

Joshua 1:16-18

וַיַּעֲנוּ אֶת־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ לֵאמֹר כָּל אֲשֶׁר־צִוִּיתָנוּ נַעֲשֶׂה וְאֶל־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר
תִּשְׁלַחַנוּ גִּלְדָּ: 17 כָּל אֲשֶׁר־שָׁמְעָנוּ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בֶּן נִשְׁמַע אֵלֶיךָ רַק
יְהִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ עִמָּךְ כַּאֲשֶׁר הָיָה עִם־מֹשֶׁה: 18 כָּל־אִישׁ
אֲשֶׁר־יִמְרָה אֶת־פִּיךָ וְלֹא־יִשְׁמַע אֶת־דְּבָרֶיךָ לְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־תִּצְוֶנוּ יוֹמַת
רַק חֲזַק וְאַמֵץ: פ

Vocabulary

Verse 16

צִוִּיתָנוּ verb (Piel perfect 2ms with 2mpl pronominal suffix): “you commanded us”

Syntax & Miscellaneous

- The phrase, וְאֶל־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר, can be understood as “and unto everywhere.”
- Clause division is difficult for the beginning student. Some keys to finding the limits of a clause are: (1) Look for the finite verbs (each clause will include at most one finite verb), (2) Determine the grammatical function of each word in the clause (even if you do not know every word in the verse, you can recognize one as a verb and another as a noun), (3) Distinguish between prepositional phrases and basic clauses, (4) Watch for transitional words or phrases, (5) Use your knowledge of the accentual system to break up the verse structure, and (6) Diagram the grammatical structure, or sentence typology, of each verse (even though the verses are not always perfect indicators, let them help you in determining the limits of a clause(s)).

Verse 17

רַק “surely, only”

Verse 18

מָרָה verb: “be rebellious” (BDB, 598)

פֶּה noun: “mouth” (see note below)

אַמֵץ verb: “be strong, courageous” (BDB, 54)

Syntax & Misc.

Verse 17

- The word, אֲשֶׁר, is translated generally as “which.” However, it can mark any type of relative clause: “who(m),” “which,” “that,” “what,” or “where.” BDB describes it as a “sign of relation” (p. 81) that requires to be substituted in the clause with another word “defining its nature more precisely.”

Verse 18

- The word, פֶּה “mouth,” can refer idiomatically to what comes forth from the mouth (i.e. commands).

Examples:

Joshua 1:16-18

Genesis 41:40 “You will be over my house, and according to your mouth/command all my people will do homage.”

אַתָּה תִּהְיֶה עַל־בֵּיתִי וְעַל־פִּי יִשָּׁק כָּל־עַמִּי

1 Samuel 15:24 “I sinned for I have transgressed the LORD’s mouth/command and your words.”

חָטָאתִי כִּי־עֲבַרְתִּי אֶת־פִּי־יְהוָה וְאֶת־דְּבָרֶיךָ

Numbers 14:41 “Why, then, are you transgressing the LORD’s mouth/command?”

לָמָּה זֶה אַתֶּם עֹבְרִים אֶת־פִּי יְהוָה