

BBH Workbook p. 129 #16
(Gen 25:34)

וַיַּעֲקֹב נָתַן לְעֵשָׂו לֶחֶם וּנְזִיד עֲדָרָשִׁים
וַיֹּאכַל וַיִּשְׂתֶּה וַיָּקָם וַיֵּלֶךְ

וַיַּעֲקֹב

וַיַּעֲקֹב, "and Jacob," consists of

- the conjunction Waw
- the proper noun יַעֲקֹב, "Jacob"

נָתַן

נָתַן, "(he) gave," is the Qal Perfect 3ms of נָתַן.

וַיַּעֲקֹב נָתַן means "and Jacob gave."

לְעֵשָׂו

לְעֵשָׂו, "to Esau," consists of

- the preposition לְ, "to"

- the proper noun עֵשָׂו, “Esau”

לֶחֶם וּנְזִיד עֲדָשִׁים

Jacob gives Esau two things. The first is לֶחֶם, “bread.” The second is נְזִיד עֲדָשִׁים, “lentil stew.”

וּנְזִיד consists of

- the conjunction Waw (spelled Shureq because it precedes a consonant pointed with Vocal Shewa)
- נְזִיד, the construct form of the masculine noun נִזְיָד, “stew, boiled dish, cooked food, pottage”

עֲדָשִׁים is the plural form of עֲדָשָׁה, “lentil.” (Incidentally, the singular form עֲדָשָׁה is unattested in the Bible.)

The construct chain נְזִיד עֲדָשִׁים means “a boiled dish of lentils,” or “lentil stew.”

וַיַּעֲקֹב נָתַן לְעֵשָׂו לֶחֶם וּנְזִיד עֲדָשִׁים

And Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew.

וַיֹּאכַל

וַיֹּאכַל, “and he ate,” is the Qal Imperfect 3ms of אָכַל with Waw Conversive.

MORPHOLOGY

אָכַל is one of five verbs that follow a peculiar inflectional pattern in the Qal Imperfect. The other four are:

אָמַר	to say	אָבַד	to perish
אָפַק	to bake	אָבַה	to be willing

עָשָׂו is the subject of וַיֹּאכַל, as well as of the three following verbs: וַיִּשָּׂה, וַיִּקָּם, and וַיִּלָּךְ.

וַיִּשָּׂה

וַיִּשָּׂה, “and he drank,” is the Qal Imperfect 3ms of שָׂה with Waw Conversive.

MORPHOLOGY

The Qal Imperfect 3ms of שָׁתָּה is יִשְׁתֶּה. When Waw Conversive is added to this form, the accent retracts (moves back a syllable) and the Seghol He ending drops off:

וַיִּשְׁתֶּה

The vowel in the second syllable of וַיִּשְׁתֶּה has lengthened (from Hireq to Tserere) because the syllable is now accented and can therefore take a long vowel. (In יִשְׁתֶּה, the first syllable must have a short vowel because it is a closed unaccented syllable.)

וַיִּקָּם

וַיִּקָּם, “and he arose,” or, more colloquially, “and he got up,” is the Qal Imperfect 3ms of קָם with Waw Conversive.

MORPHOLOGY

The Qal Imperfect 3ms of קָם is יִקָּם. When Waw Conversive is added to this form, the accent retracts (moves back a syllable):

וַיִּקָּם

The final syllable of וַיִּקְם is a closed unaccented syllable, and therefore it must take a short vowel. Specifically, it takes Qamets Hatuf, the short vowel corresponding to the long vowel Shureq:

וַיִּקְם

וַיֵּלֶךְ

וַיֵּלֶךְ, “and he went (away),” i.e., “and he left,” is the Qal Imperfect 3ms of הֵלֵךְ with Waw Conversive.

MORPHOLOGY

The Qal Imperfect 3ms of הֵלֵךְ is יֵלֵךְ. When Waw Conversive is added to this form, the accent retracts (moves back a syllable):

וַיֵּלֶךְ

The final syllable of וַיֵּלֶךְ is a closed unaccented syllable, and therefore it must take a short vowel. Specifically, it takes Seghol, the short vowel corresponding to the long vowel Tsere:

וַיֵּלֶךְ

וַיֵּלֶךְ is the normal form of the Qal Imperfect 3ms of הָלַךְ with Waw Conversive. In Gen 25:34, however, וַיֵּלֶךְ occurs “in pause”: that is, it is situated at a major break in the verse (marked in printed Bibles with an accent called *athnach*: וַיֵּלֶךְ).

Pausal forms sometimes undergo vowel changes; in the present instance, the Seghol in the final syllable of וַיֵּלֶךְ has changed to Pathach:

וַיֵּלֶךְ

This change from Seghol to Pathach has been occasioned by the accent’s moving to the word’s final syllable in the pausal form: וַיֵּלֶךְ.

Final Translation

And Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and arose and went away.