

BBH Workbook p. 47 #5
(Gen 9:15)

וְזָכַרְתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי אֲשֶׁר בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם

וְזָכַרְתִּי

A footnote indicates that the verb form **וְזָכַרְתִּי** may be translated "and I will remember."

אֶת־בְּרִיתִי

The definite direct object marker **אֶת־** indicates that what follows it (namely, **בְּרִיתִי**) is the direct object of the verb **וְזָכַרְתִּי**.

MORPHOLOGY

The form **אֶת־** (pointed **אֵת** when not attached to another word by means of a Maqqef) may be either

- (a) the definite direct object marker, or
- (b) the preposition "with."

For example,

- (A) **DEFINITE DIRECT OBJECT MARKER**

את השמים ואת הארץ (God created) the heavens
and the earth (Gen 1:1)

את־נינוּה (he built) Nineveh
(Gen 10:11)

(B) PREPOSITION "WITH"

את־הָאֶבֶן וְאת־הָעֵץ with stone and with wood
(Jer 3:9)

את יַעֲקֹב with Jacob (Exod 1:1)

Context indicates when את־/את is the definite direct object marker and when it is the preposition "with."

When the definite direct object marker and the preposition "with" appear with pronominal suffixes, their forms are distinct. For example,

(A) DEFINITE DIRECT OBJECT MARKER

אתו (you shall serve) him (Deut 10:20)

(B) PREPOSITION "WITH"

אתו (the guests who were) with him
(1 Kgs 1:41)

בְּרִיתִי, "my covenant," consists of

- the feminine noun בְּרִית, "covenant"

- the 1cs pronominal suffix ׀, “my”

Summary: וְזָכַרְתִּי אֶת־בְּרִיתִי

I will remember my covenant.

אֲשֶׁר

The relative pronoun אֲשֶׁר may here be translated “which.”

בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם

בֵּינִי, “between me,” consists of

- the preposition בֵּין, “between”
- the 1cs pronominal suffix ׀, “me”

וּבֵינֵיכֶם, “and (between) you,” consists of

- the conjunction Waw
- the preposition בֵּין, “between”
- the 2mp pronominal suffix ׀כֶם, “you”

When a Waw is prefixed to a word beginning with a bilabial consonant (בּ, מּ, or פּ), the Waw is often spelled Shureq. For example,

בַּיִת + ׀	→	וּבַיִת
מֶלֶךְ + ׀	→	וּמֶלֶךְ
פֶּרֶעָה + ׀	→	וּפֶרֶעָה

The Bet and Pe in the examples in the right-hand column lack a Daghash Lene because they are preceded by a vowel (Shureq).

The only case in Hebrew in which a word (or syllable) may begin with a vowel is when word-initial Waw changes to Shureq, as under the aforementioned circumstances.

TRANSLATION

In English, a phrase beginning with the preposition “between” contains only one instance of “between,” regardless of how many objects follow. For example,

between us

between me and you

between me and you and every living creature

In Hebrew, on the other hand, בֵּין is repeated before each of its objects. Here are Hebrew equivalents of the English phrases above:

בֵּינֵינוּ (Job 9:33)

בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ (1 Kgs 15:19)

בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם (Gen 9:12)
וּבֵין כָּל-נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה

Summary: אֲשֶׁר בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם

which is between me and you

TRANSLATION

The relative clause אֲשֶׁר בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם contains no verb. In our translation we must supply a form of the verb *to be*, namely "is."

Final Translation

I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you.