

Rocine Lesson 11

וִיְהִי יְשַׁעְיָהוּ לֹא יְצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הְיָה אֵלָיו 2 Kings 20:4

Goals

- Identify and read the Historical Narrative transition marker וַיָּהַי
- Identify and read irrealis comments constructed with לא
- 3. Begin constructing a discourse profile scheme for Historical Narrative
- 4. Use an understanding of Hebrew clause construction to help identify clause boundaries

We know how to parse the last verb.

Root	Stem	Form	PGN	Function	Root meaning

We know how to parse the last verb.

Root	Stem	Form	PGN	Function	Root meaning
היה	Qal	Qatal	3ms	X-qatal = topicalization	To be, become

What we already know אוין אָיָא אָרָבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו וַיְהִי יְשַׁעְיָהוּ לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

How could we translate the last clause?

How could we translate the last clause?

And it was the word of YHWH which came to him ...

Historical Narrative transition marker וַיְהִי יְשַׁעְיָהוּ לֹא יְצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

RULE: The word וְיָהָי has a special function in Biblical Hebrew as a transition marker.

Historical Narrative transition marker וַיְהִי יְשַׁעְיָהוּ לֹא יְצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

RULE: The word וַיְהָי has a special function in Biblical Hebrew as a transition marker.

- Wayyiqtol form of היה
- Basic meaning "to happen, become, be"
 - Like the verb "to be" in English
 - But often has the added nuance of something happening, not just "being"

Historical Narrative transition marker וִיְהִי יְשַׁעְיְהוּ לֹא יְצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הְיָה אֵלְיו

It is simultaneously a divider and joiner of text

- Divider: marks the onset of
 - a new scene
 - a new episode
 - the entrance of a new participant in a story.
- Joiner:
 - "At the same time it does indeed join the scene or episode it marks to a larger discourse."

Historical Narrative transition marker וַיְהִי יְשַׁעְיְהוּ לֹא יְצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הְיָה אֵלָיו

- The nikkud is irregular
 - learn without analysis, i.e. as a sight word
 - Very common, occurs 700+ times in HB
- Translation: And (then) it happened or left untranslated
- Function (in analysis chart): transition marker

Historical Narrative transition marker וַיָּהִי יְשַׁעְיָהוּ לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

• The nikkud is irregular,

but it's Qal.

Looks like a Piel

- Triply weak. **Heh, Yod, Heh**
- learn without analysis, i.e. as a sight word
- Very common, occurs 700+ times in HB
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Function (in analysis chart): transition marker

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Nota Bene:

- Even though וְיָהֵי is a wayyiqtol and the genre is Historical Narrative, it is off-line, not mainline.
- It is off-line because it is **not** describing the next event in the narrative.

Root	Stem	Form	PGN	Function	Root meaning
היה	Qal	Wayyiqtol	3ms	Transition Marker (off-the-line)	To be, become

Next three words וַיְהִי יְשַׁעְׂיָהוּ לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

In the next 3 words we have an X-qatal.

- Identify the X
- Identify the qatal
- How is the X related to the qatal?

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In the next 3 words we have an X-qatal.

- Identify the X (Isaiah) יִשַּׁעִיָּהוּ
- Identify the gatal יַצָא
- How is the X related to the gatal?

ישַׁעַיַּהוּ (Isaiah) is the subject of the gatal

Irrealis וַיְהִי יְשַׁעְיְׁהוּ <mark>לא</mark> יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

• means "no, not"

Irrealis וַיְהִי יְשַׁעְ_{לָ}ׁהוּ לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

- אלא means "no, not"
- converts a verb to irrealis

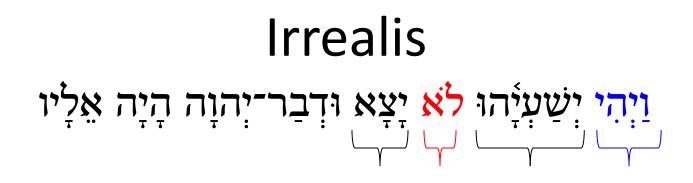
- i.e. a statement of what is *not* rather than what *is*

Irrealis וִיְהִי יְשַׁעְיָׁהוּ לֹא יָצָא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

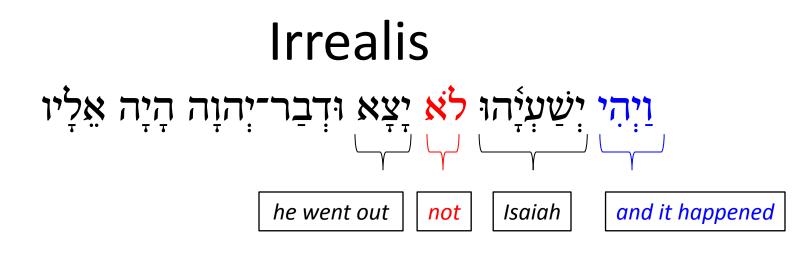
- לא means "no, not"
- converts a verb to irrealis رنم

