THE IMPERFECT WITH SIMPLE WAW
IN HEBREW
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In the following study an attempt is made to bring together, and classify, as far as possible, the imperfect with simple waw, as found in the Hebrew of the Masoretic Text.

The large number of examples of this combination in the Hebrew Bible (1287 are listed here), as pointed by the Masoretes, argues that at some time in the history of the language the phenomenon had a fairly well-defined usage. That most of the cases are not errors for the imperfect with waw consecutive, is evidenced by the context, as well as by the earlier versions. For example, the Pentateuch has about 240 cases of this imperfect with simple waw, but, on comparing the Septuagint, only two cases of the past tenses, indicative, were found. One of these is Num. 16:5, in the account of Korah's rebellion, where the Greek does not follow the Hebrew closely, and even here the aorist may be gnomic. The other case is in Numb. 17:3, which deals with the disposition to be made of the censers used by Korah's party. Even in Hebrew the usage is quite out of the normal here.

Further, if we examine the Samaritan version for the same books, we find that out of the 241 cases there are only five cases of waw with the perfect, and four of these are in the first chapter of Genesis, all the other being waw with the imperfect, when a finite form of the verb is used.
This phenomenon of the imperfect with waw has long been noted by scholars, but most have dismissed it with but little comment, as it really is of less importance than the waw consecutive forms. However, the matter has received some attention. Among moderns, perhaps the late Professor Driver has done the most in this field, and it is along the line of his suggestions that an attempt is made to follow out some general lines of classification.

In the first place, there are numerous cases which Driver does not attempt to bring under the classifications he suggests. Davidson and Harper have the same difficulty, the one remarking that the principles stated by him “fail to explain all the instances” in the Masoretic Text, and the other, that there are numerous “cases of which no adequate explanation has been offered”.

Kautzsch, in the 28th edition of Gesenius’ Hebrew Grammar, gives no special classification of the usage of weak waw, as he does of the waw consecutive, yet, incidentally, he gives some valuable observations. Nor does König, in his Syntax, attempt to treat the subject otherwise than incidentally.

A large number of the cases of imperfect found with simple waw are voluntative imperfects (jussives and cohortatives), and, further, very often follow voluntatives (jussives, cohortatives and imperatives). Hence it is quite probable that the voluntative imperfect was the normal form, with a simple waw, of course, used to continue another voluntative, when not in the simple sequential sense, which would require a consecutive form.

The matter is made more uncertain from the fact that most verbs in Hebrew do not show distinctively voluntative imperfects, and even those that possess such forms do not always appear as such, due to considerations of euphony, as well as to the fact that when suffixes are added the forms cannot be used, even though the sense plainly calls for such use. Further, practically all traces of a subjunctive in Hebrew are lost, unless we call the cohortative a subjunctive. So the voluntative imperfect, so-called, seems to do duty, in many cases, for the subjunctive.

After going over all the cases in the books in which they occur, we find a considerable variety in usage by the different
writers. However, we find that in ordinary sentences (i.e. not conditional etc.) three general lines of usage occur, to which a fourth may be added, which may be called “synonymous” or “intensive”. In poetry, where this last is quite common, it might be named the “parallelistic” usage. As in all classifications, the boundary lines are not distinctly marked and it is often difficult to decide to which category a given case belongs. For example, in poetry, many cases might well be classed as either “intensive” or “coordinate” as will be seen by a merely cursory examination of the text.

First, there is what we may call the “coordinate” usage. Here the imperfect with waw merely continues, as a separate unit, what may be taken as a volutative (in most instances), and may be translated by “and let”, or “and may”, though sometimes the imperfect with simple waw merely continues the preceding volutative as a pure jussive, cohortative or imperative. e.g. “Become thou a thousand myriads, and let thy seed possess the gate of those hating them”, Gen. 24:69; “Let the Lord God of your fathers add to you a thousand times as (many) as you are, and may he bless you etc.”, Deut. 11; “Send out (thy) lightning and scatter them”. Ps. 144:6.

The second class of cases, also after the same verbal forms as above, may be translated by “then”. By this is meant, not simply sequence, by which one act follows another, as that seems to be the original use of the consecutive form, but rather it is the use of “then” in the sphere of result, e.g. “Sojourn in this land, and (then) I will be with thee”, Gen. 26:3. Many of these cases might well be classed as conditions, in fact it is difficult to draw the line between this usage and the conditional one. For example, Driver calls the imperative in the sentence given, a “hypothetical imperative”.

