

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 בֶּן־ (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 בָּנֵי־ (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 אִשְׁת־ (wife of)
 - b. Example: תּוֹרָה (Torah) becomes תּוֹרַת־ (Torah of)
4. Feminine plural constructs do not change the ending when turning feminine plural noun into a construct
 - a. Example: אֲרָצוֹת (lands) becomes אֲרָצוֹת־ (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 / masculine singular construct noun יִשְׂרָאֵל – Israel / absolute noun |
| 2) chest of wood | אָרוֹן עֵץ | אָרוֹן – chest (ark/cabinet/closet) of / masculine singular construct noun עֵץ – wood / absolute noun |
| 3) by the hand of Jacob (Gen 27:17) | בְּיַד יַעֲקֹב | בְּיַד – in or by the hand of / masculine singular construct noun יַעֲקֹב – Ya’akov / proper noun; absolute noun |
| 4) the son of Jesse (1Sam 20:27) | בֶּן־יֵשׁוּעַ | בֶּן־ – the son of / masculine singular construct noun יֵשׁוּעַ – Jesse / proper noun; absolute noun |
| MASCULINE Plural Construct | | |
| 5) the sons of Israel (1Chron 2:1) | בָּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל | בָּנֵי – the sons of / masculine plural construct noun יִשְׂרָאֵל – Israel / absolute noun |
| 6) “the surface of the waters” (Gen 1:2) | פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם | פְּנֵי – the faces of / masculine plural construct noun הַמַּיִם – the waters / absolute noun |

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

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 / construct noun |
| 3069 [e] | Yah-weh | יְהוָה | The LORD [YHVH] | N-prop/ absolute noun |
| 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 רַק רָע כָּל-הַיּוֹם:

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

| Strong's | Translit | Hebrew | English | Morphology |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1696 [e] | way-dab-bêr | וַיְדַבֵּר | And spoke | WCI (becomes perf) – 3ms |
| 4872 [e] | mō-šeh | מֹשֶׁה | Moses | N-proper-ms |
| 413 [e] | 'el- | אֶל- | to | Prep |
| 7218 [e] | rā-šê | רְאִשֵׁי | the heads of | N-mp /construct noun |
| 4294 [e] | ham-mat-tō-wt. | הַמִּטּוֹת | the tribes / staff / branch / rod | Art N-mp /absolute noun |
| 1121 [e] | lib-nê | לְבָנֵי | concerning to or for the sons of | Prep-l N-mp/construct noun |
| 3478 [e] | yis-rā-'êl | יִשְׂרָאֵל | Israel | N-proper-ms /absolute noun |
| 559 [e] | lē-môr: | לֵאמֹר | saying / to say | Prep-l V-Qal-Inf |
| 2088 [e] | zeh | זֶה | this [is] | demonstrative pro-ms |
| 1697 [e] | had-dā-bār. | הַדְּבָר | the thing or word | Art N-ms |
| 834 [e] | 'ă-šer | אֲשֶׁר | which | relative pro |
| 6680 [e] | siw-wāh | צִוָּה | has commanded | V-Piel-Perf-3ms |
| 3068 [e] | Yah-weh. | 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 Calendar on CFS website: www.FaithfulStewardship.org or click here to go directly: <https://www.FaithfulStewardship.org/bible-readings-schedule/>