

BBH Workbook p. 161 # 6
(Gen 37:15)

וַיִּמְצָאֵהוּ אִישׁ וַהֲנִה תְּעָה בַּשָּׂדֶה
וַיִּשְׁאַל הוּא אִישׁ לֵאמֹר מַה־תְּבַקֵּשׁ

וַיִּמְצָאֵהוּ אִישׁ

וַיִּמְצָאֵהוּ אִישׁ “and a man found him,” is the Qal Imperfect 3ms of **מָצָא** with the Waw Conversive and the (alternate Type 1) 3ms pronominal suffix (*BBH* §19.2, p. 223).

MORPHOLOGY When Waw Conversive (וַ) is prefixed to the Imperfect form **יִמְצָא**, it becomes **וַיִּמְצָא** as expected. Imperfect verbs prefer an e-class connecting vowel (Tseré), thus the addition of the 3ms pronominal suffix **הוּא** to the form becomes **וַיִּמְצָאֵהוּ**.

The subject of the verb is **אִישׁ** so the initial phrase is “a man found him...”

וַהֲנִה תְּעָה בַּשָּׂדֶה

וַהֲנִה תְּעָה בַּשָּׂדֶה “... and behold he was wandering about in the field...” (or) “... while he was wandering about in the field...” (see footnote 5). Following the interjection **וַהֲנִה**, the verb is the Qal ms participle of **תָּעַד**, a III-הו verb explained in *BBH* §22.4.4, p. 261.

וַיִּשְׁאַל הוּא הָאִישׁ

וַיִּשְׁאַל הוּא הָאִישׁ “and the man asked him...” is the Qal imperfect 3ms of שָׁאַל with the Waw Conversive and the (alternate Type 1) 3ms pronominal suffix.

לֵאמֹר מִה־תִּבְקֹשׁ

לֵאמֹר מִה־תִּבְקֹשׁ “saying, what are you looking for?” The verb is a Qal Infinitive Construct with the inseparable preposition לְ connected to the verb אָמַר (*BBH* §20.3, p. 236). This is a common Hebrew expression used to introduce direct speech. מִה־תִּבְקֹשׁ (see footnote 6) is the interrogative “what” affixed to a Piel Imperfect 2ms of בִּקֹּשׁ with a Maqqef (§26.6, p. 310).

FINAL TRANSLATION

“And a man found him while he was wandering about in the field and the man asked him saying, ‘What are you looking for?’”