

BBH Workbook p. 83 #2
(Gen 19:5)

וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל-לוֹט וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ
אֵיחָה הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר-בָּאוּ אֵלֶיךָ הַלַּיְלָה

וַיִּקְרְאוּ

A footnote indicates that this verb form may be translated “and they called.” (The “they” here refers to the men of Sodom who surround Lot’s house after the pair of angels have entered for the night.)

MORPHOLOGY

Although we do not yet know how to parse וַיִּקְרְאוּ, we may observe that its root is קָרָא.

אֶל

The preposition אֶל means “to” or “toward.”

לוֹט

לוֹט is the name of Abraham's nephew, the son of his brother Haran.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ

A footnote indicates that the verb form וַיֹּאמְרוּ may be translated "and they said."

GRAMMAR

Notice that וַיֹּאמְרוּ (the root of which is אָמַר) resembles, with respect both to the consonants surrounding the verbal root אָמַר and to most of the form's vowels, the first word of Gen 19:5, וַיִּקְרְאוּ. These two forms, וַיִּקְרְאוּ and וַיֹּאמְרוּ, carry along the narrative by describing sequential actions ("they called . . . and they said").

לוֹ

לוֹ, "to him," consists of

- the preposition לְ, "to"
- the 3ms pronominal suffix וֹ, "him"

Summary: וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל-לוֹט וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ

And they called to Lot and said to him

אֵיךְ הָאֲנָשִׁים

The interrogative אֵיךְ means “where?”

הָאֲנָשִׁים, “the men,” consists of

- the definite article
- אֲנָשִׁים, the plural of אִישׁ, “man”

TRANSLATION

When translating into English the verbless clause אֵיךְ הָאֲנָשִׁים (literally “where the men?”) we must supply a form of the verb *to be*, namely, “are”:

*Where **are** the men?*

GRAMMAR

In English verbless clauses are somewhat infrequent. In many instances such clauses constitute exclamations or questions with an implied verb; for example,

At what time?

Peace to you.

Where?

Certainly.

Verbless clauses are common in Hebrew. For example,

וְאַיִהּ הַשֶּׁה but where is the lamb? (Gen 22:7)

שָׁם הָיְתָה ב gold was there (Gen 2:11)

אֲשֶׁר

The relative pronoun אֲשֶׁר points back to הָאֲנָשִׁים, “the men,” and may therefore be translated “who.”

בָּאוּ

בָּאוּ, “(they) came,” is the Qal Perfect 3cp of בוא.

MORPHOLOGY

Note that the vowels in the Qal Perfect 3cp of Biconsonantal verbs (Qamets and Shureq) are the same as those in the Qal Perfect 3cp of III-ה verbs. The position of the accent differs, however: in Biconsonantal verbs the accent is on the penult,

whereas in III-ה verbs the accent is on the ultima. Consider the following examples:

BICONSONANTAL		III-ה	
ROOT	3CP	ROOT	3CP
קום	קָמוּ	שָׁתָה	שָׁתוּ
שִׁים	שָׂמוּ	בָּנָה	בָּנוּ
בּוּא	בָּאוּ	גָּלָה	גָּלוּ

אֵלַיִךְ

אֵלַיִךְ, "to you," consists of

- the preposition אֵל, "to"
- the 2ms pronominal suffix יָיִךְ, "you"

הַלַּיְלָה

הַלַּיְלָה, lit. "the night," that is, "tonight," consists of

- the definite article
- the masculine noun לַיְלָה, "night"

לַיְלָה is one of the few Hebrew nouns which end in הָ but are masculine.

MORPHOLOGY

When the definite article is prefixed to לַיְלָה, the resulting form we would normally expect is הַלַיְלָה (notice that the vowel under the first Lamed is Pathach).

The first Lamed of הַלַיְלָה is pointed with Qamets in Gen 19:5 because the word is "in pause"; that is, הַלַיְלָה comes at a major break in the verse. This is indicated in printed Bibles by the placement of the accent **athnach** under הַלַיְלָה.

Final Translation

And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight?"