The third class, after the same verbal forms as before, may be translated by “that”, and sometimes by “so that”. That is, as has been said, the imperfect with simple waw “furnishes a concise and elegant expression of purpose”. To this might have been added “result” as well. At least, it seems best to class the two together here. Examples are: “Let down thy pitcher. I pray, that I may drink”. Gen. 24:14; “And let thy mercies
come unto me etc., so that I may answer those who reproach me etc.”, Ps. 119 41-42.

As indicated above, to these three general usages after verbs, may be added a fourth, which seems to be more frequently found after forms not distinctively voluntative. This usage we may call “synonymous”, or “intensive”, in poetry, one might almost call it “parallelistic”, as it occurs so frequently there. Here there is an evident intention to emphasize individual acts or ideas, or, as some grammarians put it: “emphasis by repetition”, or, “fulness of expression”, e. g. “I will apportion them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel”, Gen. 49 7. In referring to this class we shall use the term “intensive”, as many of the cases can hardly be called “synonymous”.

Possibly somewhat related to this group is the “concomitant” usage, occasionally expressed by the infinitive with נְלֵי, e. g. “He worships, and bows down, and says . . . .” = “while saying”, or simply, “saying”, Isa. 44 17.

Closely related to the “then” usage, mentioned above, in fact, an extension of that usage (if that can claim priority), is the use in conditional sentences to introduce the apodosis, e. g. “If he hold back the waters, then they dry up”. Job. 12 15a. Then, as in the case of any strictly coordinate function of the waw, it may be used to introduce a second apodosis, e. g. “If I have rewarded evil—(then) let the enemy pursue my soul, and (let him) overtake etc.” Further, the waw may be used instead of the particle, to introduce a second protasis, e. g. “And (if) he send them forth, they overturn the earth”, Job. 12 15a. Further, the simple waw may be used in what are known as the “double waw” forms, in what are sometimes called “relative conditional sentences”, e. g. “. . . and we will worship, and we will return to you” = “. . . and when we (shall) have worshipped, we will return to you”, Gen. 22 5a, 5b.

What has been said of conditional sentences, applies also, in the main, to concessive sentences, (i. e. with “though”, “notwithstanding” etc.).

We also find the imperfect with simple waw used in causal clauses (“because”, “therefore” or “for”), and that even after perfects as well as after imperfects, as in Prov. 1 31, . . . “they
It has already been noted that imperfect with simple waw may be used to introduce a second protasis or apodosis. Likewise, it may be used to introduce a second question, a second negative clause in which the negative is omitted, a second adversative or concessive clause, a second subordinate form after an optative, or even a second imperfect of past time, when customary action is implied. This follows from the coordinate function of the simple waw. Examples will be given in the lists.

Then there are some cases in which a speaker or writer, after speaking of surrounding circumstances or conditions, suddenly breaks off and utters a wish or prayer, e. g. “And now I counsel thee to listen to me, and may the Lord be with thee”, Ex. 18:19.

There are a number of cases of the adversative usage, e. g. “A true witness saves lives, but he who utters lies is (causes) deceit”, Prov. 14:25.

Again there are cases in which the simple waw and imperfect are used in what is known as “verbal subordination”, e. g. “that they may learn and fear the Lord” = “learn to fear”, Deut. 31:12.

There are some cases of the simple waw taking the place of a particle (conjunction etc.), after an imperfect following such particle, e. g. after לְמַעֲלָה. רָאָה etc. Driver thought such cases relatively rare; however, they are worth noting as part of the coordinate usage.

The simple waw may also appear in many cases where there is no apparent continuance of a preceding verb, e. g. “that” is used after a question, “Who is wise, and he will understand these things”? “Who is wise, that he may understand these things”? (in this case, as in others of the same type, the imperfect is a volunative), Hos. 14:10.

The simple waw is also found after a negative, e. g. “God not man that he should lie”, Num. 23:23. “That” is also found after an optative expression, e. g. “Would that my words were written”, Job. 19:23.

Again we have simple waw after time determinations, e. g. “In the morning, and the Lord will show” = “In the morning
(then) the Lord will show", Num. 16:5. Driver is inclined to call this the apodotic waw, also used after the "casus pendens". One might compare this with the time determination of past time, in Gen. 22:4: "It was on the third day that Abraham lifted up his eyes" (the impf. consec. is used here).

The great majority of the cases in the Pentateuch and the historical books come under the first three heads, or slight variations of the same, but as there is considerable variation among the books, it has been deemed best to take up the books separately.

