

# Biblical Hebrew 103

## *Developing Grammatical Concepts*

### Lesson 23

### שְׁעוֹר כֹּג

## Construct Chains, *continued*



*Mahane Yehuda is a very special market in Jerusalem. Nuts, seeds, and spices are beautifully displayed ... and sampled 😊*

### ***What we will learn in Lesson 23***

- 23.01 *Review:* What is a construct chain?
- 23.02 Examples of construct chains with masculine & feminine nouns
- 23.03 Find construct chains in these verses
- 23.04 Review vocabulary words for lesson 23
- 23.05 Weekly Parasha

### 23.01 **Review: What is a construct chain?**

A construct chain is a series of two or more nouns. When translated into English, the word “of” is generally inserted between the nouns.

Remember: the first noun (or nouns) in a construct chain is the **construct noun**. (It is called a construct noun because the construct noun is changed or ‘constructed’.)  
The final noun in the chain is the **absolute noun**. (Absolute nouns are how nouns appear in a lexicon or dictionary.)

1. **Masculine singular** constructs use the masculine form of a noun; often the vowel is modified.
  - a. Example: בֶּן (son) becomes בְּנֵן (son of). Notice the only change is that the tsere under the bet changes to a segol in the construct form.
2. **Masculine plural** nouns are changed to a plural construct noun by dropping the chirek, yud, & mem sofit ending & adding a tsere and a yud.
  - a. Example: בָּנִים (sons) becomes בְּנֵי (sons of).
3. **Feminine singular** nouns are generally made construct by replacing the final hay with a tav.
  - a. Example: אִשָּׁה (woman or wife) becomes אִשְׁתֵּן (wife of)
  - b. Example: תּוֹרָה (Torah) becomes תּוֹרַתֵּן (Torah of)
4. **Feminine plural** constructs do not change the ending when turning feminine plural noun into a construct
  - a. Example: אַרְצוֹת (lands) becomes אַרְצוֹתֵּן (lands of)

### 23.02 **Examples of construct chains**

**Grammar-Made-Simple:** how to identify definite construct chain

3 ways to identify a definite construct chain:

1. The absolute noun has an article “הַ” (the) eg: הַמַּיִם (English, the waters) or הַבְּרִית (the covenant)
2. The absolute noun has a pronominal suffix. eg: אֱלֹהֶיךָ (your God) or בְּנוֹ (his son)
3. Or the absolute noun is a proper noun. eg: יִשְׂרָאֵל (Israel) or יַעֲקֹב (Jacob)

EXAMPLES OF CONSTRUCT CHAINS		
MASCULINE Singular Construct		
1) The people of Israel	עַם יִשְׂרָאֵל	עַם – the people of / <b>masculine singular construct noun</b> יִשְׂרָאֵל – Israel / absolute noun
2) chest of wood	אָרוֹן עֵץ	אָרוֹן – chest (ark/cabinet/closet) of / <b>masculine singular construct noun</b> עֵץ – wood / absolute noun
3) by the hand of Jacob (Gen 27:17)	בְּיַד יַעֲקֹב	בְּיַד – in or by the hand of / <b>masculine singular construct noun</b> יַעֲקֹב – Ya’akov / proper noun; absolute noun
4) the son of Jesse (1Sam 20:27)	בֶּן-יֵשׁוּ	בֶּן – the son of / <b>masculine singular construct noun</b> יֵשׁוּ – Jesse / proper noun; absolute noun
MASCULINE Plural Construct		
5) the sons of Israel (1Chron 2:1)	בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	בָּנֵי – the sons of / <b>masculine plural construct noun</b> יִשְׂרָאֵל – Israel / absolute noun
6) “the surface of the waters” (Gen 1:2)	פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם	פְּנֵי – the faces of / <b>masculine plural construct noun</b> הַמַּיִם – the waters / absolute noun

7) the words of the king of the land	דְּבַרֵי מֶלֶךְ הָאָרֶץ	דְּבַרֵי – the words of / <b>masculine plural construct noun</b> מֶלֶךְ – the king of / <b>masculine singular construct noun</b> הָאָרֶץ – the land / <b>absolute noun</b>
<b>FEMININE Singular Construct</b>		
8) the State of Israel	מְדִינַת־יִשְׂרָאֵל	מְדִינַת־ – the state (or country) of / <b>feminine singular construct noun</b> יִשְׂרָאֵל – Israel / <b>absolute noun</b>
9) the wife of Abram, Gen 16:1	אִשְׁת־אַבְרָם	אִשְׁת־ – the wife of / <b>feminine construct noun</b> אַבְרָם – Abram / <b>absolute noun</b>
<b>FEMININE Plural Construct</b>		
10) the United States of America (the acronym for U.S.A. is ארה"ב)	אַרְצוֹת הַבְּרִית	אַרְצוֹת – the lands of / <b>feminine plural construct noun</b> הַבְּרִית – the covenant / <b>absolute noun</b>

### 23.03 Find construct chains in the following verses

#### Jeremiah 37:2

“But neither he nor his servants nor the people of the land listened to the words of the LORD [YHVH] that he spoke through Jeremiah the prophet.” Jer 37:2, ESV

וְלֹא שָׁמַע הוּא וְעַבְדָּיו וְעַם הָאָרֶץ אֶל־דְּבַרֵי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר בְּיַד יְרֵמְיָהוּ הַנָּבִיא:

