

# Genesis 11:1–32—Logoprosodic Analysis

## Translation and Textual Notes

### I. Tower of Babel and Generations from Shem to Abram Gen 11:1–32

#### A. Strophe 1: In Shinar They Spoke One Language and Made Bricks (11:1–3) [11.12]

11:1	And it was (that) / <sup>a</sup> all the earth / was of one language //	17 3	5 5 0
	and the same / words //	<u>12 2</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
		10:31–11:1	<b>26 16 10</b>
11:2	And it was / when they journeyed from the east //	11 2	3 3 0
	and they found / <sup>a</sup> a valley / in the land of Shinar /	14 3	4 0 4
	and they settled there //	<u>8 1</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
		10:29–11:2	<b>52 28 24</b>
11:3	And they said / each one / <sup>a</sup> to his neighbor /	15 3	4 4 0
	“Come-now / let us make bricks /	12 2	3 3 0
	and let us burn them / well-burnt //	<u>10 2</u>	<u>2 2 0</u>
		11:3–6	<b>25 17 8</b>
	And they used brick / for building-stone /	18 2	4 0 4
	and as for mortar / they had / bitumen” //	<u>17 3</u>	<u>4 0 4</u>
		11:3	<b>17 9 8</b>

#### B. Strophe 2: Decision to Build the Tower of Babel—YHWH Came Down (11:4–6b) [8.9]

11:4	And they said / “Come-now / let us build ourselves a city /	16 3	5 5 0
	and a tower / and its top in the sky /	<u>15 2</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
		11:3–4c	<b>25 17 8</b>
	And let us make ourselves \ <sup>a</sup> a name //	10 1	3 3 0
	lest we be scattered / on the face of the earth //	<u>15 2</u>	<u>6 0 6</u>
		11:11	<b>17 11 6</b>
11:5	And YHWH came down /	<u>8 1</u>	<u>2 2 0</u>
		11:1–6a	<b>52 30 22</b>
	To see the city \ <sup>a</sup> and the tower //	14 2	5 5 0
	that the humans / were building //	<u>15 2</u>	<u>4 0 4</u>
		11:1–5	<b>61 35 26</b>
11:6	And YHWH said / “Behold (they are) one people /	14 2	5 5 0
	and there is one language / for them all /	<u>11 2</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
		11:1–6	<b>69 43 26</b>

C. *Strophe 3: YHWH's Decision to Confuse Their Language (11:6c–7)* [6.7]

And this / is but the beginning of what they will do //	10 2	3 3 0
and now / it will not be withheld from them /	14 2	4 0 4
in all that they scheme / to do //	<u>13 2</u>	<u>4 0 4</u>
	11:3–6	<b>64 38 26</b>
11:7 Come-now <sup>a</sup> let us go down /	8 1	2 2 0
and there let us baffle / their language //	13 2	3 3 0
that <sup>b</sup> no one / will understand / the language of his neighbor //	<u>18 3</u>	<u>6 0 6</u>
	11:5–7	<b>41 23 18</b>

D. *Strophe 4: Dispersion of the Nations on the Face of the Earth (11:8–9)* [8.8]

11:8 And YHWH scattered them / from there /	15 2	4 4 0
on the face of the earth //	<u>10 1</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
	11:3–8b	<b>83 51 32</b>
And they stopped / building the city //	<u>12 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
	11:6–8	<b>41 24 17</b>
11:9 Therefore / he called its name / Babel (Babylon) /	<u>13 3</u>	<u>5 5 0</u>
	11:6–9a	<b>46 29 17</b>
For (it was) there / YHWH baffled ( <i>balal</i> ) /	11 2	4 4 0
the language <sup>a</sup> of all the earth-folk //	<u>8 2</u>	<u>3 3 0</u>
	11:8–9c	<b>23 20 3</b>
And from there /	<u>5 1</u>	<u>1 0 1</u>
	11:1–9d	<b>115 71 44</b>
YHWH scattered them / on the face of / all the earth //	<b>5</b> <u>19 3</u>	<u>6 0 6</u>
	11:4–9	<b>88 54 34</b>

E. *Strophe 5: Generations from Shem to Shelah (11:10–13)* [15.11]

11:10 These / are the generations of Shem /	10 2	3 3 0
Shem / was one hundred years old /	9 2	4 4 0
And he begot / Arpachshad //	9 2	3 3 0
two years / after the Flood //	<u>11 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
	11:9–10	<b>32 22 10</b>
11:11 And Shem lived on /	<u>6 1</u>	<u>2 2 0</u>
	11:9–11a	<b>34 24 10</b>