The letters a, b, c, d etc. indicate the first, second, third etc., occurrence, of the imperfect with simple waw in any given verse.

Often two cases are given as following a single form (such as an imperative), when, in reality, the second is merely coordinate to the first.

GENESIS

Of the "coordinates" we find: 1 c, 9, 26 27 27a, 27b 20 7 24 51, 57, 60 26 27 27a, 29b 28 3a, 3b 4 30 3a 31 37 33 12a, 12b 35 3a, 3b 37 13, 20a, 20b, 27 41 33, 34, 35a, 35b 42 16a 48 16a, 16b. Of the "then" cases we have: 12 2a, 2b, 2c, 3 17 2a, 2b 18 5, 30, 32 19 20 24 3 26 3a, 3b, 29 27 30 28 31 3 32 10 34 12 35 3c 37 20c 42 20, 34 43 8a, 8b 45 18 47 16. Of the "that" cases as above, i.e. in a declarative sentence after a verb: 18 21 19 5, 32a, 32b, 34 23 4, 9, 13 24 14, 49, 56 27 4, 7a, 7b, 9, 21, 25, 31 29 21 30 3b, 25, 26 34 23 38 24 42 2 16b 43 8c 44 21 45 28 46 31 a, 31b 47 19a, 19b 48 9 49 1. One interesting case in the last group is 27 25, where the first verbal form following the imperative is a cohortative with waw, and the second verb, instead of having simple waw, has the particle פָּנֻי before it, at least suggesting that the two constructions are interchangeable. Cf. the other possibility in vs. 7a, 7b, of this chapter. In 13 9a and 9b we have simple waw in the apodosis of two conditions. Of the "double waw" form in a relative condition we have 22 5a, 5b, and 50 5a and 5b. One of a similar type, but abbreviated, seems to be in 27 41, but instead of saying: "When the days of mourning for my father come", he says: "The days of mourning for my father draw near, and (then) I will kill etc." (or simply, "then I will kill"). In 43 4 we have a second apodosis, and in 49 7 the "intensive"
or synonymous usage. In 9 28 27 28, we have the "and may", or "and let" usage in a wish or petition. In 34 21a, 21b, we have the causal use = "therefore". cf. Ges.-Kautzsch, § 158. It is possible that the simple waw in 22 17, repeats the \( \text{\"{}and\"")\) at the beginning of the verse, but perhaps it is better to take it as = "so that". after the strong determination expressed in the verbs earlier in the sentence.

EXODUS

In the "coordinate" class we find: 3 10 4 18a 14 12 24 7 32 10a 35 10. "Then", 4 18b 9 28 14 17b 20 16 24 12 32 10c. Of the "that" type we have: 2 20 3 3, 18 4 18b, 23 5 3, 9 6 11 7 16, 19 8 4a, 4e, 16 9 1, 13, 22 10 3, 7, 12a 12b, 17, 21 11 2 14 2a, 2b, 4b, 15, 16, 26 17 2 27 20 32 10b 33 5, 13. There is a case of the "intensive" or synonymous usage in 19 13. In 12 3 we have the use after a time determination = then. And in 14 4a there is a case of "then" after the perf. consec. which latter may be translated: "to the end that he may pursue etc., and (then) I shall be honored". In 14 7a we have a case of "that" after a participle preceded by \( \text{\"{}and\"")\) (futurum instans), perhaps expressing the strong determination of the speaker. In 27 there is a case of "that" after a question. The causal usage, "therefore", appears in 15 2a, 2b 18 19 is a case of "and may" in a wish or prayer. The two cases, 26 24 and 28 28, in the directions for making the ark and ephod, seem to defy classification. In the first case the Samaritan has the impf. without waw, and in the second, the imperfect with waw, while the LXX has \( \text{\"{}and\"")\) and the third sing. fut. in the first case, and \( \text{\"{}and\"")\) and the second sing. fut. in the other. The Hebrew has the third plural in both cases. The first case follows what might be considered an imperative imperfect, and the other case has what might be considered an equivalent of the same (a conseq. perf.), hence it is possible to translate "so that"; in any case, the usage is quite abnormal.

LEVITICUS

Of the "that" cases we find: 9 b 24 2. In 15 24 the waw introduces a second protasis. In 26 43 the waw is in a sort of
apodosis, in a relative condition: "When the land shall be forsaken, then it shall enjoy...."

