

Jonah 4:1-3

Leader Handout: Gloss & Discussion Questions

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4:1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.

1 וַיֵּרַע אֶל־יְהוָה רָעָה גְדוֹלָה וַיֵּחָר לוֹ:

a. Parse the following verbs and identify the S(ubject) of each verb.

(1) וַיֵּרַע :

(2) וַיֵּחָר :

b. What do you think is the semantic classification of the use of the prep ל?

4:2 And he prayed to YHWH and said, “Ah, YHWH, is not this what I said when I was in my country? Therefore I acted beforehand (forestalled), by fleeing to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and rich in steadfast love, and relenting concerning disaster.

2 וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל אֶל־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אָנָּה יְהוָה הֲלוֹא־נָא דִּבַּרְתִּי עַד־הַיּוֹתַי עַל־אֲדָמָתִי עַל־כֵּן קָדַמְתִּי לְבָרְחָ תַּרְשִׁישָׁה כִּי יָדַעְתִּי כִּי אַתָּה אֱלֹהִים רַחוּם אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם וְרַב־חֶסֶד וְנָחָם עַל־הָרָעָה:

a. Parse the following verbs and identify the S(ubject) of each verb.

(1) וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל :

(2) הַיּוֹתַי :

(3) קָדַמְתִּי :

(4) לְבָרְחָ :

(5) יָדַעְתִּי :

(6) וְנָחָם :

b. What is the function of ה in the form הֲלוֹא־נָא?

c. What is the sentence structure of הֲלוֹא־נָא דִּבַּרְתִּי?

d. You parsed the verbal form of עַד־הַיּוֹתַי above. What is the grammatical function of the hireq-yod suffix? And what is the semantic classification of the prep עַד?

e. Note: קָדַמְתִּי: קדם Pi pft 1cs. MEANING? The Piel is denominative from the noun קָדָם “east, front.” It usually means “to come/be in front, to meet/confront.” Here, it appears to mean something like “to be beforehand, to anticipate or forestall” (forestall = to prevent, anticipate, hinder, get ahead), with the idea of doing something/acting beforehand so as to prevent something.

f. What would be the function of ל prep on the infc form לְבָרַךְ?

g. What is the function of כִּי in יָדַעְתִּי כִּי?

h. What is the function of כִּי in אֵתָּה כִּי?

i. In the clause כִּי אֵתָּה אֶל־חֲנוּן וְרַחוּם אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם וְרַב־חֶסֶד וְנָחָם עַל־הָרָעָה, we have a S-V-SC clauses where the copula is null, and the 2ms pronoun is the S. Explain the grammatical structure of entire phrase making up the SC.

j. In the expression וְרַב־חֶסֶד אַפַּיִם אֶרֶךְ how do אַפַּיִם and חֶסֶד each function in relation to the nouns preceding them?

k. What is the syntactic use of the participle וְנָחָם?

4:3 So now, YHWH, take my life from me, for my death is better than my life.”

וַעֲתָה יְהוָה קַח־נָא אֶת־נַפְשִׁי מִמֶּנִּי כִּי טוֹב מוֹתִי מִחַיִּי: 3

a. Parse the verb and identify the S: קַח.

b. What is the syntactic role of the noun יְהוָה?

c. What is the semantic classification of the use of the prep. מִן in the two PPs מִמֶּנִּי and מִחַיִּי?

d. What is the function/use of כִּי?