	After / he begot Arpachsad / (it was) five hundred / years //	23 4	7 7 0
	and he begot sons / and daughters //	<u>14 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		11:6-11	<b>85</b> 55 30
11:12	And Arpachshad lived / thirty-five / years //	20 3	5 5 0
	and he begot \ <sup>a</sup> Shelah //	<u>8 1</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		11:9-12	<b>52</b> 36 16
11:13	And Arpachshad lived on /	<u>5 1</u>	<u>2 2 0</u>
		11:10-13a	<b>35</b> <b>26</b> 9
	After / he begot Shelah /	<u>13 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
		11:11-13b	<b>26</b> 20 6
	(It was) three years / and four hundred years //	18 2	5 5 0
	and he begot sons / and daughters //	<u>14 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		11:11-13	<b>34</b> 25 9
<i>F. Strophe 6: Generations from Shelah to Peleg—Focus on Eber(11:14-17)</i>			[6.(4.4).6]
11:14	And Shelah lived / thirty years //	13 2	4 4 0
	and he begot / Eber //	<u>8 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		11:9-14	<b>73</b> <b>51</b> 22
11:15	And Shelah lived on / after he begot Eber /	<u>20 2</u>	<u>6 6 0</u>
		11:12-15b	<b>35</b> <b>26</b> 9
	(It was) three years / and four hundred years //	19 2	5 5 0
	and he begot sons / and daughters //	<u>14 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		11:13-15	<b>35</b> <b>26</b> 9
11:16	And Eber lived / thirty-four years //	20 2	5 5 0
	and he begot \ <sup>a</sup> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">Peleg</span> //	<u>8 1</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		11:12-16	<b>51</b> 36 15
11:17	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">And Eber</span> lived on /	<u>7 1</u>	<u>2 2 0</u>
		11:110-17	<b>78</b> 57 21
	After / he begot Peleg /	<u>13 2</u>	<u>4 4 0</u>
		11:14-15b	<b>35</b> <b>26</b> 9
	(It was) thirty years / and four hundred years //	20 2	5 5 0
	and he begot sons / and daughters //	<u>14 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		11:9-17	<b>109</b> <b>78</b> 31

**G. Strophe 7: Generations from Peleg to Serug (11:18–22)**

[11.15]

11:18	And Peleg lived / thirty years // and he begot / Reu //	15 2 <u>  8 2</u>	4 4 0 <u>  3 0 3</u>
		11:13–18	<b>64 46 18</b>
11:19	And Peleg lived on /	<u>  6 1</u>	<u>  2 2 0</u>
		11:17–19a	<b>23 17 6</b>
	After / he begot Reu /	<u> 14 2</u>	<u>  4 4 0</u>
		11:16–19b	<b>35 26 9</b>
	(There were) nine years / and two hundred years // and he begot sons / and daughters //	17 2 <u> 14 2</u>	4 4 0 <u>  3 0 3</u>
		11:17–19	<b>34 25 9</b>
11:20	And Reu lived / thirty-two years // and he begot <sup>a</sup> Serug //	20 2 <u>  8 1</u>	5 5 0 <u>  3 0 3</u>
		11:15–20	<b>64 46 18</b>
11:21	And Reu lived on / after / he begot Serug /	<u> 21 3</u>	<u>  6 6 0</u>
		11:18–21a	<b>34 25 9</b>
	(It was) seven years / and two hundred years //	<u> 16 2</u>	<u>  4 4 0</u>
		11:17–21b	<b>52 40 12</b>
	And he begot sons / and daughters //	14 2 <u> 14 2</u>	3 0 3 <u>  3 0 3</u>
		11:19–21	<b>34 25 9</b>
11:22	And Serug lived / thirty years </ and one hundred years> <sup>a</sup> // and he begot / Nahor //	24 3 <u>  9 2</u>	6 6 0 <u>  3 0 3</u>
		11:17–22	<b>64 46 18</b>

**H. Strophe 8: Generations from Serug to Terah, Father of Abram (11:23–25)**

[8.8]

11:23	And Serug lived / after / he begot Nahor / two hundred <sup>a</sup> years // and he begot sons / and daughters //	6 2 23 3 <u> 14 2</u>	2 2 0 6 6 0 <u>  3 0 3</u>
		11:17–23	<b>96 69 27</b>
11:24	And Nahor lived / twenty-nine years //	<u> 19 2</u>	<u>  5 5 0</u>
		11:20–24a	<b>46 34 12</b>
	And he begot <sup>a</sup> Terah //	<u>  8 1</u>	<u>  3 0 3</u>
		11:20–24	<b>49 34 15</b>

11:25	And Nahor lived / after / he begot Terah /	21	3	6	6	0
	nineteen years / and a hundred years //	17	2	5	5	0
	and he begot sons / and daughters //	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		11:15-25		<b>119</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>33</b>

*I. Strophe 9: Terah Begot Abram, Nahor and Haran (11:26-27) [7.6]*

11:26	And Terah lived / seventy years //	13	2	4	4	0
	and he begot / Abram and Nahor / and Haran //	<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>
		11:22-26		<b>53</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>19</b>

11:27	And <b>these / are the generations of</b> Terah /	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
		11:24-27a		<b>36</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>
	Terah / begot Abram / and Nahor / and Haran //	21	4	8	8	0
	and Haran / begot Lot //	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
		11:26-27		<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>

*J. Strophe 10: Haran Died; Abram & Nahor Take Wives—Sarai & Milcah (11:28-29) [8.8]*

11:28	And Haran died / in the presence of / Terah his father //	19	3	6	6	0
	in the land of his birth / in Ur of the Chaldeans //	<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
		11:27-28		<b>25</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>

