Rocine Lesson 5

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר

Genesis 3:17

Goal

- Identify and read the X-qatal construction.

What we already know

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר

We can identify and parse the verb.

Root	Stem	Form	Person, Gender, Number	Function	Root meaning

What we already know

<div dir="rtl">וּלְאָדָם אָמַר</div>

We can identify and parse the verb.

Root	Stem	Form	Person, Gender, Number	Function	Root meaning
אמר	Qal	Qatal	3 m s	To Be Determined*	say

* Note
- The Qatal here is NOT in a dependent clause.
  (It would need to follow אִם, אֲשֶׁר, or כִּי to be in a dependent clause.)
- Since it is not in a dependent clause, it is NOT fulfilling the function of relative past background.

The significance of the qatal

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר

- The qatal verb form expresses an action that has been completed. Usually this is an action in the past, so the verb is translated with a simple past tense verb. Notice that this translation does not differ from the translation of the wayyiqtol, at least in the matter of tense.
- E.g. Translation of אָמַר
  - *He said*

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- In our verse above (Genesis 3:17) YHWH is speaking to Adam after he has spoken to the serpent and to the woman. Now he turns to address the man, Adam.
- YHWH, therefore, is the subject of the verb אמר.

X-qatal

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר

- The word order in our verse is referred to as an
  - X-qatal
           or sometimes
  - Waw-X-qatal

X-qatal

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר

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- What are the elements?
  - The Waw is the consonant Waw.
  - The X is the bit that comes between the waw and the verb. The X can be a number of different things, which could be a subject, a direct object, an indirect object, or a prepositional phrase.
  - The Qatal is the verb in the Qatal form.

X-qatal

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר

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  - X-qatal

        or sometimes
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RULE: In Historical Narrative, the X-Qatal (usually) continues the main narrative, but shifting the focus, and providing some contrast to the preceding narrative.

- It is this unusual word order in Hebrew (something coming before the verb) that signals to the reader that thes X component is in focus.
- We will try to represent that in English with the following construction (also an unusual word order in English)

(And) _____"X"_____ he/she/they did (smething)

X-qatal

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר

- Using what we have learned, how would you translate our lesson verse (above)?

Translation of the qatal in an independent clause:
- E.g. Translation of אָמַר
  - *He said*

Translation of the X-Qatal or Waw-X-Qatal construction:
- (And) _____"X"_____ ___(Remainder of clause)_____

X-qatal

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר

- Using what we have learned, how would you translate our lesson verse (above)?

Translation of the qatal in an independent clause:
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  - *He said*

Translation of the X-Qatal or Waw-X-Qatal construction:
- (And) _____ "X" _____ ___(Remainder of clause)_____

Translation: *(And) to Adam he said.9*

What does the X-qatal do?

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר

(And) to Adam he said.

In Historical Narrative the X-qatal does a number of things:

Beginning of a discourse	Middle of a discourse
a summary of what follows, marking a new topic or a new episode	a continuation of the historical narrative mainline, but making a contrast with the preceding narrative; a change in focus may also be apparent

X-qatal = topicalization

X-qatal = contrast to preceding narrative

What we already know

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר

We can now identify the "function" column of our verb analysis chart from above.

Root	Stem	Form	Person, Gender, Number	Function	Root meaning
אמר	Qal	Qatal	3 m s	To Be Determined	say

What we already know

וּלְאָדָם אָמַר

We can now identify the "function" column of our verb analysis chart from above.

Root	Stem	Form	Person, Gender, Number	Function	Root meaning
אמר	Qal	Qatal	3 m s	X-qatal = continue mainline, but with a contrast	say

Summary
Qatal in Historical Narrative

	QATAL IN DEPENDENT CLAUSES (Lesson 4)	**QATAL IN INDEPENDENT CLAUSES (Lesson 5)**
Preceded by	a relative, e.g. כִּי, אִם, אֲשֶׁר	any other word or phrase, i.e. an "X"
Translate	*has, had, have*	*(And)* __"X"__ __he/she/they did__
"Function" in verb analysis chart	Qatal in dep. clause = relative past background	Continues the current discourse mode, but making (for example) a contrast. The fronted element may be emphasizing a topic
Example	וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֱלֹהִים Jethro heard all which God had done.	וּלְאָדָם אָמַר But to Adam he said.

Summary of Qatal and Wayyiqtol

	QATAL IN DEPENDENT CLAUSES (Lesson 4)	QATAL IN INDEPENDENT CLAUSES (Lesson 5)	WAYYIQTOL (Lessons 1, 2, 3)
Preceded by	a relative, e.g. כִּי אִם אֲשֶׁר	any other word or phrase, an "X"	nothing
Translate	*has*, *had*, *have*	Usually as an English past tense	Usually as an English past tense
Function	Qatal in dep. clause = relative past background	Continues the Historical Narrative Mainline, but making a contast	Historical narrative Mainline
Example	וַיִּשְׁמַע יִתְרוֹ אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֱלֹהִים Jethro heard all which God had done.	וּלְאָדָם אָמַר But to Adam he said.	וַיֹּאמֶר יהוה YHWH said וַיְדַבֵּר אֱלֹהִים אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי יהוה God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am YHWH" וַיֵּלֶךְ מֹשֶׁה וַיְדַבֵּר אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים אֶל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל

Concerning English Bibles

Most English translations generally ignore the difference between the qatal and the wayyiqtol verb forms.

- Genesis 1:1 is a qatal verb form, and translators generally use a simple past translation: "In the beginning God created."

- Genesis 1:3 is a wayyiqtol verb form, and translators use simple past once again: "And God said . . . "

- One can capture the difference in meaning between the qatal and wayyiqtol verb forms by translating (in this case) the topicalization aspect of the qatal: "It was in the beginning that God created . . . . And then God said . . . "