

Rocine Lesson 6

יְהוָה דִּבֶּר אֶת־הַדָּבָר

Isaiah 24:3

Goal

- Identify and read the Piel qatal.
- Learn the topicalization function of an X-qatal.
- Learn what makes a noun definite.

The Piel qatal

יְהוָה דִּבֶּר אֶת־הַדָּבָר

- What is the root?
- What is the meaning?
- What the main marker of the Piel?

The Piel qatal

יְהוֹה דִּבֶּר אֶת־הַדָּבָר

- This verb is 3rd masc. singular ('he')
- It has a null suffix.
 - Wayyiqtoles have prefixes (bits added before the verb)
 - Qatals have suffixes (bits added to the end of the verb)
 - Qatal 3ms suffix is null. This is the simplest form.
- There is another sign of the Piel Qatal.
 - The hireq under the first root letter.
 - (Note that the segol under the second root letter in this example is not a sign of the Piel.)

The Piel qatal

יְהוֹה דִּבֶּר אֶת־הַדָּבָר

RULE:

The sign of a **Piel** stem verb in the **qatal** form is

1. a **hireq** under the **first root** letter and
2. a **dagesh forte** in the **second root letter**.

Summary Chart

Stem	QAL	PIEL
Verb Form		
WAYYIQTOL	○○○ _— י	○○○ _— י
QATAL	—○○○ _י	—○○○ _י

Summary Chart

Verb Form	Stem	QAL	PIEL
WAYYIQTOL		○○○ְׁ	○○○ְׁ׃
QATAL		__○○ׁ׃	__○○ׁ׃

	QAL	PIEL
Wayyiqtol	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיִּדְבֹּר
Qatal	אָמַר (∅)	דִּבֶּר (∅)

Guiding Principles of the Hebrew Verbal System

	QAL	PIEL
Wayyiqtol	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיְדַבֵּר
Qatal	אָמַר (Ø)	דָּבַר (Ø)

1. Verb forms, have special discourse functions.
2. Verbal stems affect a root's meaning, not its function within a discourse.
3. All the stems are used in all the forms.

X-Qatal – Example 1

אֱלֹהִים נִסָּה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו

- This occurs at the beginning of a narrative (Genesis 22:1)
- What is the first event of the narrative?
- In this case, the X-qatal (at the beginning of a narrative) marks a new topic or a new episode.
- How could this be translated (if we take into account the X-qatal)?

X-Qatal – Example 1

אֱלֹהִים נִסָּה אֶת־אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו
God tested Abraham in this way: (and) He said to him

- This occurs at the beginning of a narrative (Genesis 22:1)
- What is the first event of the narrative?
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- How could this be translated (if we take into account the X-qatal)?.

X-Qatal – Example 2

And they separated themselves each from his kin...

אַבְרָם יָשַׁב בְּאֶרֶץ-כְּנָעַן

וְלוֹט יָשַׁב בְּעִיר הַכְּכָר

- This occurs in the middle of a narrative (Genesis 13:11–12)
- These “mid-discourse” X-qatals “mark” the fronted elements to emphasize and contrast Abram and Lot. In addition, the X-qatals develop the narrative, expanding on the separation, telling who went where as a result of the separation.

X-Qatal – Example 2

And they separated themselves each from his kin...

אַבְרָם יָשַׁב בְּאֶרֶץ-כְּנָעַן
Abram dwelt in the Land of Canaan

וְלוֹט יָשַׁב בְּעָרֵי הַכְּפֹר
And Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain

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- These “mid-discourse” X-qatals “mark” the fronted elements to emphasize and contrast Abram and Lot. In addition, the X-qatals develop the narrative, expanding on the separation, telling who went where as a result of the separation.
- Or, one might even translate it as ...

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אַבְרָם יָשַׁב בְּאֶרֶץ-כְּנָעַן

Abram dwelling in the Land of Canaan

וְלוֹט יָשַׁב בְּעָרֵי הַכְּפֹר

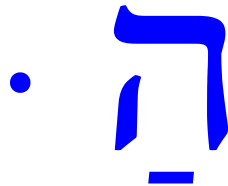
and Lot dwelling in the cities of the plain

- This occurs in the middle of a narrative (Genesis 13:11–12)
- This translation explicitly indicates that the latter two phrases expand on the first phrase by using a comma and present participles.

Definiteness

In English: **The** apple vs. **An** apple

- English has 2 articles (definite and indefinite)
- Hebrew has only the definite article



- There are, however, other ways to make a word definite.

Definiteness

RULE:

A noun is definite or specific by three means:

1. It has the **definite article**
2. It is a **proper noun**, i.e., a name
 - מֹשֶׁה Moses
 - בֵּית-לֶחֶם Bethlehem
3. It has an attached **possessive pronoun** like *my*, *his*, *their*, etc.
 - בֵּיתוֹ his house
 - אֶרְצֵנוּ our land