



Rocine Lesson 11

וַיְהִי יִשְׁעֵיהֶוּ לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

2 Kings 20:4

Goals

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

What we already know

וְיִהְיֶה יִשְׁעֵיהֶם לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלֵינוּ

We know how to parse the last verb.

Root	Stem	Form	PGN	Function	Root meaning

What we already know

וְיִהְיֶה יִשְׁעֵיהֶם לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלֵינוּ

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

וַיְהִי יִשְׁעֵיהֶם לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

How could we translate the last clause?

What we already know

וַיְהִי יִשְׁעֵיהֶוָה לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

How could we translate the last clause?

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

Historical Narrative transition marker

וַיְהִי יִשְׁעֵיהֶם לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

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

Historical Narrative transition marker

וַיְהִי יִשְׁעֵיהֶן לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

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

- Wayyiqtol form of **הָיָה**
- 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

וַיְהִי יִשְׁעֵיהֶן לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

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 יִשְׁעֵיהֶן לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה 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

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Looks like a Piel
but it's Qal.

Triply weak.
Heh, Yod, Heh

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Root	Stem	Form	PGN	Function	Root meaning
היה					

Historical Narrative transition marker

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Root	Stem	Form	PGN	Function	Root meaning
היה	Qal	Wayyiqtol	3ms	Transition Marker	To be, become

Historical Narrative transition marker

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Nota Bene:

- Even though וַיְהִי 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 יִשְׁעֵיהֶם לֹא יֵצֵא 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?

Next three words

וַיְהִי יִשְׁעִיָּהוּ לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר־יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

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

- Identify the X יִשְׁעִיָּהוּ (Isaiah)
- Identify the qatal יֵצֵא
- How is the X related to the qatal? יִשְׁעִיָּהוּ (Isaiah) is the subject of the qatal

Irrealis

וְיִהְיֶה יִשְׁעֵיהֶם לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלֵינוּ

- לֹא means “no, not”

Irrealis

וְיִהְיֶה יִשְׁעֵיהֶם לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלֵינוּ

- לֹא means “no, not”
- לֹא converts a verb to **irrealis**
 - i.e. a statement of what is *not* rather than what *is*

Irrealis

וְיִהְיֶה יִשְׁעֵיהֶם לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלֵינוּ

- לֹא means “no, not”
- לֹא converts a verb to **irrealis**
 - i.e. a statement of what is not rather than what is
- Do not confuse לֹא and לוֹ (“to him” or “his”)

Irrealis

וְיִהְיֶה יִשְׁעֵיהֶם לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

Translate the elements.

Irrealis

וַיְהִי וַיִּשְׁעֶיהוּ לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

he went out *not* *Isaiah* *and it happened*

Irrealis

וַיְהִי וַיִּשְׁעֶיהוּ לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

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X-qatal

Irrealis

וַיְהִי וַיִּשְׁעֶיהוּ לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

he went out *not* *Isaiah* *and it happened*

X-qatal

It was Isaiah who was not a goer forth

It was Isaiah who did not go out

Irrealis

וַיְהִי וַיִּשְׁעֵיהוּ לֹא יֵצֵא וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

he went out *not* *Isaiah* *and it happened*

X-qatal

It was Isaiah who was not a goer forth

It was Isaiah who did not go out

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 וַיְהִי is often left untranslated in English.

Irrealis

וַיְהִי וַיֵּצֵא לֹא יִשְׁעִיָּהוּ וּדְבַר-יְהוָה הָיָה אֵלָיו

he went out not Isaiah and it happened

X-qatal

It was Isaiah who was not a goer forth

It was Isaiah who did not go out

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

Discourse profile

A bit of review

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

Discourse profile

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.”

Discourse profile

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 Tell a story about the past.
 - Predictive Narrative Tell a story set in the future.
 - Instructional Discourse Tell how to do something.
 - Hortatory Discourse Influence the behavior of someone.
 - Procedural Discourse Tell how a procedure was done in the past.

Discourse profile

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:
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 - E.g.
 - **Historical Narrative** Tell a story about the past.
 - Predictive Narrative Tell a story set in the future.
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 - Procedural Discourse 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.

Discourse profile

- The idea is that the mainline verb form is like the skeleton from which hang all the tissue of detail, setting, summary, and elaboration.
- All off-the-line 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.

Discourse profile

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Off-the-line:

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

3. Relative past background: אֲשֶׁר qatal

4. Transition marker: Wayyiqtol of היה

5. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

6. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb by לֹא

Discourse profile

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

Off-the-line:

2. Topicalization: X-qatal (Lesson 5, p 23)

3. Relative past background: אֲשֶׁר 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 לֹא

(Lesson 11, p 52)

Discourse profile

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Skeleton or Framework

Off-the-line:

Details: setting, summary, elaboration, etc.

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

3. Relative past background: אֲשֶׁר qatal

4. Transition marker: Wayyiqtol of היה

5. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

6. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb by לֹא

Discourse profile

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: אֲשֶׁר qatal

4. Transition marker: Wayyiqtol of היה

5. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

6. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb by לֹא

Retards the narrative

Discourse profile

Dynamic
action

Advances the narrative

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Skeleton or Framework

Off-the-line:

Details: setting, summary, elaboration, etc.

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

3. Relative past background: אֲשֶׁר qatal

4. Transition marker: Wayyiqtol of היה

5. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

6. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb by לֹא

Increasingly static

Retards the narrative

Discourse profile

Dynamic
action

Advances the narrative

1. Mainline: Wayyiqtol

Skeleton or Framework

Off-the-line:

Details: setting, summary, elaboration, etc.

2. Topicalization: X-qatal

3. Relative past background: אָשַׁר qatal

4. Transition marker: Wayyiqtol of הִיאַ

5. Scene setting: Verbless Clause

6. Irrealis scene setting: Negation of any verb by לֹא

Increasingly static

Retards the narrative

- Note: This is not 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