

Hebrew Grammar
Ross Homework Key

IBH 19.7

a. 1–8 (9–12 are provided if you want extra practice)

(1) מָה אִמְרָתָּ	(7) הִזְכַּרְתָּם אֶת־יְהוָה
(2) אֶשְׁכַּב	(8) לָמָּה תִשָּׁבֵר אֶת־הַכְּלִי
(3) הִכָּבֵד הָרַעַב	(9) מִלֵּאֵו הִזְקִנִים שְׁמַחָה
(4) מָה יִכְתָּב	(10) לְמִי קִבְצָתָ אֶת־הַפְּרִי הַזֶּה
(5) מִי יִשְׁמַר אֶת מִצְוֹתַי	(11) הֲלֹא שָׁמַע אֶל־קוֹל/בְּקוֹל יְהוָה
(6) אֵיפָה דָרַשׁ אֶת־הַנְּבִיא	(12) הֲאֶשְׁכַּב בְּמַחְנֵה אֵיבִי

b. 1–10: translate and parse verbs. NOTE: Do not parse וַיְהִי and/or וְהָיָה.

- (1) The battle is/was severe (heavy).¹
- (2) The vessels were filled (with) blood. [a] מלא Qal pft 3cp
- (3) The warrior prevailed over him. [a] יכל Qal pft 3ms
- (4) We were afraid (with) great fear.² [a] ירא Qal pft 1cp
- (5) The stone is/was too heavy for the elder.³
- (6) The inhabitants of the cities were afraid. [a] ירא Qal pft 3cp

¹There is no verb to parse, since כבד is a fs adjective.

²The phrase ‘great fear’ (יִרְאָה גְּדוֹלָה) is not the DO of ‘we feared’; it functions adverbially (or as an “adverbial accusative”) and should be translated in English with a preposition like ‘with’ (even though there is no Hebrew prep. here).

³There is no verb to parse, since כבד is a fs adjective. It is possible, theoretically, for the sentence to read, “The stone is/was heavier than the elder.” However, to compare the weights of a stone and an elder seems odd. As well, this appears to be what I called the “elative” use of *min*, reflected in the last example of *min* on Ross p. 83, section 9.3. Thus, you should render it: “[noun-1] is too [adjective] for [noun-2].”

(7) I was afraid because the temple was filled (with)/was full⁴ (of) the glory of YHWH. [a] ירא Qal pft 1cs; [b] מלא Qal pft 3ms

(8) When the work is/becomes heavy (or ‘will be heavy’), you will remember this word.⁵ [a] כבד Qal impf 3fs; [b] זכר Qal wcp 2mp

(9) Didn’t God say, “I will cut/make a covenant with my people”? [a] אמר Qal pft 3ms; [b] כרת Qal impf 1cs

(10) The men were greatly afraid⁶, because they did not overcome⁷ their enemies. [a] ירא Qal pft 3cp; [b] יכל Qal pft 3cp

⁴If you take מלא to be the ms adjective instead of the perfect 3ms form, then there is no verb to parse.

⁵It is possible to translate כי in a causal way (‘Because the work is/becomes heavy’), but that seems less likely than the temporal sense here (‘When the work . . .’).

⁶This is an example of what grammarians call a “cognate accusative.” Literally, the text says “they were afraid, a great fear.” The noun, יראָה, cannot be the direct object since the main verb, ירא, is stative rather than active. The noun is being used as an “adverbial accusative,” so it could be rendered “they were afraid with a great fear,” which is then better rendered “they were greatly afraid.”

⁷The verb יכל means “to be able,” but when followed by לְ (+ noun), it means “to overcome (someone/thing).”