

Genesis 18:1-5

וַיֵּרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה בְּאֵלֵי מַמְרָא וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב פֶּתַח־הָאֹהֶל כְּחַם הַיּוֹם:
2 וַיֵּשֶׁא עֵינָיו וַיֵּרָא וְהִנֵּה שְׁלֹשָׁה אַנְשִׁים נֹצְבִים עָלָיו וַיֵּרָא וַיֵּרָץ
לְקִרְאתָם מִפֶּתַח הָאֹהֶל וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ אַרְצָה: 3 וַיֹּאמֶר אֲדֹנָי אִם־נָא
מִצָּאתִי חַן בְּעֵינֶיךָ אֶל־נָא תֵעָבֶר מֵעַל עַבְדְּךָ: 4 יִקַּח־נָא מִעֶטְמִים
וְרַחֲצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם וְהִשְׁעֵנוּ תַּחַת הָעֵץ: 5 וְאִקְחָה פַת־לֶחֶם וְסַעְדּוּ לְבַבְכֶם
אַחַר תֵּעָבְרוּ כִי־עַל־כֵּן עֲבַרְתֶּם עַל־עַבְדְּכֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ כֵּן תַעֲשֶׂה
כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתָּ:

Vocabulary

Verse 1

אלון "terebinth" (BDB, 18)

מרא name: "Mamre"

חם "heat" (BDB, 328)

Syntax & Miscellaneous

- The periphrastic construction of the second clause implies the copula, הִיָּה.
- The phrase, פֶּתַח־הָאֹהֶל, is adverbial "by the door of the tent."
- The *kaf* preposition is temporal "when"; however, in idiomatic English one might say "in the heat of the day."

Vocabulary

Verse 2

נצב verb (Niphal participle mpl): "stand, take one's stand"

רוץ verb: "run"

Verse 3

חן "favor, grace"

Verse 4

שען verb (Niphal imperative mpl): "support oneself" (BDB, 1043)

Verse 5

פת "bit" (BDB, 837)

סעד "sustain" (BDB, 703)

Syntax & Misc.

Verse 2

- The first verb, וַיֵּשֶׁא, is a *waw*-consecutive imperfect derived from נִשָּׂא. The first root radical (*nun*) has assimilated.
- The participle, נֹצְבִים, is a substantive functioning as the predicate of a verbless clause.

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- The sequencing of *waw*-consecutive verbs, וַיֵּרָא וַיָּרַץ, is best understood as an ordered arraignment, “When he saw, he ran.”
- Because of stress retraction with a *waw*-consecutive imperfect form, the final he has apocopated causing the root letter *waw* to shift to a *sureq*—ו + ישתחווה → וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ.
- The final he of וַיִּפֹּל is a directional he, signaling that he fell “to the ground.”

Verse 3

- The first word of the quotation is a vocative, אֲדֹנָי “O my lord.”
- The negation, אֵל, marks a jussive even though morphologically תִּעָבֵר is not marked as such.

Verse 4

- The lack of a clause connector connects the first phrase to the previous one.
- The final clause, וְהִשְׁעֲנֶנּוּ תַּחַת הָעֵץ, is idiomatic for “rest yourself under the tree.”

Verse 5

- GKC 158b (n1) states: “כִּי־עַל־כֵּן prop. for therefore, Genesis 18:5, 19:8, 33:10, 38:26; Numbers 10:31, 14:43; 2 Samuel 18:20.”