Rocine Lesson 4

וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

Exodus 18:1

וַיָּשֶׁם יִתְרוֹ אַתָּה בֵּית בָּאֵשׁ כֹּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

Exodus 18:1
Goals

• Identify
  – a dependent clause by a relative pronoun.

• Identify and read
  – the relative past background
  – Qal qatal in a dependent clause.
What we already know

• What form is the first verb?
• What genre does that form indicate?
• What is the
  – Subject?
  – Object?
What we already know

What form is the first verb?
• What genre does that form indicate?
• What is the
  – Subject?
  – Object?

וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

wayyiqtol
Historical Narrative
What we already know

נ.AllowUser יתק ית שמע כל אשר עשה אלהים

• How is כל pronounced?
• Meaning of שמע (Vocab # 27, p 412)
• Translate what we can.
What we already know

ויִשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אלהים

• How is כָּל pronounced?
• Meaning of שמע (Vocab # 27, p 412)
• Translate what we can.

‘kol’
• short ‘o’ qamets-hatuph, not the long ‘a’ qamets.
• Remember ‘closed, unaccented syllable’ means qamets-hatuph.
All-purpose Relative Pronoun

• אֲשֶׁר (Vocab # 2, p 411)
  – The ‘all-purpose’ relative pronoun in BH
  – Trans: what, that, who, which, whomever...
  – Signals a dependent clause
All-purpose Relative Pronoun

ניֵשָׁמַע יַחַרְתָּ אַתָּ כֵּלַּאֲשָׁר עָשָּׂה אֱלֹהִים

- אֲשֶׁר (Vocab # 2, p 411)
  - The ‘all-purpose’ relative pronoun in BH
  - Trans: *what, that, who, which, whomever...*
  - Signals a dependent clause
- Two other words that start a dependent clause
  - אִּם = "*if*" (Vocab # 39, p 412)
  - כִּי = "*when, because*" (Vocab # 8, p 412)
Find the dependent clause.

Why can’t dependent clauses stand alone?
What’s another name for a dependent clause?
Qatal

תִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

• Qatal is a verb form (like wayyiqtol).
• Try to identify the qatal and the wayyiqtol.
Qatal

וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלָהִים

• List as many similarities/differences as you can.
List as many similarities/differences as you can.

Differences
- prefix vs. no prefix
- waw/patach/dagesh forte front end
- vowels are different

Similarities
- 3 root letters
- subject follows
Mainline vs. Off-the-line

RULE:

• Every genre of discourse has a mainline clause type constructed with a particular verb form. All other clause types (constructed with other verb forms) within that genre are off-the-line.

• Off-the-line clauses are subordinate to, or serve the mainline.

• Each off-the-line verb form has functions that are particular to it.
Mainline vs. Off-the-line

In this verse which verb form is

- Mainline?
- Off-line?

וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

wayyiqtol
qatal
Mainline vs. Off-the-line

• In the Historical Narrative genre
  – Wayyiqtol is mainline
    • This is the tense used to move the story forward, to describe each event in sequence.
  – Qatal is off-line
    • Qatal will do things in the story other than tell us what the next event is.
Qatal

• Qatal can be used in 2 ways in Historical Narrative

• Both are off-line
  – In a dependent clause (this lesson)
  – In an independent clause (next lesson)
Qatal in dependent clause

In a dependent clause, Qatal gives “relative past background” information
  – This is information set in the past, relative to the time frame of the story
Qatal in dependent clause

In a dependent clause, Qatal gives “relative past background” information

– This is information set in the past, relative to the time frame of the story

The Qatal is in a dependent clause when it follows אֲשֶׁר or אִם or כִּי

Qatal

wayyiqtol

וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

wayyiqtol
Qatal in dependent clause

וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

qatal  wayyiqtol
Wayyiqtol in dependent clause

What God did: יִשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

Jethro heard: יִשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים
Qatal in dependent clause

ויתם יהוה בארץ אתריאה אדם בארץ

past  present  future
Qatal in dependent clause

וַיִּנָּחֶם yahweh because he made man in the image of god

past

present

future
Qatal in dependent clause

לִבְּתֵהוּ יְהוָה בְּכָרְעָה אֶת-הָאָדָם בְּאֶרֶךְ

wayyiqtol

past

present

future
Qatal in dependent clause

וַיִּנָּחֶם יְהוָּה כִּי עָּשָּה אֶת־הָּאָדָּם בָּאָרֶם

YHWH made man

YHWH regretted

past

present

future

qatal

wayyiqtol
Qatal in dependent clause

וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

wayyiqtol qatal

וַיִּנָּחֶם יְׁהוָּה כִּי עָּשָּה אֶת־הָּאָדָם בָּאָרֶץ

wayyiqtol qatal

past

qatal

wayyiqtol

present

future

כִּי

כִּי

בָּאָרֶץ

אָרֶץ

אָדָם

עָּשָּה

אֱלֹהִים

כָּל־אֲשֶׁר

יִתְרוֹ

וַיִּשְׁمַע

בָּאָרֶץ

כִּי

עָּשָּה

אֱלֹהִים

כָּל־אֲשֶׁר

יִתְרוֹ

וַיִּשְׁמַע
Qatal in dependent clause

וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

wayyiqtol

Past relative to past

וַיִּנָּחֶם יְׁהוָּה כִּי עָּשָּה אֶת־הָּאָדָּם בָּאָרֶם

wayyiqtol

Past relative to past

Past relative to past

Past relative to past

past present future
Qatal in dependent clause

וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרֹו אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

qatal

wayyiqtol

RULE:

• A qatal form, when in a dependent clause, functions in Biblical Hebrew by giving **background in the relative past**.
  – Relative past means past as compared to the main clause of the sentence.

• In Historical Narrative the main clause will most often be the wayyiqtol clause.
Qatal – What does it look like?

• Wayyiqtol has prefixes.
  – (stuff that comes before the root)

• Qatal has affixes.
  – (stuff that comes after the root)
  – Note that in this particular qatal, the affix is “Null”, in other words there isn’t one. This is the base form. It’s the form used for ‘he’, 3rd masculine, singular.
Qatal – What does it look like?

Here are a couple more qatal verbs just to see some of the variety. This is not a full list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>qatal</th>
<th>wayyiqtol</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>שָמַע, עָשָּה</td>
<td>וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרֹא אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[∅] affix meaning “he”</td>
<td>[ך] affix meaning “you”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Qatal – What does it look like?

וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרֹו אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָּשָּה אֱלֹהִים

• Let’s try parsing these verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root</th>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Person, Gender, Number</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Root meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>שבת</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aven</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: A Qatal form in the Qal stem will have qamets under the first root letter.

Note 2: The word order with the Qatal here is the same as usual: V-S (verb then subject).
Qatal – What does it look like?

Let’s try parsing these verbs.

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<tr>
<th>Root (שָׁמַע)</th>
<th>Stem (Qal)</th>
<th>Form (Wayyiqtol)</th>
<th>Person, Gender, Number (3ms)</th>
<th>Function (Historical Narrative Mainline)</th>
<th>Root meaning (To hear)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>עשָה</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Qal</td>
<td>Wayyiqtol</td>
<td>3ms</td>
<td>Historical Narrative Mainline</td>
<td>To hear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>עשה</td>
<td>Qal</td>
<td>Qatal</td>
<td>3ms</td>
<td>Qatal in dep. clause = Rel. past background</td>
<td>To do</td>
</tr>
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