13. Numerical Structure of Jotham's Fable in Judges 9
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Jotham’s obliquely expressed criticism is formulated in an intricately structured composition in which the name of the useless king is numerically hidden in the text.

The number 98, which is $2 \times 49$, represents the name of Abimelech by means of its numerical value, $49$ ($1 + 2 + 10 + 13 + 12 + 11 = 49$).

The formulas introducing the speeches have altogether 26 words: 13 for all trees and 13 for the separate trees. Moreover, there are 17 words used in connection with the olive tree, the fig tree and the vine, and 9 with reference to the useless buckthorn.

The words in the four speeches by the individual trees amount to 52 ($2 \times 26$).

Note that the buckthorn needs no less than 20 words to promote his candidature!

The three useful trees speak altogether 32 words – representing God’s kabod.

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