

## THE CONJUNCTION כִּי

### The Conjunction כִּי

[cf. BDB, 471-475; Williams, 72-73]

- A. **Causal** - indicates the cause or reason behind an action.

Gen 3:14 *"Because you have done this, cursed are you"*

כִּי עָשִׂיתָ זֹאת אָרְוּר אַתָּה  
you being-cursed this you-did because

- B. **Temporal** - has the meaning "when" in verbal clauses (with or without one of the temporal indicators from הִיּוּה)

Gen 6:1 *"When man began to increase on the face of the earth"*

וַיְהִי כִּי-הִחֵל הָאָדָם לָרֹב עַל-פְּנֵי הָאֲדָמָה  
the-earth face-of on to-increase the-man he-began when and-he-was

Note: For a case of temporal כִּי without a form of the verb הִיּוּה, see Gen 4:12.

- C. **Conditional** - used to express a condition (trans. "if").

2 Kgs 4:29 *"if you meet any man, do not salute him"*

כִּי-תִמְצָא אִישׁ לֹא תִבְרַכְנֹו  
you-meet if not anyone you-greet-him

- D. **Adversative** - used to express an adversative ("but"), especially after a clause with the negative לֹא.

Gen 17:15 *"you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name."*

לֹא-תִקְרָא אֶת-שְׁמָהּ שָׂרַי כִּי שָׂרָה שְׁמָהּ  
name-of-her Sarah for Sarai name-of-her \*\*\* you-call not

- E. **Concessive** - meaning "though" or "although"

Jer 49:16 *"Though you make your nest as high as an eagle, I will bring you down from there."*

כִּי-תִגְבִּיהַ כְּנֶשֶׁר קִנְיָהּ מִשָּׁם אֲרִידְךָ  
I-will-bring-down-you from-there nest-of-you like-the-eagle you-make-high though

F. **Resultative** - points to an anticipated result of an action (translate "that"). More common in interrogative sentences.

Jud 8:6 "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hands, that we should give bread to your army?"

... לֶחֶם לְצִבְאוֹךָ נִתַּן כִּי  
bread to-troop-of-you we-should-give that

G. **Nominalizing** - used to introduce a noun clause (similar to the Greek ὅτι). Translate as "that."

Gen 1:10 "and God saw that it was good."

וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי טוֹב  
and-he-saw God that good

These noun clauses can function as the subject or object of a sentence (in fact, any position that a noun or pronoun can stand in).

1. Subject: That we will graduate is our earnest hope.

2. Object:

a. Indirect Discourse (reported speech or thought)

This can occur with such verbs as saw, know, remember, heard, believe, think, etc.

Gen 1:10 "and God saw that it was good"

b. Apposition

Example: Rejoice in this, that God is our king.

H. **Recitative** - introduces direct speech (similar to the Greek ὅτι). Leave untranslated, but use quotation marks.

2 Kgs 8:13 "Hazeal said, 'What is your servant? A dog!'"

וַיֹּאמֶר הַזְּהָאֵל כִּי מָה עַבְדְּךָ הַכֶּלֶב  
and-he-said Hazeal indeed how? servant-of-you the-dog

I. **Intensive** - used to introduce a statement with emphasis. Translate "yea," "surely," "indeed," or "certainly."

Num 23:23 "Indeed, there is no sorcery against Jacob"

כִּי לֹא-נִחַשׁ בְּיַעֲקֹב  
indeed no sorcery against-Jacob

J. **Epexegetical** - completes, qualifies or clarifies a word or phrase or clause.

Example: *I was glad that I could go.*"