

**BBH Workbook p. 92 #9**  
**(Ezek 43:7)**

אֶשְׁכֵּן-שָׁם בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל לְעוֹלָם

אֶשְׁכֵּן-

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אֶשְׁכֵּן, "I will dwell," is the Qal Imperfect 1cs of שָׁכַן.

**MORPHOLOGY**

When אֶשְׁכֵּן, the Qal Imperfect 1cs of שָׁכַן, is joined to שָׁם by means of a Maqqef, the second (closed accented) syllable of אֶשְׁכֵּן (i.e., כֵּן) loses its accent. The result is the accentual unit אֶשְׁכֵּן-שָׁם, which has only one primary accent.

Because the second syllable of אֶשְׁכֵּן is now (in the accentual unit אֶשְׁכֵּן-שָׁם) closed and unaccented, its Holem (long o) shortens to Qamets Hatuf (short o).

שָׁם

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The adverb שָׁם means "there."

## בְּתוֹךְ

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בְּתוֹךְ, "in the midst of," consists of

- the preposition בְּ, "in"
- the noun תּוֹךְ, "midst, middle"

### GRAMMAR

בְּתוֹךְ is a *compound preposition*. This term refers to prepositions which are formed by the joining of:

(a) one or more prepositions to a noun; e.g.,

עַל-דֵּבַר ( עַל + דֵּבַר )  
on account of  
(*lit., concerning the matter of*)

מִלְּפָנַי ( מִן + לְ + פָּנַי )  
from  
(*lit., from to the face of*)

(b) two prepositions; e.g.,

מֵאֵת ( מִן + אֵת )  
from  
(*lit., from with*)

## MORPHOLOGY

Why does תָּוֹךְ become תּוֹךְ when בְּ is prefixed to it?

In Hebrew, a preposition and its object are considered to be one accentual unit; taken together, they have only one primary accent, which falls on the object. Consider the following prepositional phrases, each of which has one primary accent:

עַל־דְּבַר אִשְׁתִּי

on account of my wife

(Gen 20:11)

לְפָנַי פַּרְעֹה

before Pharaoh

(Exod 4:21)

בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר

in the midst of the city

(Gen 18:24)

When a noun (e.g., דְּבַר, פָּנִים, תָּוֹךְ) becomes part of a compound preposition, the noun loses its primary accent. Sometimes this causes the noun's vowels to shorten or reduce (e.g., דְּבַר, פָּנִי, תּוֹךְ).

When a word containing וָוֹ loses its accent, the וָוֹ becomes וּ. E.g.,

מֹות	→	מות
אֹון	→	און
תֹוד	→	תוד

## בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל

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The construct chain בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל, “the sons of Israel,” consists of

- בְּנֵי, the construct form of the masculine plural noun בָּנִים, “sons, children”
- the proper noun יִשְׂרָאֵל, “Israel”

### GRAMMAR

Because יִשְׂרָאֵל is definite, the entire construct chain בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל is definite: “*the* sons of Israel.”

### TRANSLATION

בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל may also be translated “the children of Israel” or, more idiomatically, “the Israelites.”

## לְעוֹלָם

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לְעוֹלָם, “forever,” consists of

- the preposition לְ

- the noun עוֹלָם, “eternity”

(On the translation of עוֹלָם, see our discussion of BBH Workbook p. 28 #9.)

## Final Translation

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*I will dwell there in the midst of the sons of Israel forever.*