

BBH Workbook p. 52 #14
(Josh 1:1)

אַחֲרַי מוֹת מֹשֶׁה עֶבֶד יְהוָה

אַחֲרַי

The preposition אַחֲרַי means “after.”

מוֹת מֹשֶׁה

The construct chain מוֹת מֹשֶׁה, “the death of Moses,” consists of

- A CONSTRUCT NOUN: מוֹת, the construct form of the masculine noun מוֹתָּה, “death”
- AN ABSOLUTE NOUN: the proper noun מֹשֶׁה, “Moses”

MORPHOLOGY

When מוֹתָּה enters the construct state, it loses its primary accent. The construct chain מוֹת מֹשֶׁה is considered to be an accentual unit with only one primary accent:

[מוֹת מֹשֶׁה]

When a word containing אָוֹן loses its accent, the אָוֹן becomes אֹוֹ. E.g.,

אָוֹן	→	אֹוֹן
תְּוֹךְ	→	תֹוֹךְ
מָוֹת	→	מֹוֹת

GRAMMAR

Because the absolute noun in the construct chain מוֹת מוֹשֶׁה is definite, the entire chain is definite: “*the* death of Moses.”

Construct nouns cannot take the definite article. The definiteness or indefiniteness of the construct noun(s) in a construct chain is determined by the definiteness or indefiniteness of the chain’s absolute noun.

עֶבֶד יְהוָה

The construct chain עֶבֶד יְהוָה, “the servant of the Lord,” consists of

- A CONSTRUCT NOUN: עֶבֶד, the construct form of the masculine noun עֶבֶד, “servant”
- AN ABSOLUTE NOUN: the proper noun יְהוָה, “Lord”

GRAMMAR

Because the absolute noun in the construct chain **עֶבֶד יְהוָה** is definite, the entire chain is definite: “*the* servant of the Lord.”

Construct nouns cannot take the definite article. The definiteness or indefiniteness of the construct noun(s) in a construct chain is determined by the definiteness or indefiniteness of the chain’s absolute noun.

Summary: מֹשֶׁה עֶבֶד יְהוָה

The construct chain **עֶבֶד יְהוָה** stands in apposition to the noun **מֹשֶׁה**. That is, **מֹשֶׁה** and **עֶבֶד יְהוָה** refer to the same person.

Final Translation

after the death of Moses, the servant of the Lord