

BBH Workbook p. 187 # 1
(Jonah 1:1-2)

וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יוֹנָה בֶן־אֲמִתַּי לֵאמֹר

קוּם לֵךְ אֶל־נִינְוָה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה
וּקְרָא עָלֶיהָ כִּי־עֲלֵתָהּ רַעְתָּם לְפָנַי

וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יוֹנָה בֶן־אֲמִתַּי לֵאמֹר

וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֶל־יוֹנָה בֶן־אֲמִתַּי לֵאמֹר “The word of the LORD *came* to Jonah son of Amittai saying...”. The temporal modifier וַיְהִי (see *BBH* §23.3.4, p. 274) precedes the subject דְבַר־יְהוָה. The verb “came” is in italics to indicate it is not in the Hebrew. לֵאמֹר is Qal Infinitive Construct of אָמַר with inseparable preposition לְ.

קוּם לֵךְ אֶל־נִינְוָה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה

קוּם לֵךְ אֶל־נִינְוָה הָעִיר הַגְּדוֹלָה “Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city...” is composed of two Qal Imperative ms verbs from קוּם and הֵלֵךְ. (Recall that הֵלֵךְ behaves as if it were a I-י). The indirect object is indicated by the preposition אֶל and Nineveh is described by the attributive adjective as a great or large city.

וּקְרָא עָלֶיהָ כִּי־עָלְתָה רָעָתָם לְפָנַי

וּקְרָא עָלֶיהָ כִּי־עָלְתָה רָעָתָם לְפָנַי "... and cry out against it (her), for their wickedness has come up before Me." The Qal Imperative ms of קָרָא is followed by the indirect object (the preposition עַל with 3fs pronominal suffix), the subordinating conjunction כִּי and the Qal Perfect 3fs of עָלָה, followed by the preposition לְ with the noun "face" (פָּנָיו) and the 1cs pronominal suffix.

FINAL TRANSLATION

"The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 'Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry out against it (her), for their wickedness has come up before Me.'"