44		8159/38		P
615	Neh 12,8	11	50		8170	§72: 12,8-22 Levites in service and family heads	
616	Neh 12,9	5	28		8175		
617	Neh 12,10	11	52		8186		
618	Neh 12,11	8	35		8194		
619	Neh 12,12	10	48		8204		
620	Neh 12,13	4	21		8208		
621	Neh 12,14	4	21		8212		
622	Neh 12,15	4	18		8216		
623	Neh 12,16	4	20		8220		
624	Neh 12,17	5	27		8225		
625	Neh 12,18	4	21		8229		
626	Neh 12,19	4	21		8233		
627	Neh 12,20	4	15		8237		
628	Neh 12,21	4	22		8241		
629	Neh 12,22	14	69		8255/96		P

630	Neh 12,23	14	54		8269		§73: 12,23-26 The sons of Levi, family heads	
631	Neh 12,24	18	84		8287			
632	Neh 12,25	11	56		8298			
633	Neh 12,26	13	54		8311/56	P		
26	Neh 12,1-26	190	885		190		§§71-73 are highlighted and sealed by 26 verses.	
634	Neh 12,27	18	92		8329		§74: 12,27-47 The dedication of the walls	
635	Neh 12,28	10	47		8339			
636	Neh 12,29	12	57		8351			
637	Neh 12,30	10	46		8361			
638	Neh 12,31	16	70		8377			
639	Neh 12,32	6	28		8383			
640	Neh 12,33	3	15		8386			
641	Neh 12,34	4	23		8390	S		
642	Neh 12,35	16	62		8406			
643	Neh 12,36	17	78		8423			
644	Neh 12,37	18	67		8441			
645	Neh 12,38	16	75		8457			
646	Neh 12,39	19	78		8476			
647	Neh 12,40	9	42		8485			
648	Neh 12,41	9	54		8494			
649	Neh 12,42	12	70		8506			
650	Neh 12,43	19	91		8525			
651	Neh 12,44	26	127		8551			12,44 Men appointed over the storerooms to secure the collection of the priestly revenues: 26 words.
652	Neh 12,45	11	59		8562			
653	Neh 12,46	11	47		8573			
654	Neh 12,47	19	94		8592/281	P		
47	Neh 12	471	2207	0x	471			
Part XIII 13,1-31								Nehemiah's second administration
655	Neh 13,1	19	72		8611		§75: 13,1-9 Cleansing: also Tobiah's chamber	
656	Neh 13,2	17	68		8628			
657	Neh 13,3	8	34		8636			
658	Neh 13,4	10	46		8646			
659	Neh 13,5	22	107		8668			
660	Neh 13,6	20	81		8688			
661	Neh 13,7	14	65		8702			
662	Neh 13,8	12	42		8714			
663	Neh 13,9	11	51		8725/133	P		
664	Neh 13,10	13	59		8738		§76: 13,10-14 Tithes are paid to the Levites This P may draw attention to Nehemiah's prayer, but compare 5,19; 6,9b.14 and 13,22b where such prayers conclude a unit. Therefore it should be moved to the next verse.	
665	Neh 13,11	12	54		8750			
666	Neh 13,12	8	41		8758			
667	Neh 13,13	23	96		8781	P		
668	Neh 13,14	13	49		8794/69	P		
669	Neh 13,15	26	120		8820		§77: 13,15-22 The Sabbath law must be kept This P does not delimit a unit; it draws special attention the the episode that follows in 19-22. 13,19 Nehemiah's measures to have the gates kept closed until after the Sabbath: 26 words. The Sabbath paragraph is sealed by 153 words.	
670	Neh 13,16	12	54		8832			
671	Neh 13,17	17	62		8849			
672	Neh 13,18	22	85		8871	P		
673	Neh 13,19	26 153 (9x17)	109		8897			
674	Neh 13,20	9	42		8906			
675	Neh 13,21	20	71		8926	S		
676	Neh 13,22	21	82		8947/153	P		
677	Neh 13,23	11	55		8958		§78: 13,23-31 Actions against mixed marriages	
678	Neh 13,24	11	52		8969			
679	Neh 13,25	18	87		8987			
680	Neh 13,26	27	108		9014			
681	Neh 13,27	13	57		9027			
682	Neh 13,28	11	53		9038			
683	Neh 13,29	9	38		9047			
684	Neh 13,30	9	48		9056			
685	Neh 13,31	9	45		9065/118	Col.		

