



Rocine Lesson 22

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לִיפְתַח לָכֹה וְהָיִיתָה לָנוּ לְקָצִין

Judges 11:6

Goals

Identify and read

- Off-line weqatals in Hortatory Discourse.
- (Also the “lengthened imperative” and “paragogic-heh”)

Paragogic *heh* on the imperative

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְיַפְתָּח לְכָה וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקַצֵּין

- What is the normal imperative of הֲלֹךְ?

Paragogic *heh* on the imperative

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְיַפְתָּח לְכָה לְדָךְ וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקַצִּין

- What is the normal imperative of הֲלֹךְ?

Paragogic *heh* on the imperative

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לִיפְתַח לָכֵּה לְךָ לְדָ וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקַצִּין

- The extra *heh* (actually *qamets-heh*) at the end of this imperative is called a paragogic-*heh*.
 - Paragogic means “added to the end.”
- Also known as the “lengthened imperative”
 - Notice the consequent change to the first vowel. Expect changes here. In the strong verb the first vowel often changes to a *qamets-hatuph*.

Paragogic *heh* on the imperative

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לִיפְתַח לָכֹה וְהָיִיתָה לָנוּ לְקַצֵּין
לָדֶ:

What is the function of the lengthened imperative?

This is debated. Possibilities include:

1. Making explicit the expression of intention
 - (as with the cohortative, cf. Rocine Lesson 24)
2. A remnant from its *yiqtol* origin
3. To express emphasis
4. Regional dialect

Paragogic *heh* on the imperative

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לִיפְתַח לָכֹה וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקַצִּין

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Remember that the Hebrew Bible was written over as many as 1000 years, by people from different regions speaking slightly different forms of Hebrew. In addition, the writing system underwent script and orthographic changes during this time period. It should be of no surprise, therefore, to find language variation in documents covering such a wide spectrum. Undoubtedly we would see even more variation in the final form of the Hebrew Bible had the text not been updated and kept current during its development and transmission.

Weqatal as an off-the-line verb form in Hortatory Discourse

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְיַפְתָּח לְכָה וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקָצִין

1. Weqatal can stand in for the mainline imperative of Hortatory Discourse (cf. Rocine 19.5a)

Weqatal as an off-the-line verb form in Hortatory Discourse

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְיַפְתָּח לְכָה וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקָצִין

1. Weqatal can stand in for the mainline imperative of Hortatory Discourse (cf. Rocine 19.5a)
 - It carries on the sense of the imperative that preceded it.
 - The more weqatals, the more mitigated the hortatory discourse.
 - In these situations the weqatal is functioning as a mainline verb.

Weqatal as an off-the-line verb form in Hortatory Discourse

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְיַפְתָּח לְכָה וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקָצִין

2. Weqatal can also function as an off-line verb.

RULE:

- A weqatal or series of weqatals that are subordinate to or serve the mainline of a Hortatory Discourse are off-the-line verb forms used to give consequence or purpose.
- Translate the weqatal using the English
 - so for the *vav* and
 - may be instead of *will be*.

Weqatal as an off-the-line verb form in Hortatory Discourse

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְיִפְתָּח לָכֵּה וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקָצִין

- קָצִין means *chief* or *ruler*; יִפְתָּח means *Jephthah*
- Try translating this verse with the weqatal as
– a mainline verb

And they said to Jephthah, "Come, and be our chief."

– an off-line verb

And they said to Jephthah, "Come, so that you may be our chief."

Weqatal as an off-the-line verb form in Hortatory Discourse

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְיִפְתָּח לְכֹה וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקָצִין

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– an off-line verb

And they said to Jephthah, "Come, so that you may be our chief."

Which is it?
Is the weqatal
1. a second command
or
2. a motivation to do
the command?

Weqatal as an off-the-line verb form in Hortatory Discourse

וַיֹּאמְרוּ לְיִפְתָּח לְבָהּ וְהָיִיתָ לָנוּ לְקָצִין

- וַיֹּאמְרוּ means *chief* or *ruler*; יִפְתָּח means *Jephthah*
- Try translating this verse with the weqatal as

– a mainline verb

And they said to Jephthah, "Come, and be our chief."

Which is it?
Is the weqatal
1. a second command
or
2. a motivation to do
the command?

– an off-line verb

And they said to Jephthah, "Come, so that you may be our chief."

There is a cause and effect relationship in this translation.

Weqatal as an off-the-line verb form in Hortatory Discourse

A switch in person can indicate a weqatal is off-line.

... קִרְבֵּן אֶתְּהָ וְשִׁמְעֵן אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר יֹאמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ ...

(Deut 5:27) וְשִׁמְעֵנוּ וְעֲשִׂינוּ:

You **approach**, and **hear** all that YHWH our God speaks,
so that **we may hear** and **do**.

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You **approach**, and **hear** all that YHWH our God speaks,
so that **we may hear** and **do**.

- These weqatals are 1cp, not 2ms, so they clearly are not carrying forward the same commands as the two preceding imperatives.
- This is an unambiguous case of off-line weqatals indicating consequence or purpose.