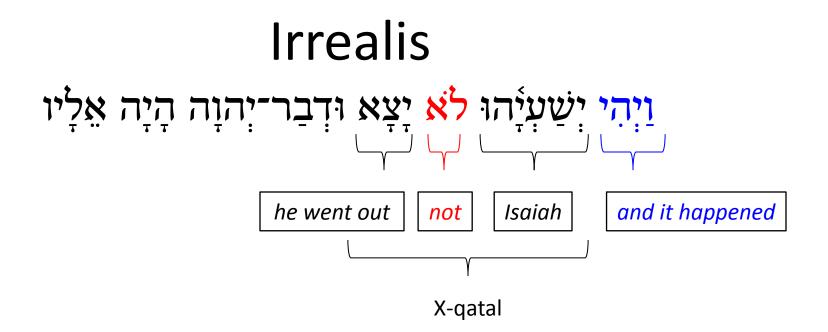
- i.e. a statement of what is not rather than what is

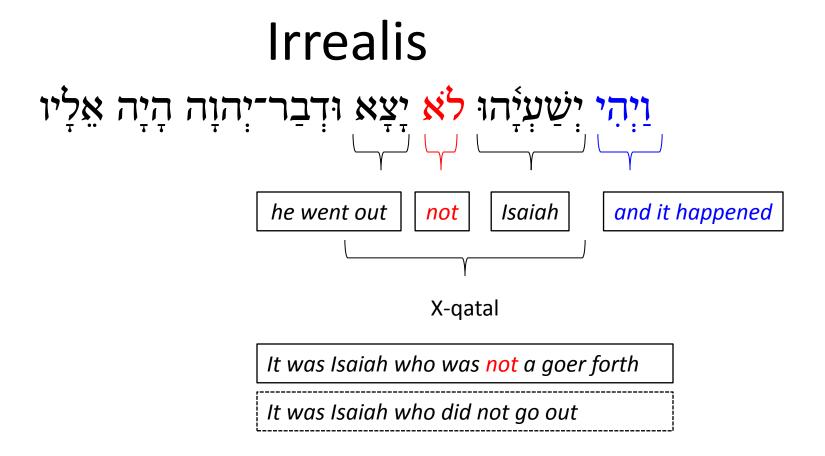
Do not confuse לא and i ("to him" or "his")

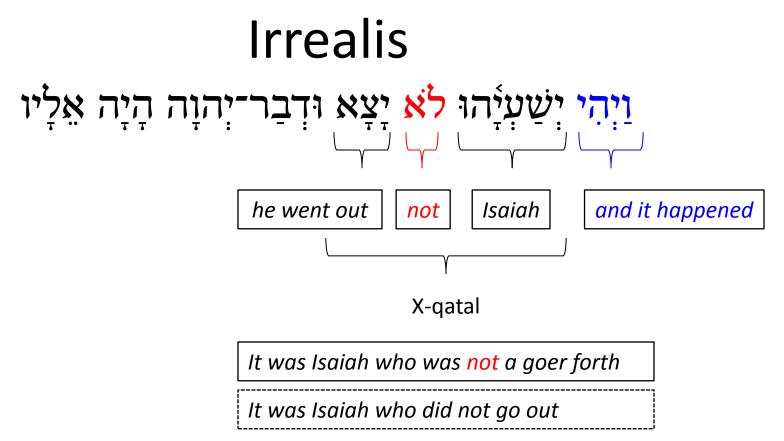


Translate the elements.







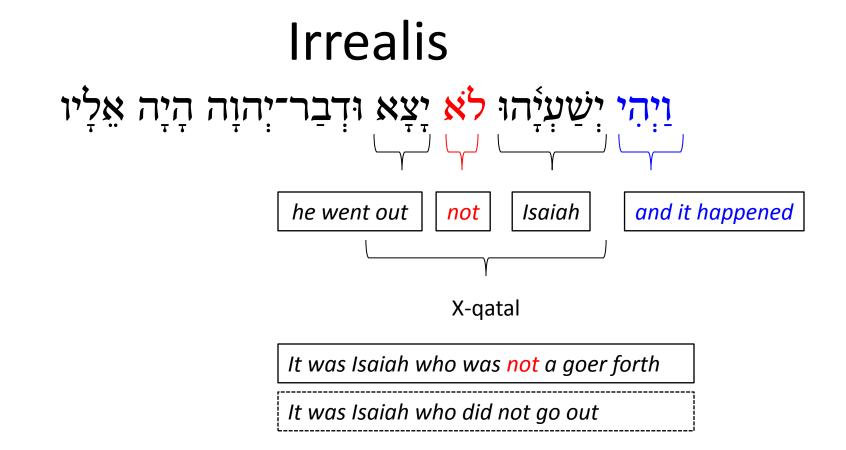


Translation of first clause:

 "And it happened that it was Isaiah who was not a goer forth / did not go out"

Or simply

"It was Isaiah who was not a goer forth / did not go out"
The transition marker וַיְהָי is often left untranslated in English.



