

XI. TYPES OF SENTENCES

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A. INTRODUCTORY NOTE

In English we categorize sentences as declarative, exclamative, interrogative, etc. These distinctions occur in most other languages and they are readily seen in Hebrew. Hebrew is, however, a bit more definitive than English as the latter is currently spoken, but it is a bit less definitive than Koine Greek. Therefore the student must recall that the variety of sentences is distinctly discernible and the observations offered on them at this time are largely based on *usus loquendi* study.

B. THE CONDITIONAL SENTENCE

Greek, you will recall, offers three sharply regulated and defined conditional sentences and a fourth that is less sharp in appearance. The definitive character of Hebrew is less sharp but discernible and important. Generally Hebrew conditions are classified as either capable or incapable of fulfillment and are identified either by the context or the use of particles.

A conditional sentence has two basic parts: the protasis and the apodosis. The protasis expresses the condition and the apodosis relates the consequence. It is possible for these to be inverted and it is also possible that only one part may be given and the other must be supplied. Context is our helper in these cases...and a vigorous imagination does not hurt us, either.

1. Conditional sentences thought capable of fulfillment

- a. The imperfect system is the normal tense used. The perfect is used in situations where the fulfillment of the condition is regarded as hypothetically accomplished...as in Proverbs 18:22. But the use of the imperfect system with condition suggests the possibility of fulfillment.
- b. Identification via particles

The following particles are especially helpful in identifying