11:29	And Abram and Nahor took / to themselves / wives //	<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
		11:27-29a		<b>41</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>
	The name of the wife of Abram / was Sarai /	12	2	4	0	4
	and the name of the wife of Nahor / was Milcah /	13	2	4	0	4
	daughter of Haran / father of Milcah / and father / <sup>a</sup> of Iscah //	<u>25</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>
		11:26-29		<b>55</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>

*K. Strophe 11: Sarai was Barren—Abram and Lot Move to Haran (11:30-32) [12.11]*

11:30	And Sarai was / barren //	12	2	3	3	0
	she had no / child //	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
		11:29-30		<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>

11:31	And Terah took / Abram his son /	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
		11:26-31a		<b>66</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>
	And Lot the son of Haran / his son's son /	13	2	6	6	0
	and / Sarai his daughter-in-law / wife / of Abram his son //	<u>20</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>
		11:31a-d		<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>

	And they set out together / from Ur of the Chaldeans /	16 2	4 0 4
	to go / to the land of Canaan / and they came to Haran /	<u>22 3</u>	<u>6 0 6</u>
		11:29-31g	<b>52 25 27</b>
	And they dwelt there //	<u>8 1</u>	<u>2 0 2</u>
		11:31	29 17 12
11:32	And the days of Terah were / five years / and two hundred years //	27 3	7 7 0
	and Terah died / in Haran //	<u>12 2</u>	<u>3 0 3</u>
		11:29-32	<b>64 32 32</b>
		11:1-24	<b>394</b> 249 145
		1:1-11:32	3489 2105 1384

### Scansion in Accentual Stress Units:

(11.12).(8.8) . (6.7).(8.8) . (15.11).(10.10).(11.15) . (8.8).(7.6) . (8.8).(12.11)

= (23 + 16) + (13 + 16) + (26 + 20 + 26) + (16 + 13) + (16 + 23)

= (40 + 29) + 70 + (29 + 40) = **68** + 72 + **68** = **208**

or: 140 // 140

[with pivot counted in each half]

{**208** = **26** x 8 and **68** = **17** x 4}

Concentric Compositional Formula: 394 = 196 + 0 + 196 [word count]

{394 = 49 x 8 and 49 = **17** + **32** = **23** + **26**}

### Notes:

- 11:1<sup>a</sup> Reading *mērəkā* preceded immediately by *gaʿya* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
- 11:2<sup>a</sup> Reading *mērəkā* preceded immediately by *gaʿya* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.
- 11:3<sup>a</sup> Reading *munah* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 11:4<sup>a</sup> Reading *tīp̄ha* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- 11:5<sup>a</sup> Reading *tīp̄ha* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- 11:7<sup>a</sup> Reading the accent here as conjunctive *mehuppak* in BHS (rather than *yetib*).
- 11:7<sup>a</sup> Reading *pašta* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- 11:9<sup>a</sup> Reading *munah* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 11:12<sup>a</sup> Reading *tīp̄ha* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- 11:16<sup>a</sup> Reading *tīp̄ha* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- 11:20<sup>a</sup> Reading *tīp̄ha* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- 11:22<sup>a</sup> Adding the words וּמֵאֵת שָׁנָה (“and one hundred years”) with Samaritan Pentateuch and LXX (see Observation 2 below).
- 11:23<sup>a</sup> Reading *munah* here in BHS as disjunctive.
- 11:24<sup>a</sup> Reading *tīp̄ha* here in BHS as conjunctive.
- 11:29<sup>a</sup> Reading *mērəkā* preceded immediately by *gaʿya* (= *meteg*) in BHS as disjunctive.

## Summary of the Logotechnical Prosodic Analysis

1. Genesis 11:1–32 has 11 strophes: 11:1–3, 4–6b, 6c–7, 8–9, 10–13, 14–17, 18–22, 23–25, 26–27, 28–29 and 30–32.

A	11:1–2	quatrain & triad + pivot:	$(17 + 12) + (10 + 14 + 8)$	=	29 + 32	morae
	11:3	triad & dyad in balance:	$(15 + 12 + 10) + (18 + 17)$	=	37 + 35	morae
B	11:4–6b	2 quatrains + pivot:	$((16+15)+[10+15]) + 8 + ((14+15)+[14+11])$	=	56 + 8 + 54	morae
C	11:6c–7	2 balanced triads:	$(10 + 14 + 13) + (8 + 13 + 18)$	=	37 + 39	morae
D	11:8	2 balanced dyads:	$(15 + 10) + (12 + 13)$	=	25 + 25	morae
	11:9	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$(11 + 8) + 5 + (9 + 10)$	=	19 + 5 + 19	morae
E	11:10–11	quatrain & dyad + pivot:	$([10 + 9] + [9 + 11]) + 6 + (23 + 14)$	=	39 + 6 + 37	morae
	11:12–13	triad & dyad + pivot:	$(20 + 8 + 5) + 13 + (18 + 14)$	=	33 + 13 + 32	morae

X	11:14–15a	2 balanced triads:	$([13 + 8] + 20)$	=	21 + 20	morae
	11:15b–17a	dyad & triad in balance:	$(19 + 14) + (20 + 8 + 7)$	=	33 + 35	morae
	{11:16–17a functions as a "bridge" connecting two parts and belonging to both}					
	11:16–17	triad & dyad + pivot:	$(20 + 8 + 7) + 13 + (20 + 14)$	=	35 + 13 + 34	morae

