

This essay deals with the function of the numerical relations within the Hebrew Bible(Tanak). It proceeds on three levels. The first level presents the formative function of numbers, which by means of of gematria influences the shape of proper names and numerical data. The second level is concerned with the compositional function of numbers, important for the formal aspect of poetic texts in particular. Any numerical datum is carrying out this function through deliberate number of forming elements (i.e. sections, words and letters). The third level focuses on the kerygmatic function of numbers, operative by commonly shared symbolism and illustrated by several historiographic and apocalyptic texts. The numerical symbols reflect the quality of objects they relate to and, at the same time, they contextualize them within Biblical canon.