

conditional sentences.

- (1) אִם /if/, etc.
combined with אֲלֵכֶּנּוּ /unless/, etc.
- (2) כִּי /that/ /because//for/ and an almost endless number of connected ideas.
- (3) כִּי־אִם /for/ /if/

The complication is this: these particles occur in other types of sentences and clauses than condition so the presence of them does not automatically signify condition. The context will make this plain. Used with the imperfect they indicate, in conditional sentences, the potential for fulfillment of the condition and the completion of the relative consequence.

Context cannot be over-emphasized. Many passages may be argued as to whether they show condition, question, etc. Such a passage may be seen in Isaiah 1:16-19. As you must know, the scholar studies the passage, determines his understanding of the intent of the text, pounds the pulpit and defies other ideas to be uttered! Well, it is not quite that bad but close.

Suffice it to say that when an imperfect verb is used in the condition, it is thought to be capable of fulfillment.

2. Conditional Sentences deemed incapable (unlikely) of fulfillment

- a. The perfect system is used to indicate actual fulfillment, unlikely fulfillment or (in a few cases) impossible fulfillment.

When the perfect shows in the protasis it suggests the condition is already fulfilled...either in the present or the past.

If the condition has been fulfilled, the reality of the completion of the consequence is strongly suggested. Thus the difference between the perfect and the imperfect systems in this usage is one of actuality in comparison with potential or possibility.

- b. Identification via particles

The following particles are common to the perfect condition:

- (1) כִּי /since/ indicates the matter is fulfilled in the past.
- (2) אִם /if/
- (3) אִם־אֵינֶנּוּ or $\text{אִם־אֵינֶנּוּ־אֵינֶנּוּ}$. /if not/ This is normally used to indicate a condition not fulfilled or/and incapable of fulfillment.
- (4) אִם־כִּי /if/ /though/, etc.

You will see that the verb system used is more important than the particles involved. But both help!