

Shlomo's Guide to Numbers and Gematria

Compiled by Steven Lipton M.Ed.

Number (100's)	Letter	Number (10's)	Letter	Number (1's)	Letter
100	ק	10	י	1	א
200	ר	20	ב	2	ב
300	ש	30	ל	3	ג
400	ת	40	מ	4	ד
		50	נ	5	ה
		60	ס	6	ו
		70	ע	7	ז
15*	טו	80	פ	8	ח
16*	טז	90	צ	9	ט

* For the numbers 15 and 16, to prevent the use of parts of the Tetragrammaton, these are expressed by 9+6 and 9+7 respectively

Numbers are read by combing the letters above into their respective numbers. For example:

$$42 = 40(\text{מ}) + 2(\text{ב}) = \text{מב}$$

$$116 = 100(\text{ק}) + 9(\text{טז}) + 7(\text{ז}) = \text{קטזז}$$

$$223 = 100(\text{ק}) + 20(\text{ב}) + 3(\text{ג}) = \text{קבג}$$

Biblical Citations often contain the double quote and a spacer.

So **ל"ח א"ב** is Job 38:37.

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Gematria

Note that words can be represented by numbers in this system, and thus used for commentary. This is known as **Gematria**. One example from the Mishnah [Uktzin 3:12]

אמר רבי יהושע בן לוי. עתיד הקדוש ברוך הוא להנחיל לכל צדיק וצדיק שלש מאות ועשרה עולמות. שנאמר (משלי ח). להנחיל אוהבי יש ואוצרותיהם אמלא.

R. Joshua b. Levi said: In the world to come, The Holy One, Blessed Be He, will make each righteous person to inherit three hundred and ten worlds, for it is written: '*That I may cause those that love me to inherit property and that I may fill their treasures*' (Proverbs 8:21).

The word for *property* here is **יִשׁ**. Converting to numbers, **י** = 10 and **ש** = 300 thus one does not inherit *property* but 310.

And of course there's this example (Exodus Rabbah 33:7):

It is written, *Moses commanded us a law*, etc. (Deut. XXXIII, 4). R. Simlai taught: Six hundred and thirteen precepts were given to Israel through Moses, this number being the numerical value of the word Torah. Should you object that this is not so, since the word only amounts to six hundred and eleven, and ask where, therefore, will you obtain the other two? In answer, the Sages said: The two commands of '*I am the Lord*' and '*Thou shalt have no other gods before Me*' were heard from the mouth of the Lord [Himself], and Moses only told them six hundred and eleven...

The value of Torah (תורה) is $400 + 6 + 200 + 5 = 611$. Then the objection is resolved that the two missing mitzvot were given directly to the people