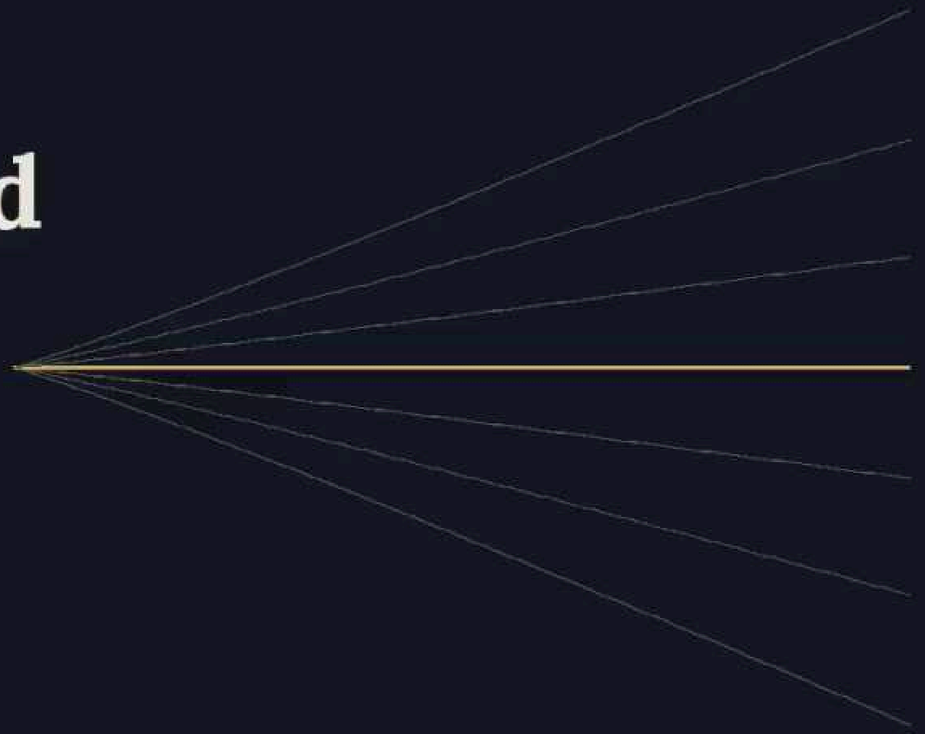
ANDERSON ACADEMY

HEBR 101 B · Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (Brief course)

Lecture 4 · about 7 min

Prepositions, Pronouns, and Adjectives



A library of university-level courses

Prefixes

- Small words joined to the front
- One word can hold several parts
- Peel the prefixes off
- A key reading skill

¶ 4.1

A word on the page can therefore contain a preposition, an article, and a noun all at once.

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Prefixed prepositions

Meaning	Example
B, in or with	Be-reshit, in a beginning
L, to or for	Le-david, for David
K, like or as	Ke-ish, like a man

¶ 4.2

So be-reshit, in a beginning; le-david, for David, the title of many psalms; ke-ish, like a man.

Preposition with the article

Parts

- Be plus ha-bayit
- Le plus ha-melekh
- Ke plus ha-ish

Result

- Ba-bayit, in the house
- La-melekh, to the king
- Ka-ish, like the man

¶ 4.3

So be plus ha-bayit becomes ba-bayit, in the house; le plus ha-melekh becomes la-melekh, to the king.

The word and

- Vav, spoken ve or u
- The commonest word in the Bible
- Joins clause after clause
- And he said, and he went

¶ 4.4

Biblical stories string clause after clause together with and, which gives their style its steady, flowing rhythm:

Other prepositions

- Min, from
- El, towards
- Al, on or over
- Im, with
- Bein, between
- Et, marks the object

¶ 4.5

Remember too the important little word et, which has no English equivalent: it marks a definite direct object.

The object marker et

- No English equivalent
- Marks a definite direct object
- Before nouns with the article
- Before proper names

¶ 4.6

but in Hebrew it signals that the heavens is the definite object of the verb.

Personal pronouns

I, you, he

- Ani, I
- Attah, you, masculine
- Att, you, feminine
- Hu, he

She, we, you all, they

- Hi, she
- Anachnu, we
- Attem, you all
- Hem, they

¶ 4.7

Hebrew distinguishes masculine and feminine even in the word you, and in the verb,

Pronoun suffixes

On nouns

- Susi, my horse
- Suskha, your horse
- Suso, his horse

On prepositions

- Li, to me
- Lo, to him
- Bo, in it

¶ 4.8

These suffixes also attach to prepositions: li, to me; lo, to him; bo, in it.

Suffixes in famous phrases

- Elohai, my God
- Eloheinu, our God
- Adonai, my Lord
- Eli, Eli, Psalm 22

¶ 4.9

The name Eli, my God, appears in the cry of Psalm 22, quoted in the Gospels: Eli, Eli,

Adjectives agree

Indefinite

- Ish tov, a good man
- Ishah tovah, a good woman
- Anashim tovim, good men

Definite

- Ha-ish ha-tov
- The good man
- Article repeated

¶ 4.10

Tov means good: ish tov, a good man; ishah tovah, a good woman; anashim tovim, good men.

Phrase or sentence

Phrase

- Ha-ish ha-tov
- The good man
- Article on both

Sentence

- Ha-ish tov
- The man is good
- Article only on the noun

¶ 4.11

ha-ish tov means the man is good.

Sentences without verbs

- Adonai melekh, the Lord is king
- Hu gadol, he is great
- Ani Adonai, I am the Lord
- Supply is or are

¶ 4.12

English must supply the verb is, but Hebrew does not need it in the present.

The negative lo

- Lo, not
- Lo tov, not good
- Genesis 2
- Lo tignov, you shall not steal

¶ 4.13

For commands and prohibitions, lo is used with the imperfect, as in the Ten Commandments: lo tignov, you shall not steal.

Hinneh

- Behold or look
- Points to something new
- A change of viewpoint
- And behold, a ladder

¶ 4.14

Modern translations may render it with look, see, or simply leave it out,

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Questions

- A question prefix ha
- Mi, who
- Mah, what
- Lamah, why
- Mi kamokha, who is like you

¶ 4.15

Mi kamokha, who is like you, from the Song of the Sea in Exodus, is a famous example.

Reading Genesis 1:4

Va-yar, and he saw

Elohim, God

Et ha-or, the light

Ki tov, that it was good

¶ 4.16

Ha-or, the light, with the article. Ki, that. Tov, good.

Practice

- Add prefixes, ba and la
- Add suffixes, i and o
- Make phrases and sentences
- See the parts in a word

¶ 4.17

la-bayit, to the house; susi, my horse; ha-sus ha-tov, the good horse; ha-sus tov, the horse is good.