

## Chapter Seven

### Pronouns

#### Vocabulary

אֹהֶל	tent (m)	יָלֵד	male child, boy (m)
אֲחֵר	another	כֶּסֶף	silver (m)
אֵיךְ	how?	מִזְבֵּחַ	altar (m)
בֹּקֶר	morning (m)	מָקוֹם	place (m)
בָּשָׂר	flesh (m)	מִשְׁפָּט	judgment, justice (m)
גַּם	also, indeed	עוֹד	yet, still, again
דָּם	blood (m)	עָנָן	cloud (m)
הַיְכָל	palace, temple (m)	שַׁעַר	gate (m)
זָהָב	gold (m)	שָׁמַיִם	heaven, sky (m, du.)
יָד	hand (f)	שָׂר	leader, prince (m)

#### Hebrew Pronouns

Like English pronouns, Hebrew pronouns replace a noun. The noun that it replaces is called the antecedent. In the statement, **יְהוָה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים** “The LORD, he [is] God” the pronoun “he” refers back to the nearest antecedent “LORD.” The word pronoun comes from the Latin *pro* meaning “before, for,” and *nomen* meaning “a name.” Hebrew pronouns include personal, demonstrative, relative, and interrogative.

#### Independent Personal Pronouns

Independent personal pronouns are used to reduce repetition. Independent personal pronouns may be used as the subject of the verb but not the object of the verb. They may also appear as subjects of a verbless clause. Personal pronouns function as follows:

1. First person pronouns “I” and “we” refer to the person speaking.
2. Second person pronoun “you” refers to the person being spoken to.
3. Third person pronouns “he,” “she,” and “it,” refer to the person or thing spoken of.

	Hebrew	Translation		Hebrew	Translation
1cs <sup>1</sup>	אֲנִי or אֲנֹכִי	I	1cp	אֲנַחְנוּ	we
2ms	אַתָּה	you	2mp	אַתֶּם	you
2fs	אַתְּ	you	2fp	אַתֶּנָּה	you
3ms	הוא	he/it	3mp	הֵם or הֵמָּה	they
3fs	היא	she/it	3fp	הֵנָּה or הֵן	they

### Usage of the personal pronoun

Independent personal pronouns may be used in the following ways:

- Normal usage.* The independent personal pronoun is used normally as follows:
  - a.* וְאֲנִי הֲנִי מְקִים אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם “And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you “ (Gen. 9:9)
- Predicative usage.* Hebrew independent personal pronouns can be used as subjects and are often verbless clauses called predicative relationship. In this case the “to be” verb is must be understood.
  - a.* אֲנִי יְהוָה “I [am] the LORD.” (Gen. 28:13)
  - b.* יְהוָה הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים “The LORD, he [is] God.” (1 Kgs. 18:39)
- Emphatic usage.* The Hebrew independent personal pronoun can be used to emphasize the subject’s involvement in the action. The personal pronoun is used next to the suffixed pronoun<sup>2</sup>.
  - a.* בִּי-אֲנִי אָדֹנָי הָעוֹן “On me, my Lord, is the guilt.” (1 Sam. 25:24)

### Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns serve to point out someone or something being singled out for attention. For example, “this man” points out this specific man.

	singular		plural	
<b>masc.</b>	זֶה	this	אֵלֶּה	these
<b>fem.</b>	זֹאת	this	אֵלֶּה	these
<b>masc.</b>	הוא	that	הֵם or הֵמָּה	those
<b>fem.</b>	היא	that	הֵנָּה or הֵן	those

### Usage of the demonstrative pronoun

Demonstrative pronouns may act attributively or predicatively.

- Attributive usage.* Demonstrative pronouns may be used as an adjective agreeing in gender, number, and definiteness.
  - A.* Examples are:

<sup>1</sup> cs and cp are common singular and common plural respectively. Common refers to gender covering both masculine and feminine subjects.

<sup>2</sup> Pronominal suffixes will be covered in the next chapter.

- a. הארץ היא "this land" (Gen. 15:7)
  - b. ביום ההוא "on that day" (Gen. 15:18)
  - c. הדברים האלה "these words" (Gen. 29:13)
- B. When a noun is modified by an adjective, the demonstrative pronoun will stand after the adjective. Examples are:
- a. הדבר הגדול הזה "this great thing" (1 Sam. 12:16)
  - b. המדבר הגדול ההוא "that great wilderness" (Deut. 1:19)
  - c. השנים הטובות האלה "these good years" (Gen. 41:35)
2. *Predicative usage.* Demonstrative pronouns may be used like a predicative adjective agreeing in gender and number with the noun it is linked with. With this usage, the demonstrative pronoun will never take the article.
- a. זה היום "This [is] the day" (Judg. 4:14)
  - b. אלה הדברים "these [are] the words" (Deut. 1:1)
- When a noun is modified by an adjective, the demonstrative pronoun will stand after the adjective.
    - a. הוא העיר הגדלה "that [is] the great city" (Gen. 10:12)

## Relative Pronoun

The Hebrew relative pronoun אשר "who, which, that," introduces a relative clause and the noun it modifies. The relative pronoun does not possess gender or number; it simply stands alone following the noun it modifies or is attached to the noun with the *maqqef*.

זאת בריתי אשר תשמרו "This [is] my covenant which you shall keep." (Gen. 17:10)

## Interrogative Pronouns

The interrogative pronoun is used when asking questions. The Hebrew interrogative pronouns do not possess gender or number and includes the following:

מי "who?, whom?"  
מה "what?"

The interrogative מה has alternate spellings as: מה or מה.

מי־כַּמֶּה בְּאֵלִים יְהוָה "Who is like you O Lord, among the gods?" (Ex. 15:11)