**NUMBERS**

Of the "coordinate" cases we find: 6 24, 25 26 10 35a, 35b 14 4 23 3, 10 24 7a, 7b. Probable "then" cases are 16 21 17 10 21 16, though some prefer to translate these cases by "that"; however, an appeal seems to be made to the parties, and then the result of acquiescing follows. Of the "that" cases we have: 5 2 9 8 11 13 13 2 17 2 25 18 2a, 2b 19 2 21 7 22 19 25 4 31 3. "That" may be the translation of the word at the beginning of the verse in 9 2; the word of command is missing. In 16 5 we have what Driver calls an apodosis to a time determination, "In the morning (then) the Lord will show...." Probably in 24 19, we have a case of "and may" in a strong wish, or a prayer. 17 3 is closely related; some would call it a "permissive edict". There is a case of "that" after an oath in 14 21 and one of "that" after a negative in 23 19. 14 12 has a case of the "double waw" with the vol膨胀tive, "When I dispossess them, (then) I will make thee...." There is a single case of waw taking the place of a particle before the imperfect, "Dan. 22 6.

**DEUTERONOMY**

Of the "coordinates" we find: 1 11 10 11a, 11b 13 3, 7, 14 20 5 6, 7, 8 32 1b, 38 33 6. Of the "then" cases we have: 9 14e 10 2 13 12 17 13 19 20 21 21 32 1a, 7a, 7b. Cases of "that": 1 13, 22a, 22b 3 25 4 16 5 28 9 14a, 14b 31 14, 28a, 28b. "That", after a question, is found in 30 12b, 12c. The simple waw in a second question is found in 12 30 and 30 12a. It is used after a practical equivalent of a time determination in 2 4, i.e. "Just now, as you are passing... (then) they are afraid." There is an unusual case of the adversative in 32 39, at least it suggests a contrast to man's way of thinking, i.e. that the destroyer and the restorer could be the same personality. Yet, the passage might be read: "I kill, and I also make alive." The sentence can hardly be concessive here as in Hos. 6 1b, 1c.
JOSHUA

"Coordinates": 7 5 18 4 b, 4 c, 4 d. Of the "then" class: 18 4 e. Of the "that" type: 4 f 18 4 a. In 7 e we appear to have the protasis of a relative condition introduced by simple waw. the apodosis beginning with a perf. consec.

JUDGES

Of the "coordinates" we have: 1 4 22 7 9 5 16 20 19 6, 9, 11 a, 13 25 20 11. "Then": 6 35 11 6. "That": 6 26 7 4 11 37 a, 37 b 13 8, 15 14 13, 15 16 25, 26, 28 18 5 19 1 b, 22 29 13 a, 13 b. There is a case of "that" after the optative in 9 28. In 6 e we should probably read impf. consec., cf. impfs. consec. on either side of it. It could scarcely be an impf. of customary or continued action in past time. In 20 6 a, 6 b some editions have impfs. consec. Driver classes this as one of a few instances in which the compensatory kames does not appear before 8, and so calls it the waw "consecutive".

1 SAMUEL

Of the "coordinate" type we find: 9 5, 9 11 14 a 14 1 6, 36 17 8 20 4 25 8 a 28 22 a. "That" cases are: 4 3 a, 3 b 5 11 7 5, 5, 9 26, 27 a, 27 b 11 12, 14 b 12 7, 17 15 1 7 1 15 21 a, 21 b 20 22 27 8 28 7 a, 7 b, 22 b 29 4. "That" after a question occurs in 12 3 a. Simple waw appears in the apodosis to a rel. condition in 20 4. It is found after a complex condition in 30 1 3. In 17 46, 47, we have "that" after perf. consec. expressing strong confidence. 18 17 might be classed as a case of a simple waw after a negative, but the force of the negative does not go over to this member of the sentence, so it is better to take the waw as adversative = but. The waw in 16 15 appears to be the continuation of the impf. introduced by 72 78.

In 26 22 a, 22 b the simple waw is preceded by a nominal sentence. Driver calls this waw, waw demonstrative, i. e. "So let etc." A condition is described and then the speaker, with the condition described as a basis for his request or demand, says:
“So let one of the young men come over...” Really, almost the same as the “and may”, or “and let”, in a petition or request, of which some examples have been given, yet the request feature does not seem quite so prominent. Likewise, perhaps in 30 22a, 22b. The petition feature comes out more strongly in 2 10a, 10b 20 13 24 15a, 15b, 15c 25 s.

