

5. CLAUSE AND TEXT GRAMMAR

Part 2: Observation – “How is the passage communicated?”

How to Understand and Apply the Old Testament

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Goal: Assess the makeup and relationships of words, phrases, clauses, and larger text units.

1. It's All *Hebrew* to Me

2. A Man after God's Heart? The Importance of Grammar in 1 Samuel 13:14

Fig. 5.1. 1 Samuel 13:14 in MT, NASB, and Hebrew-English Interlinear				
וְעַתָּה מִמְלַכְתְּךָ לֹא תִקְוֶה	14			But now your kingdom shall not endure.
בִּקֵּשׁ יְהוָה לּוֹ אִישׁ כְּלִבּוֹ	b			<i>The LORD has sought out for himself a man after his own heart,</i>
וַיִּצְוֵהוּ יְהוָה לְנָגִיד עַל-עַמּוֹ	c			and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over his people,
כִּי לֹא שָׁמַרְתָּ אֶת אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּךְ יְהוָה:	d			because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.
בִּקֵּשׁ	אִישׁ	לּוֹ	יְהוָה	בִּקֵּשׁ
M	DO	M	S	V
after/like/according-to-his-heart	a-man	for-himself	YHWH	sought

a. Option 1: Adjectival

Fig. 5.2. Adjectival View of בִּלְבָבוֹ (“according to his heart”) in 1 Samuel 13:14	
... אִישׁ ...	sought YHWH ... a man ...
↑	↑ for himself
בִּלְבָבוֹ	↑ according to his heart
The ↑ identifies the direction of modification.	

- (1) *Adjectival View 1.* If “his heart” refers to God’s character or loyalty, then the clause would mean: “Yahweh has sought a man whose character or loyalty in some way corresponds to God’s character or loyalty” (BBE, NET, HCSB, CEB).
 - (2) *Adjectival View 2.* If “his heart” refers to Yahweh’s will or desire, then the clause would mean: “Yahweh sought for himself a man who was in according with his own choosing” (MSG, CEB A).
- b. Option 3: Adverbial.** If “his heart” serves as the standard or norm by which God sought a new king: “Yahweh sought for himself according to his own will a man.”

Fig. 5.3. Adverbial View of כְּלִבּוֹ (“according to his heart”) in 1 Samuel 13:14	
... אִישׁ ... יְהוָה ... בִּקֵּשׁ	sought YHWH ... a man ...
לוֹ ↑	↑ for himself
כְּלִבּוֹ ↑	↑ according to his heart
The ↑ identifies the direction of modification.	

3. What Is Grammar?

- a. **Grammar:** The whole system and structure that language uses for communicating effectively.

(1) *Orthography:*

(2) *Phonology:*

(3) *Morphology:*

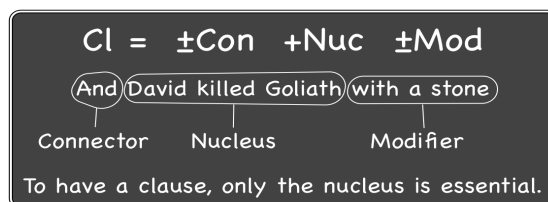
(4) *Syntax:*

- b. **Some Key Questions:**

- (1) Could any clause or groups of clauses be understood differently if the grammar were construed differently?
- (2) Have I identified the antecedent referent of every pronoun and the subject of every verb?
- (3) Do I understand the function of every subordinate conjunction?
- (4) Do I know how every clause relates to its context?
- (5) Have I grasped the role of every discourse marker?

4. Clauses and Sentences

- a. Clause:



- b. Phrase:

- c. Subordinate clause:

- d. Main clause:

- e. Sentence:

5. An Exercise in Text Grammar: Deuteronomy 7:1–4