Rocine Lesson 6

יְהוָה דִּבֶּר אֶת־הַדָּבָר

Isaiah 24:3
Goal

- Identify and read the Piel qatal.
- Learn the topicalization function of an X-qatal.
- Learn what makes a noun definite.
The Piel qatal

יְהוָה דִּבֶּר אֶת־הַדָּבָר

• What is the root?
• What is the meaning?
• What the main marker of the Piel?
The Piel qatal

יְהוָה דִּבֶּר אֶת־הַדָּבָר

• This verb is 3rd masc. singular (‘he’)
• It has a null affix.
  – Wayyiqtols have prefixes (bits added before the verb)
  – Qatals have affixes (bits added to the end of the verb)
  – Qatal 3ms affix is null. This is the simplest form.
• There is another sign of the Piel Qatal.
  – The hireq under the first root letter.
    – (Note that the segol under the second root letter in this example is not a sign of the Piel.)
The Piel qatal

יהוה דיבר את דבר

RULE:
The sign of a Piel stem verb in the qatal form is
1. a hireq under the first root letter and
2. a dagesh forte in the second root letter.
## Summary Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb Form</th>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>QAL</th>
<th>PIEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WAYYIQTOL</td>
<td>〇〇〇 ֐</td>
<td>〇〇〇 ֐</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>יִמָּשֶׁר</td>
<td>בָּדֶּבֶר</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatal</td>
<td>מָר (∅)</td>
<td>בָּרֶּר (∅)</td>
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Guiding Principles of the Hebrew Verbal System

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<td>(Ø) בָּרָר (Ø)</td>
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1. **Verb forms**, have special discourse functions.
2. **Verbal stems** affect a root’s meaning, not its function within a discourse.
3. All the **stems** are used in all the **forms**.
Topicalization – Example 1

- This occurs at the beginning of a narrative (Genesis 22:1)
- What is the first event of the narrative?
- How could this be translated (if we take into account the X-qatal)?
- How does this translation help hint at the purpose/message/lesson/theology of this story.

אֱלֹהִים נִּסַּה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּּ֫אמֶּר אָלָיו

It was God who was a tester of Abraham, and He said to him
Topicalization – Example 1

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Topicalization – Example 2

And they separated themselves each from his kin ...

אַבְרָם יָשַב בְּאֶֹּ֫רֶּץ־כְנָֹ֫עַן

וְלוֹט יָשַב בְעָר יְהָה הַכִּכָר

• This occurs in the middle of a narrative (Genesis 13:11–12)
• These “mid-discourse” X-qataals do not present actions per se. Rather, they elaborate on the preceding wayyiqtol about the separation of the men. In this example, the fronting of the names helps to contrast who is who so we can better keep straight where each man settled.
Topicalization – Example 2

And they separated themselves each from his kin ...

אַבְרָם יָשַב בְּאֶֹּ֫רֶּץ־כְנָֹ֫עַן
It was Abram that was a dweller in the Land of Canaan

וְלוֹט יָשַב בְּעָר יַהְבָּר
And it was Lot that was a dweller in the cities of the plain

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- These “mid-discourse” X-qatalts do not present actions per se. Rather, they elaborate on the preceding way-yiqtol about the separation of the men. In this example, the fronting of the names helps to contrast who is who so we can better keep straight where each man settled.
Definiteness

In English: The apple vs. An apple

• English has 2 articles (definite and indefinite)
• Hebrew has only the definite article

• There are, however, other ways to make a word definite.
Definiteness

RULE:
A noun is definite or specific by three means:

1. It has the definite article
2. It is a proper noun, i.e., a name
   - מֹשֶה Moses
   - בֵּיתֵלֶֹּ֫חֶּם Bethlehem
3. It has an attached possessive pronoun like my, his, their, etc.
   - וֹ ב ית his house
   - וּ אַרְכֶּ נ our land