E'	11:18–19	triad & dyad + pivot:	$(15 + 8 + 6) + 14 + (17 + 14)$	=	29 + 14 + 31	morae
	11:20–22	quatrain & triad + pivot:	$([20 + 8] + [7 + 14]) + 16 + (14 + 24 + 9)$	=	49 + 16 + 47	
D'	11:23–25	2 triad + monad:	$([6 + 23 + 14] + 19) + (8 + [21 + 17 + 14])$	=	62 + 60	morae
C'	11:26–27	2 balanced dyads + pivot:	$(13 + 19) + 11 + (21 + 12)$	=	32 + 11 + 33	morae
B'	11:28–29	2 balanced triads:	$(19 + 14 + 18) + (12 + 13 + 25)$	=	51 + 50	morae
A'	11:30–31d	2 balanced triads:	$(12 + 8 + 12) + (13 + 11 + 9)$	=	32 + 33	morae
	11:31e–22	2 balanced triads + pivot:	$(16 + 10 + 12) + 8 + (9 + 18 + 12)$	=	38 + 39	morae

2. The first strophe (11:1–3) has two parts arranged in 4 subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 11:1, 2, 3a–c and 3de.
- 10:31–11:1 **26** words
  - 10:29–11:2 **52** (= **26** x 2) words
  - 11:3–6 **17** words before *atnach*
  - 11:3 **17** words
3. The second strophe (11:4–6b) is a single part arranged in 5 subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 11:4ab, 4cd, 5a, 5bc and 6.
- 11:3–4c **17** words before *atnach*
  - 11:11 **17** words
  - 11:1–5 **26** words after *atnach*
  - 11:1–6 **69 = 43 + 26** [compositional formula]
4. The third strophe (11:6c–7) is a single part arranged in 2 subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 11:6c–e and 7.
- 11:3–6 **64** (= **32** x 2) words and **26** words after *atnach*
  - 11:5–7 **23** words before *atnach*

5. The fourth strophe (11:8–9) has two parts arranged in 6 subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 11:8ab, 8c, 9a, 9bc, 9d and 9ef.
  - 11:6–8        **17** words after *atnach*
  - 11:6–9a      **46** (= **23** x 2) words
  - 11:8–9c      **23** words
  - 11:1–9d      **115** (= **23** x 5) words
  - 11:4–9        **34** (= **17** x 2) words after *atnach*
  
6. The fifth strophe (11:10–13) has two parts arranged in 7 subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 11:10, 11a, 11bc, 12, 13a, 13b and 13cd.
  - 11:9–10      **32** words
  - 11:9–11a     **34** (= **17** x 2) words
  - 11:6–11      **85** (= **17** x 5) words
  - 11:9–12      **52** (= **26** x 2) words
  - 11:11–13     **34** (= **17** x 2) words
  
7. The sixth strophe (11:14–17) has two parts arranged in 7 subdivisions on the basis of word-count: 11:14, 15a, 15bc, 16, 17a, 17b and 17cd.
  - 11:9–14      **51** (= **17** x 3) words before *atnach*
  - 11:13–15     **26** words before *atnach*
  - 11:12–16     **51** (= **17** x 3) words
  - 11:10–17     **78** (= **26** x 3) words
  - 11:9–17      **78** (= **26** x 3) words before *atnach*
  
8. The seventh strophe (11:18–22) has two parts arranged in 9 subdivisions on the basis of word-count patterns: 11:18, 19a, 19b, 19cd, 20, 21a, 21b, 21c and 22.
  - 11:13–18     **64** (= **32** x 2) words and **46** (= **23** x 2) words before *atnach*
  - 11:17–19     **34** (= **17** x 2) words
  - 11:15–20     **64** (= **32** x 2) words and **46** (= **23** x 2) words before *atnach*
  - 11:19–21     **34** (= **17** x 2) words
  - 11:17–22     **64** (= **32** x 2) words and **46** (= **23** x 2) words before *atnach*
  
9. The eighth strophe (11:23–25) is a single part arranged in 4 subdivisions on the basis of word-count patterns: 11:23, 24a, 24b and 25.
  - 11:17–23     **96** (= **32** x 3) words and **69** (**23** x 3) words before *atnach*
  - 11:20–24a    **46** (= **23** x 2) words
  - 11:20–24     **34** (= **17** x 2) words
  - 11:15–25     **119** (= **17** x 7) words
  
10. The ninth strophe (11:26–27) is a single part arranged in 3 subdivisions on the basis of word-count patterns: 11:26, 27a and 27bc.
  - 11:22–26     **34** (= **17** x 2) words before *atnach*
  - 11:24–27a    **23** words before *atnach*
  - 11:26–27     **26** words

11. The tenth strophe (11:28–29) is a single part arranged in 3 subdivisions on the basis of word-count patterns: 11:28, 29a and 29b–e.
- 11:27–28     **17** words before *atnach*
  - 11:27–29a   **26** words after *atnach*
  - 11:26–29     **26** words after *atnach*
12. The eleventh strophe (11: 30–32) has two parts arranged in 6 subdivisions on the basis of word-count patterns: 11:30, 31a, 31bc, 31de, 31f and 32.
- 11:29–30     **17** words after *atnach*
  - 11:31a–d     **17** words
  - 11:31         **17** words before *atnach*
  - 11:29–32     **64 = 32 + 32**           [compositional formula]

## Observation

1. The 11 strophes in Gen 11:1–32 may be outlined within a menorah pattern, which is determined primarily on prosodic grounds in terms of the inverse concentric arrangement of syntactic accentual-stress units, rather than content as such—though repetition of themes underscores the concentric structure found in the prosodic analysis to some degree.

