

Instrumental “with”

The predominant way to express instrumentality in biblical Hebrew seems to be with the preposition בְּ. I found one case that appears to be an ‘adverbial accusative’ (see Psalm 39:1 below).

Genesis 38:14

וַתִּכְסֵם בְּצַעֲרֶיהָ

she covered herself **with** a veil

Exodus 21:18

וְהִכָּה אִישׁ אֶת־רֵעֵהוּ בְּאֶבֶן אוֹ בְּאֶגְרֹף

and a man strikes his neighbour **with** a stone or **with** a fist

Exodus 34:20

וּפְטָר חֲמוֹר תַּפְדֶּה בְּשֵׂה

the firstling of a donkey you shall redeem **with** a lamb

Numbers 4:11

וְכִסּוּ אֹתוֹ בְּמִכְסֵה עוֹר תַּחֲשׁ

and they shall cover it **with** the skin of a badger

Numbers 15:30

וְהִנֵּפֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר־תַּעֲשֶׂה | בְּיַד רָמָה

the person who acts **with** a high hand

Numbers 20:20

וַיֵּצֵא אֲדֹם לִקְרֹאתוֹ בְּעַם כָּבֵד וּבְיַד חֲזָקָה:

Edom came out to meet him **with** a large army and **with** a strong hand

1 Samuel 17:45

וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל־הַפִּלִּשְׁתִּי אַתָּה בָּא אֵלַי בְּחַרְבַּב וּבְחֶנֶת וּבְכִידּוֹן

David said to the Philistine, you come to me **with** a sword and **with** a spear and **with** a javelin

1 Samuel 28:12

וַתִּזְעַק בְּקוֹל גָּדוֹל

she cried out **with** a loud voice

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1 Kings 20:38

וַיִּתְחַפֵּשׂ בְּאַפָּר עַל-עֵינָיו:

he disguised himself **with** a bandage over his eyes

1 Chronicles 11:23

וַיֵּרַד אֵלָיו בַּשֵּׁבֶט

he went down to **him** with a staff

2 Chronicles 25:2

וַיַּעַשׂ הַיָּשָׁר בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה רַק לֹא בְּלִבָּב שְׁלֵם:

he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not **with** a whole heart.

Psalms 2:9

תִּרְעֵם בְּשֵׁבֶט בְּרִזָּל כִּכְלֵי יוֹצֵר תִּנְפְּצֵם:

You shall break them **with** a rod of iron

Psalms 39:1

אֶשְׁמְרָה לִפִּי מִחֶסֶם

I will guard my mouth **with** a muzzle

Psalms 78:14

וַיִּנְחֵם בְּעַנְן יוֹמָם וּכְלֵה־לַיְלָה בְּאֹר אֵשׁ:

In the daytime he led them **with** a cloud, and all the night **with** a fiery light.

Jeremiah 15:7

וְאֶזְרִים בְּמִזְרָה

I have winnowed them **with** a winnowing fork

Jeremiah 36:23

יִקְרַעֶהָ בְּתַעַר הַסֹּפֵר

he would cut it off **with** the razor of a scribe

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Habakkuk 1:15

כִּלְהֵם בְּחֶבֶה הֶעֱלָה

each of them **with** a hook he brings up

Malachi 3:9

בְּמִאֲרָה אַתֶּם נֶאֱרִים

with a curse you are cursed