RULE: The conversion of any verb to **irrealis**, that is, **a statement of what is** *not* **rather than what** *is*, by the word in word the verb form to the lowest place in the **discourse profile scheme** of a genre.

A bit of review

- What is a discourse?
- What is a genre?

A bit of review

- A Discourse:
 - "a self-contained text, maybe long or maybe short, but the text has its own plan, purpose, and meaning."

A bit of review

- A Discourse:
 - "a self-contained text, maybe long or maybe short, but the text has its own plan, purpose, and meaning."
- Genre:
 - "A kind of discourse"
 - E.g.
 - Historical Narrative
 - Predictive Narrative
 - Instructional Discourse
 - Hortatory Discourse
 - Procedural Discourse

Tell a story about the past.

- Tell a story set in the future.
- Tell how to do something.
- Influence the behavior of someone.
- Tell how a procedure was done in the past.

A bit of review

- A Discourse:
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Tell a story about the past. Tell a story set in the future.

Tell how to do something.

Influence the behavior of someone.

Tell how a procedure was done in the past.

Today we are looking at

- the discourse profile of the historical narrative genre.
- The profile is how the discourse of this particular genre is structured.

- The idea is that the <u>mainline</u> verb form is like the skeleton from which hang all the tissue of detail, setting, summary, and elaboration.
- All <u>off-the-line</u> verb forms in a genre provide these details, settings, summaries, and elaborations as they retard the forward progress of the mainline.
- The lower a verb form is in the profile, the farther away it is from the mainline and the more it tends to retard the forward progress of the mainline.

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Off-the-line:

- 2. Topicalization: X-qatal
 - **3. Relative past background**: אֲשֶׁעֶ qatal
 - **4. Transition marker**: Wayyiqtol of היה
 - 5. Scene setting: Verbless Clause
 - 6. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb by לאֹ

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol (Lesson 1, p 4)

Off-the-line:

- **2.** Topicalization: X-qatal (Lesson 5, p 23)
 - 3. Relative past background: אָשֶׁשְ qatal (Lesson 4, p 18)
 - **4. Transition marker**: Wayyiqtol of היה (Lesson 11, p 51)
 - 5. Scene setting: Verbless Clause (Lesson 2, p 10)
 - 6. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb by לאֹ

(Lesson 11, p 52)

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Skeleton or Framework

Off-the-line:

Details: setting, summary, elaboration, etc.

- 2. Topicalization: X-qatal
 - **3. Relative past background**: אֲשֶׁע qatal
 - 4. Transition marker: Wayyiqtol of היה
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 - 6. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb by לאֹ

Advances the narrative

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Skeleton or Framework

Retards the narrative

Off-the-line:

Details: setting, summary, elaboration, etc.

- 2. Topicalization: X-qatal
 - **3. Relative past background**: אֲשֶׁעֶ qatal
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Advances the narrative

Skeleton or Framework

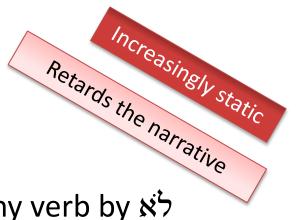
Off-the-line:

Details: setting, summary, elaboration, etc.

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

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Advances the narrative

Skeleton or Framework

Dynamic

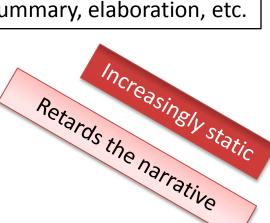
action

Off-the-line:

- Details: setting, summary, elaboration, etc.
- **2. Topicalization**: X-qatal

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

- **3. Relative past background**: אַשֶׁר qatal
 - **4. Transition marker**: Wayyiqtol of היה
 - 5. Scene setting: Verbless Clause
 - **6.** Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb by לא
- Note: This is <u>not</u> a ranking of importance.
 - It is a ranking of movement in the narrative the lower the rank the more that construction slows the forward progress of the discourse.
 - Sometimes off-line constructions contain the most important material: like a "slow-mo" section of a video or even a "freeze frame".



Identifying where clauses begin and end

- This is an art
- Look for the *waws*, that will tell you an awful lot
- Read Rocine's section on this (11.5) but it's best dealt with when looking at the concrete examples in the exercises