

b. Causal Clauses

These are clauses that give a reason or grounds for a particular action or result. They show "cause", so to speak. כִּי in these cases may be translated as "since", "because", "for", "therefore" and occasionally as "that" etc. Cause is not always transparent and must sometimes be drawn from afar. But its reality is often such that the whole meaning of a passage depends on observing it. Three quick examples may be gleaned in Deuteronomy 4.

Deuteronomy 4:6

וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת־הַצִּוִּיּוֹת אֲשֶׁר־אָמַרְתִּי לָכֵן הוּא הוֹלֵךְ לְכַבֵּם וְלָכֵן

"so you will be careful and do...it is your wisdom..."

In this case the כִּי clause gives the basis for a particular action.

Deuteronomy 4:7

כִּי־חַי גֹּוֹי גָּדוֹל

"for who is a great people"

At this point the כִּי clause gives the reason for a particular line of thinking on the part of the author.

Deuteronomy 4:22

כִּי־אָמַרְתִּי מָוֶת אֲמַתְּ בְּאֶרֶץ זְרָמָה

"But I will die in this land..."

While at this point the clause shows a patent result from an extended "cause and effect" situation in this particular history.

c. Exceptive Clauses

This involves the construction כִּי־אֵם. The translation is generally given as "except" although sometimes "but" is used and sometimes the more literal "that--if". Not every occurrence of the phrase is exceptive but it is often truth.

Example: Genesis 39:9

כִּי־אֵם מִי־חַסְתִּי מִפְּנֵי אֱלֹהֵי אֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר־לִּי

"nothing is hidden from me except you ...his wife..."

This is fairly typical of the exceptive clause.

d. With transitive verbs

In some ways כִּי is the automatic follower of transitive verbs (seeing, hearing, knowing, telling, swearing, etc.) to continue the action to an objective expression.