Some examples of the foregoing may be seen in the following:

The particle לוּלֵא in a condition that <u>cannot be fulfilled</u> is seen in Genesis 43:10

"if God had not been with me"   כִּי לוּלֵא הִתְמַהְמָהְנוּ

But, of course, God had, and there is no possibility of the condiction having not been fulfilled.

And a thought progression of conditionals may be seen in Genesis 24:

> In vss. 8 and 39, the particle וְאִם shows a condition that in the mind of the servant may be a real drawback to his mission..."if the maiden is not willing..." But we know the condition cannot be fulfilled..hindsight is twenty twenty vision as someone once said.

> In vs. 42 the particle אִם with action by participles shows a request in a softened form

> While in vs. 49 the condition is made emphatic as the servant speaks his mind. An action must now be made.

Note also an interesting construction in Genesis 50:15

3. <u>Conditional sentences with the imperative</u>

Some conditional sentences are given with imperatives in both protasis and apodosis. Usually a simple waw is the connective. In this case the first demands a condition and the second insists on a particular consequence. An example is found in Genesis 17:1 in the final clause. The text states:

הִתְהַלֵּךְ לְפָנַי וֶהְיֵה תָמִים

"Walk before me and be complete!"

If we did not have two clauses we would not think it conditional and a simple imperative would be best. But with both clauses it is obvious the meaning is..."If you walk before me you will be complete, if you do not you will not be complete." Thus it is removed from the simple, potential conditional by the use of the imperative. The condition is a must and the consequence is seen as a must result.

Among other examples you may wish to consider are those found in Isaiah 8:9 and Deuteronomy 1:7.

4. The ability to evaluate a condition is part of the exegete's tools. One comprehends what is envisaged as possible and what is not. In knowing this he enters more realistically into the world and thought of the writer.

Wow — the translation is for another verse!! "if you had not delayed us..." Ouch!