### **Menorah Pattern: Tower of Babel and Generations from Shem to Abram   Gen 11:1–32**

A	S1:	The earth was of one language—in Shinar they made bricks	[11.12]	11:1–3
B	S2:	They decided to build the Tower of Babel—YHWH came down	[8.9]	11:4–6b
C	S3:	YHWH decided to confuse their language	[6.7]	11:6c–7
X	S4–8:	<b>Dispersion of the nations—generations from Shem to Abram</b>	—	11:8–25
C'	S9:	Terah begot Abram, Nahor and Haran	[7.6]	11:26–27
B'	S10:	Haran died; Abram and Nahor take wives—Saria and Milcah	[9.8]	11:28–29
A'	S11:	Sarai was barren—Abram and Lot went to Haran where Terah died	[12.11]	11:30–32

### **Central Core: Generations from Shem to Terah, Father of Abram           Gen 11:8–17**

A	S4:	YHWH scatters the people on the face of the earth	[8.8]	11:8–9
B	S5:	Part I (Generations of Shem): Shem → Arpachshad → Shelah	[14.11]	11:10–13
X	S6:	Part II: <b>Focus on Eber: Shelah → Eber → Peleg</b>	[10.10]	11:14–17
B'	S7:	Part III: Peleg → Reu → Serug	[11.14]	11:18–22
A'	S8:	Part IV: Serug → Nahor → Terah	[8.8]	11:23–25

2. The age of Serug at the birth of Nahor in Gen 11:22 poses a problem. Both the Samaritan Pentateuch and LXX read 130 years here rather than the 30 years in MT. The two words **שנה ושנים** (“and one hundred years”—cf. Gen 10:25) appear to have dropped out by simple haplography:

<שנים שנה ושנים שנה> thirty years <and one hundred years>

The evidence from both word-count and letter-count patterns suggest that the two words in question should be restored as an ancient scribal error in copying the text. I stumbled on this

observation because I could not scan the text as it stands in MT in terms of balance in terms of mora-count.

3. The gematrical value of the proper nouns in Genesis 10 (listed in the order in which they appear in the text) is as follows:

	<i>Value in 400-Gematria</i>	<i>Value in 22-Gematria</i>
Shem	שֵׁם 340 = 300+40	34 = 21+13
Arpachshad	אַרְפַּכְשָׁד 605 = 1+200+80+20+300+4	74 = 1+20+17+11+21+4
Shelah	שֵׁלַח 338 = 300+30+8	41 = 21+12+8
Eber	עֵבֶר 272 = 70+2+200	38 = 16+2+20
Peleg	פֶּלֶג 113 = 80+30+3	32 = 17+12+3
Reu	רְעוּ 276 = 200+70+6	42 = 20+16+6
Serug	שֵׁרוּג 509 = 300+200+6+3	50 = 21+20+6+3
Nahor	נַחֹר 786 = 50+8+6+200	48 = 14+8+6+20
Terah	תֵּרַח 608 = 400+200+8	50 = 22+20+8
Abram	אַבְרָם 243 = 1+2+200+40	36 = 1+2+20+13
Haran	הָרָן 255 = 5+200+50	39 = 5+20+14
Lot	לוֹט 45 = 30+6+9	27 = 12+6+9
Sarai	שָׂרַי 510 = 300+200+10	51 = 21+ 20+10
Milcah	מִלְכָּה 95 = 40+30+20+5	41 = 13+12+11+5
Iscah	יִסְכָּה 95 = 10+60+20+5	41 = 10+15+11+5

*Place Names*

Shinar	שִׁנְעָר 620 = 300+50+70+200	71 = 21+14+16+20
Babel	בָּבֶל 34 = 2+2+30	16 = 2+2+12
Ur Chasdim	אֹר כַּשְׁדִּים 581 = 1+6+200+20+300+4+10+40	86 = 1+6+20+11+21+4+10+13
Canaan	כְּנַעַן 190 = 20+50+70+50	55 = 11+14+16+14

4. There are 1450 (= 58 x 25) letters in Gen 11:1–32 in BHS. The structural center of Gen 11:1–32 in terms of letter-count falls between the first and second letter of the word פֶּלֶג “Peleg” at the end of verse 16:

וַיֹּלְדֵת אֶת פֶּלֶג And he (Eber) begot Peleg;  
וַיְחִי עֵבֶר And Eber lived on ...