Strong's	Translit	Hebrew	English	Morphology
8104 [e]	wə-šā-mar-tā,	וְשָׁמַרְתָּ	Therefore you shall keep	conjunction+Verb [2ms; perfect]
853 [e]	'et-	אֶת־	-	DDOM (Def. Direct Object Marker)
4687 [e]	mis-wōt	מִצְוֹת	the commands [the commands of]	N-fp / <b>construct noun</b>
3069 [e]	Yah-weh	יְהוָה	The LORD [YHVH]	N-prop/ <b>absolute noun</b>
430 [e]	'ē-lō-he-kā;	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	your God	N-mp + (sf) 2ms
1980 [e]	lā-le-ket	לֵלְכָת	to walk	Verb prep/ Qal (inf)
1870 [e]	bid-rā-kāw	בְּדַרְכָּיו	in His ways	Prep/n-mp (sf)3ms
3372 [e]	ū-lə-yir-'āh	וּלְיִרְאָה	and to fear	conj/prep/Qal (inf)
853 [e]	'ō-tōw.	אָתּוֹ:	- [him]	DDOM (sf) 3ms / Qal

## Genesis 6:5

“The LORD [YHVH] saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually,” Gen 6:5 ESV

בִּיָּרָא יְהוָה כִּי רַבָּה רָעַת הָאָדָם בְּאֶרֶץ וְכָל-יֵצֶר מַחְשְׁבֹת לִבּוֹ בַּק רַע כָּל-הַיּוֹם:

Strong's	Translit	Hebrew	English	Morphology
<a href="#">7200</a> [e]	way-yar	בִּיָּרָא	And saw	WCI   V-Qal-Consec Imperf-3ms (becomes perf)
<a href="#">3068</a> [e]	Yah-weh,	יְהוָה	Yahweh	N-proper-ms
<a href="#">3588</a> [e]	kī	כִּי	that	Conj
<a href="#">7227</a> [e]	rab-bāh	רַבָּה	[was] great	Adj-fs
<a href="#">7451</a> [e]	rā-‘aṭ	רָעַת	the wickedness of	N-fs/ construct noun
<a href="#">120</a> [e]	hā-’ā-dām	הָאָדָם	man	Art   N-ms/ absolute noun
<a href="#">776</a> [e]	bā-’ā-reṣ;	בְּאֶרֶץ	in the earth	Prep-b, Art   N-fs
<a href="#">3605</a> [e]	wə-kāl	וְכָל-	and [that] every	Conj-w   N-ms/ construct noun
<a href="#">3336</a> [e]	yê-ṣer	יֵצֶר	intent of	N-ms/ construct noun
<a href="#">4284</a> [e]	maḥ-šə-ḥōṭ	מַחְשְׁבֹת	the thoughts of	N-fp/ construct noun
<a href="#">3820</a> [e]	lib-bōw,	לִבּוֹ	his heart	N-ms/ absolute noun   3ms (sf)
<a href="#">7535</a> [e]	raq	בַּק	[was] altogether	Adv
<a href="#">7451</a> [e]	ra‘	רַע	evil	Adj-ms
<a href="#">3605</a> [e]	kāl-	כָּל-	all [of]	N-ms/ construct noun
<a href="#">3117</a> [e]	hay-yō-wm.	הַיּוֹם:	the time	Art   N-ms/ absolute noun

## Numbers 30:1

“Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the people of Israel, saying, “This is what the LORD [YHVH] has commanded,” Num 30:1, ESV

וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-רְאִשֵׁי הַמַּטֹּת לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר זֶה הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה:

Strong's	Translit	Hebrew	English	Morphology
<a href="#">1696</a> [e]	<a href="#">way-dab-bêr</a>	וַיְדַבֵּר	And spoke	WCI (becomes perf) – 3ms
<a href="#">4872</a> [e]	<a href="#">mō-šeh</a>	מֹשֶׁה	Moses	N-proper-ms
<a href="#">413</a> [e]	<a href="#">'el-</a>	אֶל-	to	Prep
<a href="#">7218</a> [e]	<a href="#">rā-šê</a>	רְאִשֵׁי	the heads of	N-mp /construct noun
<a href="#">4294</a> [e]	<a href="#">ham-mat-tō-wt.</a>	הַמַּטֹּת	the tribes / staff / branch / rod	Art   N-mp /absolute noun
<a href="#">1121</a> [e]	<a href="#">lib-nê</a>	לְבְנֵי	concerning to or for the sons of	Prep-l   N-mp/construct noun
<a href="#">3478</a> [e]	<a href="#">yiś-rā-'êl</a>	יִשְׂרָאֵל	Israel	N-proper-ms /absolute noun
<a href="#">559</a> [e]	<a href="#">lē-mōr:</a>	לֵאמֹר	saying / to say	Prep-l   V-Qal-Inf
<a href="#">2088</a> [e]	<a href="#">zeh</a>	זֶה	this [is]	demonstrative pro-ms
<a href="#">1697</a> [e]	<a href="#">had-dā-bār.</a>	הַדְּבָר	the thing or word	Art   N-ms
<a href="#">834</a> [e]	<a href="#">'ă-šer</a>	אֲשֶׁר	which	relative pro
<a href="#">6680</a> [e]	<a href="#">siw-wāh</a>	צִוָּה	has commanded	V-Piel-Perf-3ms
<a href="#">3068</a> [e]	<a href="#">Yah-weh.</a>	יְהוָה:	Yahweh	N-proper-ms

### 23.04 **Review vocabulary words for Lesson 23:**

The vocabulary in this lesson include high frequency words, which appear frequently in the TaNaKh.

We encourage you to review these words until the vocabulary becomes familiar.

### 23.05 **Weekly Parasha reading** (go to [www.RestoringTorah.org](http://www.RestoringTorah.org))