

C. NEGATIVE SENTENCES

These are much more apparent than are the conditional sentences and if one knows the adverbial particles that identify them...that is about all there is to it.

1. Sentences with לֹא .

This is simply translated as "not" and is comparable to the Greek οὐ. As Gesenius notes, it is the "objective, unconditional negative. Its chief use is with verbal clauses (such as the ten commandments) but it may be used with substantives at times. Used with לֹא it denies in totality the object of the negation. Without a qualifying adjective such as כֻּלּ the particle will negate an entire clause in terms of the subject under discussion. Generally לֹא immediately precedes what it negates but this is not a "requirement" and the student must observe it in varying positions as he studies.

2. Sentences with לֹא־כִּי .

Translated as "not", this is more like the Greek μὴ and suggests a conditional negation. It is regularly used with the jussive in prohibitions, requests, etc. It is used much less with substantives and less in compounds although a few clear usages of such may be seen in the Hebrew text.

3. Sentences with אֵין .

Note that אֵין has both an absolute ( אֵין ) and a construct ( אֵין־ ) form. It is the exact opposite of שׁוֹׁ /there is/ and thus really means /there ain't/. It is thought of as denying the existence of a particular entity or matter. It is important to note that אֵין usually follows the word negated while אֵין־ stands before same. The force in meaning seems to be slight but Gesenius has an interesting note offering a contrast in Genesis 2:5 and Numbers 14:42:

וְאָדָם אֵין־ לְעַבְדָּתָהּ אֶת־הָאָרֶץ

"and a man there was not to serve the land"

אֵין־ יְהוָה בְּקִרְבְּךָ

"nothing of the Lord is with you."

This latter idea is similar in negation to Psalm 14:1..."There is no God..."

4. Poetic negatives

Here are some negative found chiefly in the poetical books: They all have about the same thrust as לֹא־כִּי .

כִּי־לֹא      כִּי־לֹא־כִּי      כִּי־לֹא־כִּי־לֹא