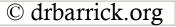
# Hebrew Whiteboard

#### Biblical Hebrew and the Psalms Psalm 104



# Objectives

- 1. Identify verse structure by means of major disjunctive accents.
- 2. Display verse structure by means of logical line diagramming.
- 3. Interpret verse structure.
- 4. Identify grammatical elements and poetic devices.
- 5. Interpret poetic device function(s).
- 6. Identify the psalm's structure.

Identify major disjunctive accents and divide into poetic lines.

1 בְּרַכִי נַפִּשִׁי אֶת־יִהֹוָה

הּוֹד וְהָדֶר לְבֵשְׁתָ:

יָהָנָה אֱלֹהַי

<u>גּד</u>ַלָתַ מָאָד

#### topical rebia'

*'oleh-weyored* = primary disjunctive accent in this verse

*tipchah* = secondary disjunctive

*'atnach* = secondary disjunctive in this verse

#### silluq = end of v. 1

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Adjust to display grammatical and parallel relationships.

ּבְרַכִי נַפִּאָי אֶת־יִהְוָה

ִיְהָוָה אֱלֹהֵי <u>גָּד</u>ְלְתָ

הוד והַדָר

TXÞ

Piel imperat. fs + vocative of address (noun + 1cs pron. suff.) + dir. obj.

Vocative of address + Qal perf. 2ms, characteristic present.

Adverb of intensity.

Compound adverbial accusative, manner.

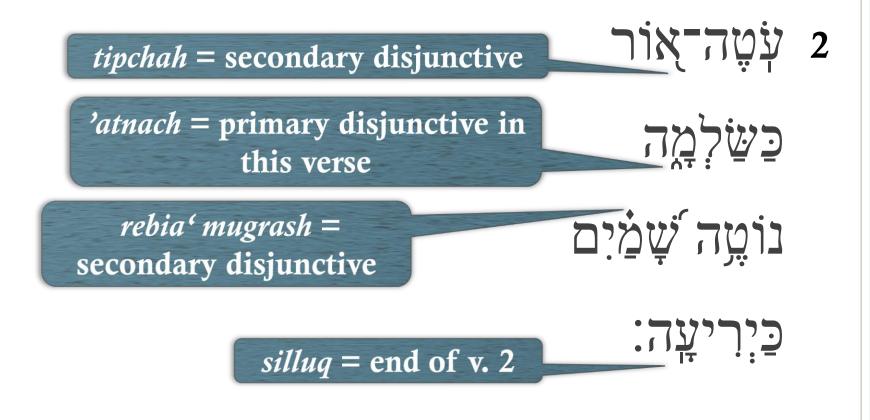
Qal perf. 2ms, characteristic present.

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לבשת:

Identify major disjunctive accents and divide into poetic lines.



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Adjust to display grammatical and parallel relationships.

Qal act. ptcp. ms, characteristic.

Adverbial accusative, instrument.

Adverbial prep. phrase, comparison.

Qal act. ptcp. ms, characteristic + dir. obj.

Adverbial prep. phrase, comparison.

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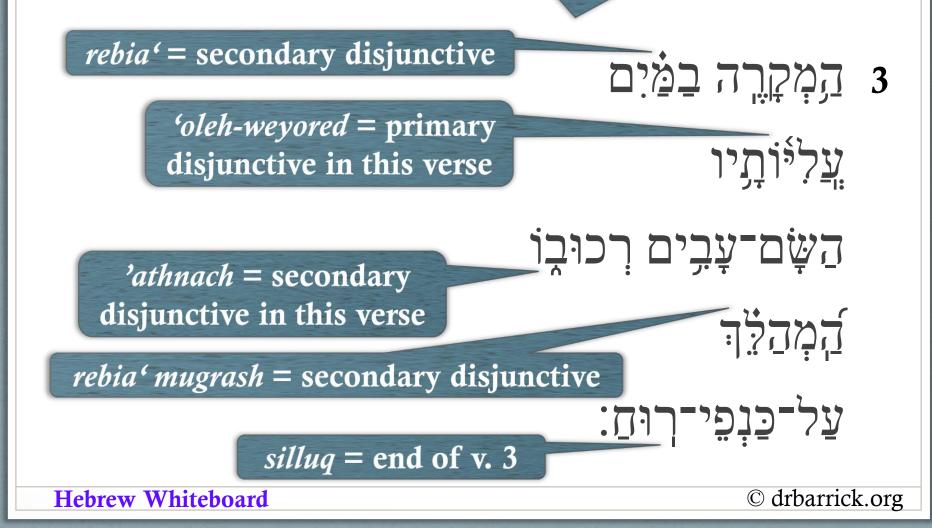
118

כּשֹּׁלְמָה

נוֹמֵה שָׁמַיִם

-ַיִרִיצֵה:-

Identify major disjunctive accents and divide into poetic lines.



Adjust to display grammatical and parallel relationships.

<u>אַליּוֹת</u>יו

Piel ptcp. ms w/art.

Adverbial prep. phrase, location.

Adverbial accusative, specification.

Qal act. ptcp. ms w/art. + dir. obj. + adverb. accus., specification.

Adverbial prep. phrase, location.

