

Ross Lesson 21: Disjunctive WAW, Passive Ptc, More on Pron Sfxs

LECTURE NOTES

1. Disjunctive Clauses Introduced by Waw + Non-verb (or Waw + Non-finite-verb) (Ross 21.1)

Almost every Hebrew clause in a text begins with waw. Surprising? Notice this string of verses from the introduction to the book of Jonah:

1:1	וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יוֹנָה בֶן־אֲמִטַּי לֵאמֹר:	The word of Y. came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,
1:2	קוּם לֵךְ אֶל־נִינְוֶה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה וּקְרָא עָלֶיהָ כִּי־עָלְתָה רָעָתָם לִפְנֵי:	“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”
1:3	וַיָּקָם יוֹנָה לִבְרוּחַ תַּרְשִׁישָׁה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה וַיֵּרֶד יוֹפּוֹ וַיִּמְצָא אֲנִיָּה בָאָה תַרְשִׁישַׁם וַיִּתֵּן שְׂכָרָהּ וַיֵּרֶד בָּהּ לָבוֹא עִמָּהֶם תַרְשִׁישָׁה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה:	And Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of Y. and he went down to Joppa, and he found a ship which was going to Tarshish, and he gave/paid the fare, and he went down into it to go w. them to Tarshish fr. the presence of Y.
1:4	וַיְהוָה הִטִּיל רוּחַ־גְּדוֹלָה אֶל־הַיָּם וַיְהִי סֹעַר־גְּדוֹל בָּיָם וַהֲאֲנִיָּה חֲשָׁבָה לִהְיוֹת לְחֵצֵב:	And Y. hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea and the ship was about to break up.

Did you notice that only v.2a did not begin with waw? Incidentally, it begins a quotation and therefore does not move the “event-storyline” forward.

In historical narrative in BH, the structural “backbone” that moves the narrative along are the verbs that report a sequence of events using wci (*wayyiqtol*) forms. At times, however, the author needs to stop walking you through the sequence of events and, instead, needs to show you around before getting back to the event-line. Some refer to these breaks in the narrative as *off-line* material, compared to *mainline* material. To accomplish this, the author commonly introduces the “break” with a DISJUNCTIVE WAW (so called in Ross Lesson 21).

Historical narrative sequences will chain together clauses beginning with wci (or *wayyiqtol*) forms—waw + a finite verb form (prefixed). Future sequences will chain together clauses beginning with wcp (or *wegatal*) forms—waw + a finite verb form (suffixed). BUT breaks in the sequence will have in clause-initial position waw + non-verb (like a noun, pronoun, negator) or, more rarely, waw + non-finite-verb (like a participle or infinitive) .

1. Circumstantial clauses introduced by disjunctive waw.

Genesis 18:1

וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה בְּאֵלֵי מִמְרָא And YHWH appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre,
וְהוּא יָשָׁב פֶּתַח-הָאֵהָל בְּחֹם הַיּוֹם: and he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day (= while he sat).

Notice the waw does begin the new clause, but it is not attached to a verb. It is attached to a pronoun: **וְהוּא** (and he). This clause with disjunctive waw does not tell us the next event in the storyline; rather, it give us the circumstances within which the action of the preceding mainline event occurred: ‘Y. appear to A. *while he was sitting...*’

The precise semantic value of the circumstance that a circumstantial clause bears must be inferred from the semantic context of the clauses taken together. The circumstance could be temporal (‘while, when, as’), concessive (‘although, even though’), causal (‘because’), manner (‘by’), etc. For ex.,

I could smell his BO, and I was sleeping! (concessive: ‘...*even though* I was sleeping!’)

John overcame the odds, and God was with him. (cause: ‘... *because* God was with him’)

2. Parenthetical clauses introduced by disjunctive waw.

Such clauses do not continue the mainline, but provide background or parenthetical information that is important for processing what has happened or will happen in the mainline.

