Is 5755 Important?

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Novick[1] in a book published in 1997, discusses his religious beliefs regarding the peace process happening in Israel says the following:

> In the [Torah] passage dealing with the prohibition against entering into any formal treaty with the other inhabitants of the Land[1] we find the year התשנה (5755)[2] encoded six times in the same passage. For a code to appear six times in the same passage indicates that it must be something important or alarming.

Novick's statement is incomplete here because he does not specify the passage beginning and ending locations. Since the passage he discusses is in chapter 34, we will take the beginning to be the beginning of Exodus chapter 33 and the ending to be the end of Exodus chapter 35. And we understand a code instance to appear in the passage as meaning that some letter of the code instance occurs in the text of Exodus 34. Searching from the beginning of Exodus 33 to the end of Exodus 35, a text length of 4,954 characters, for the key word התשנה in code, with a maximum skip interval of 1000, we found eleven occurrences. However two of these were entirely in Exodus 33 and two were entirely in Exodus 35. Evidently, our search interval was slightly larger than Novick's or the maximum skip length we used was larger.

The question is whether this is unusual. Using letter probability frequencies for just Exodus chapter 33, the expected number of occurrences in chapter 33 is 0.4437. Using letter probability frequencies for just Exodus chapter 35, the expected number of occurrences in chap 35 is 1.2689. And using the letter probability frequencies of Exodus chapter 33 through Exodus chapter 35, the expected number of occurrences in chapters 33 through 35 is 8.5145. Thus the expected number of occurrences of the key word התשנה in code with a maximum skip interval of 1000 and having some letter of the code instance be in Exodus chapter 34 is 8.5145-1.2689-.4437 = 6.8019. To have this discovered 7 times is nothing unusual. In fact the probability of discovering less than 7 times is 0.4796 and the probability of discovering more than 7 times is 0.3718 and the probability of discovering exactly 7 times is 0.1486. Everthing is just as expected. Novick's intuition that an occurrence of 6 times indicates something *important* or *alarming* is just the sign of an uneducated intuition.

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[1] Exodus 34:15.

[2] The Jewish year 5755 corresponds to the year September 1994-August 1995.

References

1. Nisan Aryeh Novick, *Fascinating Torah Prophecies Currently Unfolding*, Netzach Yisrael Publications, New York, 1997, p. 148.