

3 Syntax of Particles ³³²

A Prepositions ³³³

238 A preposition is usually repeated before each object.³³⁴ When a preposition governs more than one object, the preposition is usually repeated before each object.

- לְךָ-לְךָ מֵאֶרֶץְךָ וּמִמּוֹלַדְתְּךָ וּמִבֵּית אָבִיךָ
your father and *from* house of and *from* your kin *from* your land you go!

Go *from* your land, *from* your kin, and *from* the house of your father! Gen 12:1

- Occasionally, however, a preposition is not repeated; this is called a **preposition override**.

- וּזְבָחִים בְּעֹלוֹת לַיהוָה הַחֶפֶץ
and sacrifices *in* burnt offerings has YHWH pleasure? 1 Sam 15:22

Has YHWH pleasure *in* burnt offerings and *in* sacrifices?

- In 1 Sam 15:22, the preposition בְּ ‘in’ has two objects (עֹלוֹת ‘burnt offerings’ and זְבָחִים ‘sacrifices’), so one would expect the preposition to be repeated before the second object (e.g., וּבְזְבָחִים ‘and in sacrifices’). But in this text, the preposition is not repeated. This is an example of a preposition override.

The preposition בְּ ³³⁵

- The preposition בְּ sometimes occurs in a biform, בְּמוֹ, as an independent preposition.³³⁶

³³² Cf. BHRG §38–44; GBHS §4; GKC §99–104, 119; IBHS §4.2.2, 4.6.2, 11.1.2, 38.1a, 39.3.1d, 39.3.4; JM §102–5, 132–3, 176–7; Van der Merwe 1993; Shereshevsky 1967. Additional information about each particle can be found in a lexicon.

³³³ Cf. BHRG §39; GBHS §4.1; GKC §101–3, 119; IBHS §11; JM §103, 132–3; Glinert 1982.

³³⁴ Cf. GKC §102, 103g, 119hh; IBHS §11.4.2; JM §132g. According to Rooker (1990, 115), this is accurate only for early biblical Hebrew.

³³⁵ Cf. BHRG §39.6; GBHS §4.1.5; GKC §119h–q; IBHS §9.5.2f, 11.2.5; JM §103b–c, f, 133c.

- 239** **בְּ** often expresses rest or movement in place or time.³³⁷
- 240** **Locative בְּ (in, on, through).**³³⁸ Also called the *beth locale*, the preposition בְּ often indicates a location.
- Examples include בְּבַיִת ‘in the house,’ בְּאֶרֶץ ‘in the land’ or ‘through the land,’ and בְּהָר ‘on the mountain.’
- 241** **Temporal-point בְּ (in, when).**³³⁹ The preposition בְּ can indicate a point in time.
- The object of the preposition can be a noun (e.g., בְּבֹקֶר ‘in the morning’).
 - The object of the preposition can be an infinitive construct (e.g., בְּהִבְרָאָם ‘when they were created’ in Gen 2:4). This is discussed in §504.
 - The object of the preposition can be a clause, as in Amos 4:7 (below). Such a clause is a genitive substantival clause (§489), because it is the object of a preposition. It is also a type of temporal clause (§499).
 - **בְּעוֹד שְׁלֹשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים לְקַצִּיר**
 until the harvest months three when still Amos 4:7
when there were still three months until the harvest
 - The object of the preposition בְּ is the clause **עוֹד שְׁלֹשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים לְקַצִּיר** ‘there were still three months until the harvest.’
- 242** **Adversative בְּ (against, in spite of).**³⁴⁰ The preposition בְּ can indicate that something opposes its object, works to the disadvantage of its object, or occurs in spite of its object.
- **יָדוֹ בְּכָל וְיָד כָּל בּוֹ**
against him all and hand of against the all his hand Gen 16:12
 His hand will be *against* everyone, and everyone’s hand will be *against* him.
 - **עַד-אָנָּה לֹא-יֵאֱמִינּוּ בִּי בְּכָל הַאֲתוֹת**
 the signs *in spite of* all in me they will believe not when? until Num 14:11
 Until when will they not believe in me *in spite of* all of the signs?
 - Other examples include 1 Sam 18:17 and Isa 9:11.

³³⁶ Cf. IBHS §11.1.2d; JM §103g note 5; JM93 §103g note 2.

³³⁷ Cf. BHRG §39.6.1–2; GKC §119h; IBHS §11.2.5b–c; JM §133c.

³³⁸ Cf. BHRG §39.6.1; GBHS §4.1.5(a); GKC §119h; IBHS §9.5.2f, 11.2.5b; JM §133c.

³³⁹ Cf. BHRG §39.6.2; GBHS §4.1.5(b), 5.2.4; GKC §119h; IBHS §11.2.5c, 36.2.2b; JM §166l.

³⁴⁰ Cf. GBHS §4.1.5(d); IBHS §11.2.5d; JM §133c.