Genesis 13:7

וַיְהִי־רִיב בֵּין רֹעֵי מִקְנֵה־אַבְרָם וּבֵין רֹעֵי מִקְנֵה־לֹט and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram’s livestock
and the herdsmen of Lot’s livestock.
וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי וְהַפְּרִזִּי אֲזִי יֹשֵׁב בְּאֶרֶץ: and the Canaanites and the Perizzites then were dwelling in the
land. (=Now, the C & P were then dwelling....)

Notice the waw does begin the new clause, but it is not attached to a verb. It is attached to a noun (actually, a compound noun phrase): **וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי וְהַפְּרִזִּי** (and the Canaanites and the Perizzites). The Cs & Ps dwelling in the land is not the next event to occur after Abram’s and Lot’s herdsmen fight! Rather, it provides a break in the narrative to introduce parenthetical information necessary to understand the narrative as it unfolds.

1 Ki 17:10

וַיָּקָם | And he arose
וַיֵּלֶךְ צָרְפָתָה and he went to Zarephath,
וַיָּבֹא אֶל־פֶּתַח הָעִיר and he came to the gate of the city,
וְהִנֵּה־שָׁם אִשָּׁה אַלְמָנָה מְקַשֶּׁשֶׁת עֵצִים and behold, a widow-woman was there gathering sticks;
וַיִּקְרָא אֵלֶיהָ and he called to her

וַיֹּאמֶר... and he said, “....”

Notice that there are 6 clauses here. The first 3 and the last 2 are wci (wayyiqtol) forms that move the storyline forward as mainline events; the 4th clause, however, is waw + non-verb (‘behold’), presenting background info as opposed to the next mainline event. Once the parenthesis is complete, the mainline action resumes with a wci form again.

3. Initial clauses introduced by disjunctive waw.

Sometimes a new scene or section of the narrative begins with a disjunctive waw clause. This happens several times in the early chapters of Genesis.

Genesis 3:1

וְהַנָּחָשׁ הָיָה עָרוּם מִכָּל חַיַּת הַשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר
עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים
וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־הָאִשָּׁה... And he said to the woman, “....”
Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field
which the LORD God had made.

Genesis 4:1

וְהָאָדָם יָדַע אֶת־חַוָּה אִשְׁתּוֹ
וַתַּהַר
וַתֵּלֶד אֶת־קַיִן
וַתֹּאמֶר... and she said, “....”
Now the man knew his wife Eve,
and she conceived
and she gave birth to Cain,

Notice that each of these chapters begins a new scene using a disjunctive waw clause: a waw + non-verb (in these two clauses, waw is prefixed to a noun). Once the first clause of the new scene is given, the mainline is continued by way of wci (wayyiqtol) forms.

4. Contrastive and/or negative clauses introduced by disjunctive waw.

Finally, sometimes material that is contrastive to the preceding clause, or that introduces a statement of what did not happen, is introduced by disjunctive waw.

Psalm 1:6

כִּי־יֹדֵעַ יְהוָה דֶּרֶךְ צְדִיקִים
וְדֶרֶךְ רָשָׁעִים תֵּאבֵד:
For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.

2. Qal Passive Participles (Ross 21.2)

We covered Qal Active Participles in Ross Lesson 16 (remember פָּקַד/פּוֹקֵד ‘appointing, visiting’). This chapter deals with Qal Passive Participles (פְּקוּד ‘appointed, visited’).

Important things to remember:

2.1. Participles are *verbal adjectives*!! They have verbal characteristics (can be marked for stems like the Qal; can take objects and modifiers) and adjectival characteristics (can be inflected for gender and number; can function as other adjectives do—attributively, predicately, and substantively).

2.2. Since Participles are *verbal adjectives*, they are describing or modifying something (explicitly or implicitly). NOTE: To simplify matters: If the ptc is Active, then whatever it describes is the doer/agent of the ptc-verbal action (typically translate with –ing). If the ptc is Passive, then whatever it describes is the receiver/patient of the ptc-verbal action (typically translate with –ed, –d, –en).

- a. Active ptc exx: *the biting man* (the man does the biting); *the jumping bean* (the bean does the jumping)
- b. Passive ptc exx: *the bitten man* (the man is the patient, someone else does the biting activity); *the broken jawbone* (someone broke the jawbone; the jawbone didn’t break anything).