Weqatal as an off-the-line verb form in Hortatory Discourse

A switch in person can indicate a weqatal is off-line.

... קִרְבֵּךְ אֶתְּהָ וּשְׁמָע אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר יֹאמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ ...

(Deut 5:27) וּשְׁמַעְנוּ וְעֲשִׂינוּ

You **approach**, and **hear** all that YHWH our God speaks,
so that **we may hear** and **do**.

- These weqatals are 1cp, not 2ms, so they clearly are not carrying forward the same commands as the two preceding imperatives.
- This is an unambiguous case of off-line weqatals indicating consequence or purpose.

Note that these weqatals are not mitigating this Hortatory Discourse.

Review

Discourse Profile for Historical Narrative

1. Mainline: ?

Quiz

Off-the-line:

2. Topicalization: ?

3. Relative past background: ?

4. Non-past background: ?

5. Backgrounded activities: ?

6. Transition marker: ?

7. Scene setting: ?

8. Irrealis scene setting: ?

Review

Discourse Profile for Historical Narrative

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Off-the-line:

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

3. Relative past background: Qatal in dependent clause

4. Non-past background: Yiqtol in dependent clause

5. Backgrounded activities: Participle

6. Transition marker: Mainline form of היה

7. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

8. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb

Review

Discourse Profile for Historical Narrative

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Skeleton or Framework

Off-the-line:

Details: setting, summary, elaboration, etc.

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

3. Relative past background: Qatal in dependent clause

4. Non-past background: Yiqtol in dependent clause

5. Backgrounded activities: Participle

6. Transition marker: Mainline form of הִיה

7. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

8. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb

Review

Discourse Profile for Historical Narrative

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Advances the narrative

Skeleton or Framework

Off-the-line:

Details: setting, summary, elaboration, etc.

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

3. Relative past background: Qatal in dependent clause

4. Non-past background: Yiqtol in dependent clause

5. Backgrounded activities: Participle

6. Transition marker: Mainline form of היה

7. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

8. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb

Retards the narrative

Review

Discourse Profile for Historical Narrative

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Advances the narrative

Dynamic action

Skeleton or Framework

Off-the-line:

Details: setting, summary, elaboration, etc.

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

3. Relative past background: Qatal in dependent clause

4. Non-past background: Yiqtol in dependent clause

5. Backgrounded activities: Participle

6. Transition marker: Mainline form of הִיה

7. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

8. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb

Retards the narrative

Increasingly static

Discourse Profile – Other Genres

Historical Narrative

Predictive Narrative

Instructional Discourse

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

?

?

Quiz

Off-the-line:

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

?

?

3. Relative past background: Qatal in dependent clause

4. Non-past background: Yiqtol in dependent clause

5. Backgrounded activities: Participle

6. Transition marker: Mainline form of היה

7. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

8. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb

Discourse Profile – Other Genres

Historical Narrative

Predictive Narrative

Instructional Discourse

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Weqatal

Weqatal

Off-the-line:

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

X-yiqtol

X-yiqtol

3. Relative past background: Qatal in dependent clause

4. Non-past background: Yiqtol in dependent clause

5. Backgrounded activities: Participle

6. Transition marker: Mainline form of הִיא

7. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

8. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb

Discourse Profile (to date) for Hortatory Discourse

1. **Mainline:** a. Imperative
b. Weqatal (for Mitigated Hortatory Discourse)
-

Off-the-line:

2. **Topicalization:** X-Imperative
3. **Prohibitive Commands:** לֹא־ or אַל־ + yiqtol
4. **Consequence, purpose:** Weqatal
5. **Backgrounded activities:** Participle
6. **Scene setting:** Verbless Clause

Discourse Profile (to date) for Hortatory Discourse

1. Mainline: a. Imperative ← 2 mainline verbs
b. Weqatal (for Mitigated Hortatory Discourse) ←
-

Off-the-line:

2. Topicalization: X-Imperative
3. Prohibitive Commands: לֹא or אַל + yiqtol
4. Consequence, purpose: Weqatal
5. Backgrounded activities: Participle
6. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

Discourse Profile (to date) for Hortatory Discourse

1. **Mainline:** a. Imperative ← 2 mainline verbs
b. Weqatal (for Mitigated Hortatory Discourse)
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Off-the-line:

2. **Topicalization:** X-Imperative
 3. **Prohibitive Commands:** לֹא־ or אַל־ + yiqtol
 4. **Consequence, purpose:** Weqatal
 5. **Backgrounded activities:** Participle
 6. **Scene setting:** Verbless Clause
-
- 2 weqatals

Discourse Profile (to date) for Hortatory Discourse

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b. Weqatal (for Mitigated Hortatory Discourse)
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Off-the-line:

2. **Topicalization:** X-Imperative
 3. **Prohibitive Commands:** לֹא or אַל + yiqtol
 4. **Consequence, purpose:** Weqatal
 5. **Backgrounded activities:** Participle
 6. **Scene setting:** Verbless Clause
- 2 weqatals
- Negation fairly high in the Discourse Profile, though still off-line.