

VII: THE MOST USEFUL WORDS WE KNOW

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

Although they are not the most thought provoking, the conjunctions, particles, etc., are the words upon which a language is built. They provide the "color" for a language and give feeling to the printed word that can otherwise only be expressed when oral terms are employed. Without the conjunctives, etc., any language would be reduced to a very formal and non-emotive sort of prose.

The conjunctions, et al, have the same difficulty that is posed by the prepositions. It is impossible to appoint a fixed meaning that in all times and settings will be equally true. The student is therefore required to learn something of the general setting of the clauses and be able to fit the conjunction to suit it. Fixed concepts of meaning must be limited and the ability to adapt the lexicon term is very important.

We have already dealt with the conjunctive *waw* in its several parts and in this lesson we treat of those that tend to be more independent (to stand alone) in the concept of a sentence.

A. The Major Conjunctions

Gesenius offers a long and technical definition followed by proper examples in section 104 of the grammar. The discussion is complicated beyond the necessity of this course.

1. **כִּי** The following uses of this conjunction-connective are all worthy of careful consideration. What one looks for in it as in others is the meaning and/or force it gives to a phrase. Examples cited are based on notes in BDB and also from our own "translation" notes studies.

a. Temporal Clauses:

In such usage, **כִּי** usually stands at the beginning of the clause and is followed by a finite verb. The verb may either have subject expressed by pronoun or substantive. An object is also often explicit. In this case, the **כִּי** is often, not always, tied by *maqeph* to the verb. Otherwise a conjunctive accent is used. The best translation is usually "when".

Example: Deuteronomy 4:25....

כִּי-תוֹלִיד בָּנִים וְגַם בָּנֵי בָנֶיךָ

"when you bear sons and grandsons."

In such cases, the temporal use of **כִּי** suggests the reality of a situation coming to pass. This is a very suggestive idea that bears watching.