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<u>יללד</u>רי

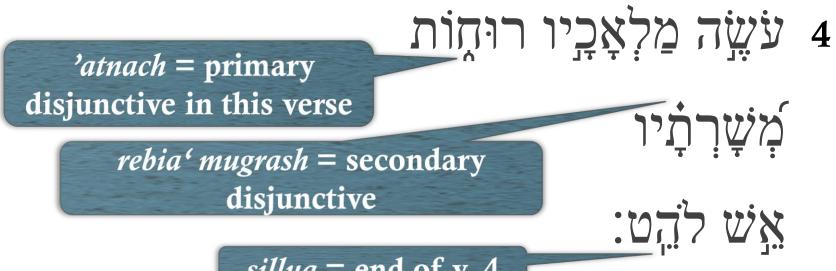
במים

הַשָּׂם־עָבִים רְכוּבִו

Piel ptcp. ms w/art.

על־כַּנְפֵּי־רְוּחַ:-

Identify major disjunctive accents and divide into poetic lines.



silluq = end of v. 4

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Adjust to display grammatical and parallel relationships.

עֹּאָָה מַלְאָבָיו רוּחַות

<u>אַשָּׁר</u>ָתִיו

Qal act. ptcp. ms + dir. obj. w/3ms pron. suff. + accus. of specification.

Substantival Piel ptcp. mp (< つつび) w/3ms pron. suff.; dir. obj.

Accus. of specification; nouns in construct, attributive genitive.

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#### Psalm 104:1–4 — Translation

- 1 Bless YHWH, my soul. O YHWH, my God, You are very great; With majesty and splendor You are clothed—
- 2 Wrapped up *with* light as a mantle, Stretching out the heavens like a tent curtain.
- 3 He Who builds His upper rooms on beams over the water;

Who appoints clouds as His chariot; Who walks upon the wings of the wind.

4 Making winds His messengers And His servants flaming fire.

#### Psalm 104:1–4 — Translation

#### **1** Bless YHWH, my soul.

O YHWH, my God, You are very great; With majesty and splendor You are clothed—

- 2 Wrapped up *with* light as a mantle, Stretching out the heavens like a tent curtain.
- 3 Who built His upper rooms on beams over the water;
  Who appointed clouds as His chariot;
  Who walks upon the wings of the wind—
- 4 Making His messengers winds And His servants flaming fire.

Hymnic participles (red)

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- Verse 1 repeats the inclusio marking off Ps 103:1, 22, linking the two psalms.
- "Bless" (II ברך) = acknowledge YHWH in His position of power with all the respect due Him.
- Imperative of immediate desire basically equivalent to a future: "I <u>will</u> bless" (cf. J-M, §114*m*, *p*).
- "Soul" (גֶלֶלֹש) in this context refers to the individual's total being: mind, heart, and will = "I."

- Vocative of address (יהוה אֱלהֵי) placed first, perhaps to form interior hinge with immediately preceding יהוה.
- Personal relationship expressed in אֱלֹהֵי,
   "my God."
- Verb (גָּרַלְהָ) is a static stative (expressing state of being) describing YHWH's present characteristic state as "great."
- Adverb אָאֹך (= "very" or "exceedingly") modifies the preceding verb (גָּרַלְהָ).

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- Adverbial accusative nouns הוֹד וְהָדְר וְהָדָר ("with majesty and splendor") precede the verb (לְבָשְׁהָ) for emphasis forming internal hinge with preceding emphatic adverb .
- The two nouns could be taken as a hendiadys = "majestic splendor" (cf. *HBI*, §1.8.3a).
- Verse 2 has first (עֹטֶה) of six hymnic participles expressing either an adjectival characteristic (as this participle) or praiseworthy divine acts.

- Adverbial accusative of means (אוֹר), "with light")—perhaps a reference to Day 1 (Gen 1:3–5).
- Adverbial prepositional phrase of comparison (כַּשֵׂלְמָה, "as a mantle/garment") modifying the participle "wrapped."
- First of hymnic participles to be characteristic divine action (נוֹטֶה), "stretching out")—potential correlation to concept of expanding universe.

- Adverbial prepositional phrase of comparison (כַּיְרִישֶה, "like a tent curtain") parallel to the previous.
- Verse 3 begins with articular hymnic participle (הַמְקְרָה, "Who built on beams" or "Who built with wood"), from II קרה (a verb formed from the noun קוֹרָה, "timberwork/beam")—past by historical reference.
- Obvious imagery or metaphor—a major element in Hebrew poetry.

- The locative prepositional phrase could be translated "on/in" or "over the waters"—perhaps a reference to Day 2 (Gen 1:6–8).
- "His upper rooms" (אֲלִיּוֹתְיוֹ)—perhaps a reference to God's heavenly throne room.
- The fourth hymnic participle is articular like the first in this verse: "Who appointed" (「ジローagain past by historical reference.

- "Clouds as His chariot" (עָרובו)
   consists of a double accusative: second accusative of the produced thing following the direct object accusative (cf. J-M, §125w)—more poetic imagery.
- The fifth hymnic participle (הַקָּהַלֵּך), "Who walks") is also articular, like the other two participles in this verse.
- "Upon the wings of the wind" (עַל־כַּנְכֵּי־רוּהַ)
   uses yet another metaphor for imagery.

- Verse 4 (like v. 2) starts with עֹשֶׂה ("making"), the final of the six hymnic participles in vv. 2–4.
- Double accusative (מַלְאָכְיו רוּהוֹת) presents the accusative of the produced thing (the second accusative).
  - "Making His messengers winds" may refer to their speed of movement.
  - Construction does not mean "making winds His messengers"—contra Leupold, 732.

- Second half of verse continues with another double accusative: אְשָׁרְתִיו אֵשׁ להֵט.
  "Making His servants flaming fire" may also refer to their speed of movement
  - (synonymous parallelism) or their devotion and intensity in serving.
  - Construction does not mean "making flaming fire His servants."
  - Both parallel constructions add to the description of God's royal splendor.

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