The initial *concentric compositional formula* on the basis of letter-count is:

$$1450 = 725 + 0 + 725 \quad \text{[letter-count]}$$

If the correction of restoring the words וּמֵאֵת שָׁנָה (“and one hundred years”) is accepted in Gen 11:22 (see Observation 2 above), we have 1457 letters in Gen 11:1–32, with the **arithmological center** falling on the last letter of the word פֶּלֶג (“Peleg”). The *concentric compositional number* now becomes:

$$1457 = 728 + 1 + 728 \quad \text{[letter-count]}$$

$$\text{or: } 729 // 729 \quad \text{[with pivot counted in each half]}$$

$$\{729 = 3^6 = 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3\}$$

We may have here some measure of confirmation to David Crookes’ idea about “musical geography” in Genesis 10. The earth was divided in Peleg’s time (Gen 10:25). Does this mean that the known earth was surveyed by early geographers, and perhaps even divided up in accordance with something like our lines of latitude and longitude?

5. In terms of the 394 words in Genesis 11:1–32, the **arithmological center** falls between verses 16 and 15, with 197 words on either side. The initial **concentric compositional formula** is:

$$394 = 197 + 0 + 197 \quad \text{[word count]}$$

The **meaningful center** may be expanded by including 7 words on either side of the **arithmological center**, as follows:

	וַיּוֹלֵד אֶת פֶּלֶג And he (Eber) begot Peleg
17	וַיַּחֲיוּ עֵבֶר אַחֲרָיו And Eber lived on afterwards

It should be noted that the name Peleg is the focus of a pun in Gen 10:25, using the Hebrew word *nīpləgāh* (“it was divided” — cf. פֶּלֶג and נִפְלְגָה). In Genesis 11 the 70 nations are divided and dispersed in the episode of the Tower of Babel. The focus in the “generations of Shem” is on the person of Eber, the eponymous ancestor of the Hebrews. In this instance, the **concentric compositional formula** becomes:

$$394 = 190 + 6 + 190 \quad \text{[word count]}$$

$$\text{or: } 196 // 196 \quad \text{[with “pivot” included in each half]}$$

$$\{196 = 49 \times 4 \text{ and } 49 = 17 + 32 = 23 + 26\}$$

The **meaningful center** may be expanded by including 11 words on either side of the **arithmological center**, as follows:

	וַיּוֹלֵד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת And he (Shelah) begot sons and daughters
	וַיַּחֲיוּ עֵבֶר אַרְבַּע וּשְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה And Eber lived thirty-four years
	וַיּוֹלֵד אֶת פֶּלֶג And he begot Peleg
17	וַיַּחֲיוּ עֵבֶר And Eber lived
	אַחֲרַי הוֹלִידוּ אֶת פֶּלֶג after he begot Peleg
	שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וָאַרְבַּע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה thirty years and four hundred years [430]

In this instance, the **concentric compositional formula** becomes:

$$394 = 186 + 22 + 186 \quad [\text{word count}]$$

$$\text{or: } \mathbf{208 // 208} \quad [\text{with "pivot" included in each half}]$$

$$\{\mathbf{208} = \mathbf{26} \times \mathbf{8}\}$$

6. Summary of the concentric compositional formulae for Gen 11:1–32

$$394 = 190 + 6 + 190 \quad \text{or: } 196 // 196$$

$$394 = 186 + 22 + 186 \quad \text{or: } \mathbf{208 // 208} \quad \{\mathbf{208} = \mathbf{26} \times \mathbf{8}\}$$

{with others in between}

$$394 = 10 + 374 + 10 \quad \text{or: } \mathbf{384 // 384} \quad \{\mathbf{384} = \mathbf{32} \times \mathbf{12}\}$$

$$394 = 7 + 380 + 7 \quad \text{or: } 387 // 387$$

$$\mathbf{208} = \mathbf{68} + 72 + \mathbf{68} \quad \text{or: } 140 // 140 \quad \text{syntactic accentual-stress units}$$

$$\{\mathbf{208} = \mathbf{26} \times \mathbf{8} \text{ and } \mathbf{68} = \mathbf{17} \times \mathbf{4}\}$$

$$\mathbf{96} = \mathbf{32} + \mathbf{32} + \mathbf{32} \quad \text{or: } \mathbf{64 // 64} \quad \textit{briques} \text{ (primary accentual-stress units)}$$

$$\{\mathbf{96} = \mathbf{32} \times \mathbf{3} \text{ and } \mathbf{64} = \mathbf{32} \times \mathbf{2}\}$$

7. In the prosodic structure of Gen 11:1–32, the basic building blocks (**briques**) in each poetic **verset** are the **primary syntactic accentual stress units**. These sub-units are delineated by the Masoretes, who marked the boundaries with one of the following:

- **Soph Pasuq** A large colon following a word signifies the end of a verse, which does not always coincide with the end of a sentence.
- **Atnach** A small caret-like mark (like ^) beneath the consonantal text, pointing upward, is used to divide most verses. Its primary importance for our purposes concerns its use in the matter of numerical composition—i.e., the total word-count in each line is divided into the number of words before and after *atnach*.

In the prosodic analysis presented with the translation (above), the presence of these two primary disjunctive markers is indicated with a double slash (/). Gen 11:1–32 has 96 **briques** (primary stress units), 90 of which are marked by *soph pasuq* (32 times, at the end of each verse), *atnach* (32 times, in each verse) and *zaqeph qaton* (26 times). The boundaries of the 6 remaining **briques** are marked by *revia* (3 times, in verses 3, 4 and 31), *tevir* (1 time, in verse 8) and *tīp̄hā* (2 times, in verse 2 and 29).