2.3. Qal Active Participles and Qal Passive Participles all have historically long vowels, but the Actives have it with R-1 (root-1) and the Passives have it with R-2 (the theme vowel). These historically long vowels NEVER reduce to VS!

פָּקֹד	ms ‘appointed’	פְּקוּדִים	mp ‘appointed’
פְּקוּדָה	fs ‘appointed’	פְּקוּדוֹת	fp ‘appointed’

2.4. Let’s mix it up a little and use the verb בָּרַךְ ‘to bless’ as another example: compare active and passive ptc meanings:

Qal Active Ptc	Qal Passive Ptc
בֹּרֵךְ ms ‘blessing’	בְּרוּךְ ms ‘blessed’
בֹּרְכָה fs ‘blessing’	בְּרוּכָה fs ‘blessed’
בֹּרְכִים mp ‘blessing’	בְּרוּכִים mp ‘blessed’
בֹּרְכוֹת fp ‘blessing’	בְּרוּכוֹת fp ‘blessed’

In בֹּרֵךְ, historically long holem-waw is usually spelled defectively as holem; it never reduces.

In בָּרוּךְ, historically long shureq never reduces, although the qamets will when syllables are added (since it becomes O/PPT syll.).

3. Uses/syntax of the Passive PTC (Ross 21.3)

Functions of the Passive PTC are the same as the functions of the adj and the Active PTC!

Here are a few examples using our verb פָּקַד in the Qal passive ptc form:

הַמֶּלֶךְ הַפָּקוּדִי The appointed king **ATTRIBUTIVE**

הַמֶּלֶךְ פָּקוּדִי The king (is) appointed. **PREDICATE**

פָּקוּדִי הַמֶּלֶךְ:

הַפָּקוּדִים פֹּה The appointed (ones) are here. **SUBSTANTIVAL**

Here are some exx. where the active and passive ptc for בָּרַךְ (to bless) are paired together to show the difference among the ptc functions:

הָאִישׁ הַבֹּרֵךְ The blessing man

ATTRIBUTIVE

הָאִישׁ הַבְּרוּךְ The blessed man

הָאִישׁ בֹּרֵךְ The man is blessing.

PREDICATE

הָאִישׁ בְּרוּךְ The man is blessed.

הַבְּרִיךְ שָׁם The blessing (one) is there.

SUBSTANTIVAL

הַבְּרוּךְ שָׁם The blessed (one) is there.

4. Pause/Pausal Lengthening (Ross 21.4)

Pausal lengthening is caused by disjunctive accents (and so a vowel will lengthen if it's short). Ross mentions 3 specific vowel pointings where pausal lengthening occurs.

4.1. ◌ִ > ◌ִי פָקַד >

4.2. ◌ִ > ◌ִי מָלַךְ >

4.3. ◌ִ (vs) > full vowel פָּקַדָּה >

A special problem: לֵךְ > לֵךְ־

5. Pronoun Suffixes on Prepositions מן and כּ (Ross 21.4)

See Ross p. 159 for the full paradigm for what it looks like to add pronominal suffixes to these prepositions.

5.1. Prep מן

Some forms of מן undergo both reduplication and assimilation: מִמֶּנּוּ > מִמֵּנוּ (+ 1cp sfx, 'from us')

Some forms of מן undergo just assimilation (but with adjustments if cannot become DF in a guttural):

מִמֵּיהֶם > מִמֵּהֶם (+ 3mp sfx, 'from them') מִמֵּיכֶם > מִמֵּכֶם (+ 2mp sfx, 'from y'all')

5.2. Prep כּ (remember this is one of the 3 inseparable preps: כּ, ל, ו)

The prep כּ has two forms that are used to add pron. suffixes to: כּ and כִּמּוֹ:

כּ	כִּמּוֹ
3mp/3fp	All sing. pronouns
2mp/2fp	1cp
כִּמּוֹהֶם like them	כִּמּוֹנִי like me
(cf. לֵהֶם)	