

Jonah 1:1-3

Leader Handout: Gloss & Discussion Questions

Dr. Marshall

1:1 The word of YHWH came to Jonah, the son of Amittai (saying):

וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יֹנָתָן בֶּן־אָמִתַּי לֵאמֹר:

a. Parse וַיְהִי; what is the time-frame of the verb? What is the sense of the verb in this context, and which sense in Holladay (or HALOT) matches your understanding of the meaning of the verb here (look at the numbered senses in the lexicon)?

b. וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה : The form דְּבַר is in the construct state. [1] What is the absolute form? [2] Explain why the vowels are what they are (revisit Ross if necessary). [3] What is the semantic classification of the use of the genitive—the word יְהוָה—in the genitive phrase (or construct chain) וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה (See Williams 36-49 for the range of genitive uses; see also WOC 9.5.1a-c.)

c. How is the bound phrase (construct chain) בֶּן־אָמִתַּי functioning? (See Williams §65-71.)

d. How does the expression לֵאמֹר function? Do you think you should translate it?

1:2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and cry out against her that their evil has come up before me.”

קוּם לְךָ אֶל־נִינְוָה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה וּקְרָא עָלֶיהָ כִּי־עֲלָתָהּ רָעָתָם לְפָנַי:

a. Parse these two impv verbs, קוּם לְךָ, and explain the vowel points (as well as the loss of a consonant in לְךָ). Go back and review Hollow verbs and I-yod/waw verbs in Ross. What is the semantic classification of the use of the imperative mood? (See Williams §188-91 and WOC §34.4a-b.)

b. What is the semantic classification of the use of the article in the noun phrase הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה? (See Williams §82-93 for uses of the article; also WOC §13.5.1.)

c. What is the semantic classification of the use of the adjective in the noun phrase הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה? How do you know? (See Williams §73-75 for uses of the adjective; also WOC §14.3.)

d. What is the semantic classification of the use of the כִּי-clause? (See Williams §444-52 for uses of כִּי-clauses; also WOC §38.4; 38.8.)

1:3 Then Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish, away from the presence of YHWH. He went down to Joppa, and he found a boat going to Tarshish. He paid its fare, and he went down into it to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of YHWH.

וַיָּקָם יוֹנָה לִבְרוֹחַ תַּרְשִׁישָׁה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה וַיֵּרֶד יָפוֹ וַיִּמָּצָא אֹנִיָּה בָּאָה תַרְשִׁישׁ וַיֵּתֵן
שָׂכָרָהּ וַיֵּרֶד בָּהּ לָבוֹא עִמָּהֶם תַּרְשִׁישָׁה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה:

- a. Parse the two finite forms, וַיָּקָם and וַיֵּרֶד, and the two infinitives לִבְרוֹחַ and לָבוֹא. Be prepared to discuss the vowel pointing and the prefixes. (Again, review Ross on Hollow and I-yod/waw verbs if necessary.)
- b. Explain the function of the unaccented qamets-he on תַּרְשִׁישָׁה. (See Williams §61-62.)
- c. The two nouns יָפוֹ and תַּרְשִׁישׁ are considered “accusative” nouns, in that they are used without a preposition to qualify or limit the verb in some way. What is the semantic classification of the use of these accusatives (hint: they are both the same kind of accusative)? (See Williams §50-60; also, see WOC 10.2.2 for a discussion of various adverbial accusative notions.)
- d. As hinted at above, the forms לִבְרוֹחַ and לָבוֹא are both parsed as infinitive construct (with prep ל). What is each of these infc forms dependent upon, grammatically? What is the semantic classification of the use of the prep ל+infc constructions here? (See Williams §192-200 for uses of the infinitive cst; also, see WOC 36.2.3, up to ex.19.)