8. The prosodic structure of Gen 11:1–32, in terms of its **briques** (primary syntactic accentual-stress units), may be displayed as follows: ^ represents *atnach*; : represents *soph pasuq*; † represents *zaqeph qaton*; and † represents all other accent markers.

- I A <sup>1</sup> wayəhî kol hā'āreṣ sāpāh 'eḥāt ^ ûdḇārîm 'āḥādîm :
- <sup>2</sup> wayəhî bənos'am miqqedem ^ wayyimṣə'u ḥiq'āh bə'reṣ šin'ār †  
wayyēsəḇû šām :
- <sup>3</sup> wayyō'məru 'îš 'el rē'ehû † hāḇāh nilbənāh ləḇēnîm †  
wənisrēpāh lisrēpāh ^ wattəhî lāhem halləḇēnāh lə'āḇen †  
wəhəḥēmār hāyāh lāhem laḥōmer :
- B <sup>4</sup> wayyō'məru hāḇāh niḇneh lānû 'îr † ûmiḡdāl wəro'sō ḥaššamayim †  
wəna'āseh lānû šēm ^ pen nāpûš 'al pənē kol hā'āreṣ :
- <sup>5</sup> wayyēred yhwh lirō't 'et hā'îr wə'et hammiḡdāl ^ 'āšer bānû bənē hā'ādām :
- <sup>6</sup> wayyō'mer yhwh † hēn 'am 'eḥād wəsāpāh 'aḥat ləḵullām †
- II C wəzeh haḥillām la'āsōt ^  
wə'attāh lō' yibbāšer mēhem † kōl 'āšer yāzəmû la'āsōt :  
<sup>7</sup> hāḇāh nērəḏāh † wənāḇəlāh šām səpātām ^  
'āšer lō' yišmə'u † 'îš səpāt rē'ehû :
- D <sup>8</sup> wayyāpeš yhwh 'otām miššām † 'al pənē kol hā'āreṣ ^  
wayyaḥdəlû libnōt hā'îr :  
<sup>9</sup> 'al kēn qārā' šəmāh bāḇel † kî šām bālal yhwh səpāt kol hā'āreṣ ^  
ûmiššām həpîšām yhwh † 'al pənē kol hā'āreṣ :
- III E <sup>10</sup> 'elleh tōləḏōt šēm † šēm ben mə'aṭ šānāh †  
wayyōled 'et 'arpaḵšād ^ šēnāṭayim 'aḥar hammabbûl :
- <sup>11</sup> wayəhî šēm 'aḥārē hōlîḏō 'et 'arpaḵšād † ḥāmēš mē'ōt šānāh ^  
wayyōled bānîm ûḇānōt :
- <sup>12</sup> wə'arpaḵšād ḥay ḥāmēš ûšəlōšîm šānāh ^ wayyōled 'et šālah :
- <sup>13</sup> wayəhî 'arpaḵšād 'aḥārē hōlîḏō 'et šālah †  
šālōš šānîm wə'arba' mē'ōt šānāh ^ wayyōled bānîm ûḇānōt :

- X <sup>14</sup> wəšelah ḥay šəlōšîm šānāh ^ wayyōled 'et eḇer :
- <sup>15</sup> wayəhî šelah 'aḥārē hōlîḏō 'et 'eḇer šālōš šānîm wə'arba' mē'ōt šānāh ^  
wayyōled bānîm ûḇānōt :
- <sup>16</sup> wayəhî 'eḇer 'arba' ûšəlōšîm šānāh ^ wayyōled 'et pāleg' :
- <sup>17</sup> wayəhî 'eḇer 'aḥārē hōlîḏō 'et peleg šālōšîm šānāh wə'arba' mē'ōt šānāh ^  
wayyōled bānîm ûḇānōt :