31	Neh 13	473 (43x11)	2033	0x	473 (43x11)	Neh 13 is sealed by 473 (43x11) words.
278	Neh 7,4-13,31	3250 (125x26)	13996	15x	3250	Nehemiah's reforms: sealed by 3250 words.
405	Neh 1-13	5312	22513	17x	5312	Nehemiah 1-13 has 17 instances of YHWH.
685	Ezr-Neh	9065	38277	54x	9065	

Observation 2 In Ezra the name YHWH occurs 37x (in all chapters except 6), and in Nehemiah only 17x (limited to Chapters 1, 5, 8, 9, and 10), which is relatively low, seeing that Nehemiah has 405 verses against Ezra's 280.

Observation 3 The name Ezra occurs altogether 25x in a well-planned way in the book:

In the Ezra section 13x: in Ezra 7 7x (7,1.6.10.11.12.21.25); in Ezra 10 6x (10,1.2.5.6.10.16).

In the Nehemiah section 12x: in Nehemiah 8 7x (8,1.2.4.5.6.9.13); in Nehemiah 12 5x (12,1.13.26.33.36b).

The name Nehemiah occurs altogether 7x, likewise in a well-planned way:

In the Ezra section 1x (Ezra 2,2). In the Nehemiah section 6x (Nehemiah 1,1; 7,7; 8,9; 10,2; 12,26.47).

This means that the two names appear altogether 32x.

The prayers of Ezra and Nehemiah

Pr.	Verse(s)	Prayers	Prayed to	Introductions	Words	Sum words
1	Es 9,6-15	Prayer Ezra	יהוה	9	200	200
2	Neh 1,4-11a	Prayer Nehemiah	יהוה	16	134	334
3	Neh 3,36-37	Prayer Nehemiah	אלהינו	0	25	359
4	Neh 5,19	Prayer Nehemiah	אלהי	0	10	369
5	Neh 6,9	Prayer Nehemiah	יהוה God	0	4	373
6	Neh 6,14	Prayer Nehemiah	אלהי	0	15	388
7A	Neh 9,5	Introductory Prayer Group of Levites	יהוה	19	8	396
7B	Neh 9,6-37	Prayer Group of Levites	יהוה	0	572 (22x26)	968
8	Neh 13,14	Prayer Nehemiah	אלהי	0	13	981
9	Neh 13,22b	Prayer Nehemiah	אלהי	0	9	990
10	Neh 13,29	Prayer Nehemiah	אלהי	0	9	999
11	Neh 13,31	Prayer Nehemiah	אלהי	0	4	1003
Totals:				44 (4x11)	1003 (59x17)	

Observation 4 There are altogether 11 prayers, which is, in my opinion, not simply a matter of chance but consciously designed in order to create another instance of the number of fulfilment. The same applies to the 44 (4x11) words in the introductions. The total number of words, 59x17, symbolizes the presence of YHWH in the prayers through the numerical value of his name.

The extensive prayer (7B) for the public confession of sin, sung by a group of Levites (according to the LXX spoken by Ezra), is the only one that is specifically highlighted; it is made up of 572 (22x26) words, which constitutes still another instance of the number of fulfilment. Strikingly, this number appears also as the total number of words in Nehemiah 1-2 – see page 1.

I owe thanks to Klaas Eikelenboom for his help to detect and delineate the prayers, for his constructive remarks about the numerical features, and for having checked my text.