

Word-Count in the Book of the Twelve—Progress Report

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Research Objective:	To demonstrate that the Book of the Twelve was composed in its original canonical form to have exactly 14,352 words and that this number was chosen for its symbolic significance. There are 12 books in this literary work; it is the word of YHWH (26 , numerical value of יהוה); and the work was written to the “glory of YHWH” (23 , numerical value of כבוד). The number 14,352 = (12 x 26 x 23) x 2 .
Methodology:	The Hebrew text of the Book of the Twelve in Codex L is the focus of a thorough numerical and prosodic analysis so as to identify the minimal textual emendations it would take to retrieve the presumed original canonical form of the Hebrew text.

Word-count for the Book of the Twelve in Codex L (obtained by computer):

<i>Book</i>	<i>Total Words</i>	<i>before 'atnach</i>	<i>after 'atnach</i>
Hosea	2381	1283	1098
Joel	957	514	443
Amos	2042	1132	910
Obadiah	291	174	117
Jonah	688	380	308
Micah	1396	745	651
Nahum	558	299	259
Habakkuk	671	363	308
Zephaniah	767	385	382
Haggai	600	367	233
Zechariah	3128	1774	1354
Malachi	876	448	428
Totals	14,355	7864	6491

Note that the eleven numbers in bold italic indicate the ones that already coincide with those in the “Possible Numerical Structure of the Book of the Twelve” in our Research Objective. Finding three words to remove so as to achieve the grand total of 14,352 is of little significance in light of the many textual problems already noted by numerous scholars in the Book of the Twelve. Our goal is to achieve a systematic restoration of the presumed original canonical composition of $14,352 = 7852 + 6500$ words. Though this means removing a net total of only three words, it involves systematic examination of all possible emendations, which involve a possible change in word count. The methodology used in this study includes a detailed prosodic and numerical analysis of the Hebrew text of a large corpus of material—roughly the same length as the book of Deuteronomy.

Possible Numerical Structure of the Book of the Twelve in Its Original Canonical Form:

Hosea	2380	=	1283	+	1097	2380	=	17×140	[140 = sum of squares 1 thru 7]	
Joel	952	=	510	+	442	442	=	17×26 ; 952	= 17×56 ; 510	= 17×30
Amos	2040	=	1130	+	910	2040	=	$17 \times 12 \times 10$; 910	= 26×35	
Micah	1394	=	744	+	650	1394	=	17×82 ; 650	= 26×25 = sum of squares 1 thru 12	
Nahum	559	=	299	+	260	559	=	$(17+26) \times 13$; 260	= 26×10	
Habakkuk	676	=	364	+	312	676	=	26×26 ; 364	= 26×14 ; 312	= 26×12
Zephaniah	768	=	384	+	384	384	=	32×12		
Haggai	598	=	368	+	230	598	=	26×23 ; 368	= 23×16 ; 230	= 23×10
Zechariah	3128	=	1768	+	1360	3128	=	$17 \times 23 \times 8$; 1768	= $17 \times 26 \times 4$; 1360	= 17×80
Malachi	878	=	448	+	430	430	=	$(17+26) \times 10$		
Obadiah	291	=	174	+	117	289	=	17×17 {without “heading,” 2 words}	/ 172 = 43×4	
Jonah	688	=	380	+	308	688	=	$(17+26) \times 16$; 680	= 17×40 {without 1:1 (8 words)}	
Totals	14,352	=	7852	+	6500	all three numbers divisible by 26				

$$14,352 = (26 \times 23 \times 12) \times 2$$

$$6500 = 26 \times 25 = 10 \times 650 \text{ \{650 = sum of squares of 1 thru 12\}}$$

Emendations Tentatively under Consideration to Reach the Research Objective:

Hosea	add 2 words	2:22b add <i>ki 'ani</i>
	subtract 3 words	11:10b remove <i>ki hu' yis'ag</i>
Joel	subtract 5 words	1:14a; 2:27a; 4:1b; 4:5a and 4:19a (one word each)
Amos	subtract 2 words	4:2a and 8:9a
Obadiah	no change	
Jonah	no change	
Micah	subtract 2 words	1:2b and 4:2a
Nahum	add 1 word	3:10b add <i>kol</i> (“all”)
Habakkuk	add 5 words	1:5a; 1:5b; 1:15b; 2:19b & 3:8b
Zephaniah	add 2 words	1:18b <i>ne'um YHWH</i>
	subtract 1 word	2:9a <i>Sebaoth</i> with LXX
Haggai	add 2 words	1:11a and 2:2b add <i>kol</i> (“all”) in both places
	subtract 4 words	1:7b (last 4 words)
Zechariah	add 6 words	1:8b (3 words); 2:11b; 6:13b, and 8:20b
	subtract 6 words	1:3a (<i>ne'um YHWH seba'ot</i>); 12:8b (2 words) & 13:8a
Malachi	add 2 words	1:13b and 2:13b

Total changes: addition: 20 words
 subtraction: 23 words

Net changes: subtraction: 3 words [in a total of 30 specific verses]

Obadiah and Jonah differ from the other ten books in that the heading in Obadiah (2 words) is not an independent verse; and Jonah 1:1 (8 words) cannot be regarded as a “heading” in the normal sense of that word. It is not possible to dislodge Jonah 1:1 from the divine speech in vs. 2, which it introduces, and of which it is an integral part. Without these introductory words, the word-count is as follows:

Obadiah	$289 = 172 + 117$	{ $289 = 17 \times 17$ and $172 = [17+26] \times 4$ }
Jonah	$680 = 372 + 308$	{ $680 = 17 \times 40$, reminiscent of the 40 days of Jonah's message}
Total word-count	$969 = 544 + 425$	{with all three numbers divisible by 17}
	<small>17×57 17×32 17×25</small>	

Additional Note:

I am profoundly grateful to A. Dean Forbes for correcting the initial error made in the word-count for the book of Hosea. We now have independent confirmation for the total word-count of 14,355 for the Book of the Twelve as a whole and for each of the twelve books in it. Those figures are in agreement with earlier work by G. Weil. Eventually we hope to have independent confirmation in regards the words before and after 'atnach as well.

For those who are not familiar with the concepts and terminology used in this report, we highly recommend that you purchase and use the following:

***A Simplified Guide to BHS**, by William R. Scott. 3rd edition (BIBAL Press, 1987)**

***Numerical Secrets of the Bible*, by Casper J. Labuschagne (BIBAL Press, 2000)**

BIBAL Press Website: www.dfscott.com

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