- F <sup>18</sup> *wayəḥî p̄eleg šəlōšîm šānāh* ^ *wayyôled ʔet rəʕû :*  
<sup>19</sup> *wayəḥî p̄eleg ʔahărê hólîdô ʔet rəʕû* † *tēšaʕ šānîm ûmāʔtayim šānāh* ^  
*wayyôled bānîm ûḥānôt :*  
<sup>20</sup> *wayəḥî rəʕû šətayim ûšəlōšîm šānāh* ^ *wayyôled ʔet sərûḡ :*  
<sup>21</sup> *wayəḥî rəʕû ʔahărê hólîdô ʔet sərûḡ* † *šəḃaʕ šānîm ûmāʔtayim šānāh* ^  
*wayyôled bānîm ûḥānôt :*  
<sup>22</sup> *wayəḥî sərûḡ šəlōšîm šānāh* ^ *wayyôled ʔet nāḥôr :*
- IV D <sup>23</sup> *wayəḥî sərûḡ ʔahărê hólîdô ʔet nāḥôr māʔtayim šānāh* ^  
*wayyôled bānîm ûḥānôt :*  
<sup>24</sup> *wayəḥî nāḥôr tēšaʕ wəʕésrîm šānāh* ^ *wayyôled ʔet tārāḥ :*  
<sup>25</sup> *wayəḥî nāḥôr ʔahărê hólîdô ʔet teraḥ* † *təšaʕ ʕésrēh šānāh ûmāʔt šānāh* ^  
*wayyôled bānîm ûḥānôt :*
- C <sup>26</sup> *wayəḥî teraḥ šibʕîm šānāh* ^ *wayyôled ʔet ʔabrām* †  
*ʔet nāḥôr wəʔet hārān :*  
<sup>27</sup> *wəʔəlleh tóləḏôt teraḥ* † *teraḥ hólîd ʔet ʔabram* †  
*ʔet nāḥôr wəʔet hārān* ^ *wəḥārān hólîd ʔet lôṭ :*
- V B <sup>28</sup> *wayyāmāt hārān* † *ʕal pənē teraḥ ʔāḥîyw* ^  
*bəʔereš mōlaḏtô bəʔûr kašdîm :*  
<sup>29</sup> *wayyiqqaḥ ʔabrām wənāḥôr lāhem nāšîm* ^ *šēm ʔēšet ʔabrām sārāy* †  
*wəšēm ʔēšet nāḥôr milkāh* † *baṭ hārān ʔāḥî milkāh* †  
*waʔāḥî yiskāh :*
- A <sup>30</sup> *wattəḥî sārāy ʕāqārāh* ^ *ʔēn lāh wālāḏ :*  
<sup>31</sup> *wayyiqqaḥ teraḥ ʔet ʔabrām bənô* † *wəʔet lôṭ ben hārān bənô* †  
*wəʔet sārāy kallātô* † *ʔēšet ʔabrām bənô* ^  
*wayyēšəʔû ʔittām māʔûr kašdîm lāleḳet ʔaršāh kənaʕan* †  
*wayyāḥōʔû ʕaḏ hārān wayyēšəḃû šām :*  
<sup>32</sup> *wayyihyû yəmə teraḥ ḥāmēš šānîm ûmāʔtayim šānāh* ^  
*wayyāmāt teraḥ bəḥārān :*

The **arithmological center** of Gen 11:1–32 falls between verses 16 and 17, with a total of 196 words on either side. There are 208 syntactic accentual-stress units, 96 **briques** (primary accentual stress units), 34 **versets**, 11 **strophes** and 5 **cantos**. The **arithmological center** is in the middle canto, the middle strophe, the middle two versets, the middle four **briques**, and the middle eight syntactic accentual-stress units.

According to the analysis presented here, the 96 **briques** in Gen 11:1–32 are distributed as follows: **96** = (10 + 8) + (7 + 7) + (12 + 8 + 12) + (7 + 7) + (8 + 10) = (18 + 14) + (12 + 8 + 12) + (14 + 18) = **32 + 32 + 32**; or: **64 // 64**.

9. Note the following list of compositional numbers at the boundaries of the verses counting from the beginning of Genesis 11:1–32

Gen 11:1–3	<b>17</b>	words before <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–5	<b>26</b>	words after <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–6	<b>46</b>	(= <b>23</b> x 2) words before and <b>34</b> (= <b>17</b> x 2) words after <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–7	<b>51</b>	(= <b>17</b> x 3) words before <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–8	<b>102</b>	(= <b>17</b> x 6) words
Gen 11:1–14	<b>110</b>	(= <b>23</b> + <b>32</b> ) x 2 words before <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–15	<b>68</b>	(= <b>17</b> x 4) words after <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–19	<b>80</b>	(= <b>17</b> + <b>23</b> ) words after <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–20	<b>156</b>	(= <b>26</b> x 6) words before <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–21	<b>86</b>	(= <b>17</b> + <b>26</b> ) x 2 words after <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–22	<b>172</b>	(= <b>17</b> + <b>26</b> ) x 4 words before <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–23	<b>272</b>	(= <b>17</b> x 16) words and <b>92</b> (= <b>23</b> x 4) words after <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–24	<b>280</b>	(= <b>17</b> + <b>23</b> ) x 7 words
Gen 11:1–25	<b>294</b>	= 196 + 98 [compositional formula—all divisible by 49]
Gen 11:1–26	<b>20</b>	(= <b>17</b> + <b>23</b> ) x 5 words before <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–27	<b>320</b>	(= <b>32</b> x 10) words
Gen 11:1–30	<b>130</b>	(= <b>26</b> x 5) words after <i>atnach</i>
Gen 11:1–21	<b>384</b>	(= <b>32</b> x 12) words

It is not possible to use one of the four compositional numbers (**17**, **23**, **26** and **32**) at the verse boundaries until the end of verse 3, which leaves 30 boundaries to work with. In 11 out of 30 of these boundaries (or 36.7% of the time) a multiple of one of the four compositional numbers is present. If the numbers 40, 43, 49 and 55 are added, the percentage increases to 60% (18 out of 30). This evidence suggests a possibility of deliberate design at the point of the numerical composition of Gen 11:1–32.

10. The divine name YHWH appears five times in Gen 11:1–32 [in verses 5, 6, 8 and 9 (twice)].
11. Determining the details of the musical and literary structures in Genesis calls for input on the part of others in the Word Count Project, as we consider the rhetorical features in greater depth and further information contained in the *te'amim* of this particular text.

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