II SAMUEL

“Coordinate” 2 14 3 21a, 21b 7 26 13 5, 6a, 15 14 16 9, 11 24 22. Of the “then” class: 17 1a, 1b, 2, 3 20 21. “That”: 3 21e 13 6b, 10 14 7a, 32 15 17 3 18 19 19 27a, 27b, 38 20 16 24 12. In 24 21 the waw follows an infinitive with 5 of purpose = that. In 14 7b the woman, in her excitement, gives the result as if it were a part of the purpose. We have “that” after a question in 9 1, 3 110 should probably be an impf. consec., cf. preceding impf. consec. The simple waw introduces the apodosis of a conditional sentence in 12 s. Driver calls the cases in 18 22, 23 examples of the waw demonstrative, and he translates: “Well, come what may”, apparently somewhat different from his other example in I Sam. 26 22, yet the background in the present instance is quite similar to the above mentioned petition or request form. In 22 43, perhaps, we have a case of customary past action, “then I used to etc.”, and so, probably, in vs. 48 of the same chapter. What we have in 22 47 is really another form of the petition or request form, i.e. a petition after ascribing praise. In 24 3 there is a clearer case of “and may” or “and let” in a petition. Then in 5 24 we have the other side of the matter, in a kind of “permissive edict”.

I KINGS

“Coordinates” 1 37, 47 20 31 21 7, 10a. “Then” appears in 13 7 18 1 19 20 20 25 21 2b. “That” is found in 1 2 21 5 20 11 21 13 6, 18a, 18b 17 19 18 37 21 2a, 10b. “That” after a question occurs in 12 9 22 7, 20a, 20b. 11 39 seems to be adversative; after enumerating what Jeroboam may expect if faithful, the prophet turns to the fortunes of the Davidic line, apparently by way of contrast. 8 59 is a case of “and may” in a prayer, and 18 23a
is one in a petition or request = “and let”. In 14.5 possibly something has fallen out. We should expect something like the following: “And let it be that when she enters disguised, (then) thou shalt say etc.”, i.e. the form of a relative conditional sentence. 13.33 may be an apodosis of a relative conditional clause, i.e. “whoever was pleased to consecrate himself, (then) he would become a priest of the high place”. Driver. Heb. Tenses. § 63, makes it a kind of result “that there might be priests of the high places”.

In 18.5 we have simple waw after ֻ and an impf., the same construction occurs after this particle and the perfect stative in 18.27. 22.6 is usually taken as “then”, i.e. “Go up, and (then) the Lord will give etc.”. Judging from the attitude of Jehoshaphat, and even of Ahab himself, one might be led to ask whether or not the imperfect and simple waw might be ambiguous here, i.e. = “and let”, or “and may”. However, in the case of Micaiah’s answer to the same question, as given in II Chron. 18.14, the same construction is used, but Ahab immediately perceives the irony in the tone, and adjures the prophet to speak nothing but the truth. Nor can we think that the perf. consec. used in verse 15 of I Kings 22, has any very different meaning, even if it is the correct reading. So, on the whole, it seems advisable to take “then” as the better translation in verse 6. Then the uncertainty of the two kings would arise, not from the form of the answer, but from the character of the court prophets.

II KINGS

“Coordinate”: 2.18, 4.16, 5.5, 6.2a, 2b, 7.4, 9a, 6b. “Then”: 6.13a, 13b, 19, 22c, 18.25, 25.24; also a case in 5.10 continuing a perf. consec., which is preceded by an infin. abs., used as an emphatic imperative. Of “that” cases we have: 4.42, 5.8, 6.17, 20, 22a, 22b, 28, 29.17, 27a, 27b, 27.19. “That”, after a question, occurs in 3.11, and “that” of purpose, after a perf. in 19.25. “And may”, in petition, occurs in 2.4.

We probably have a case of the double voluntative in a conditional relative sentence in 4.22a, 22b, and in 7.12, the apodosis of a relative conditional clause after א. In 3.27 most
editions have impf. consec. If we should read simple waw, perhaps we should translate “then”, or “so that”, cf. König, *Syntaxis*, § 364b. In 7:13 we have a case like that of I Ki. 18:23. the first waw and impf. = “and let”, in a wish or petition, then the other cases in the verse are coordinate to 13a. In 22:4, 5a, 5b, with the present text, we have what is practically the coordinate usage, i.e. “Go up ... and have (let) him ... and let ... and let ...”. 19:23a, 23b may be cases of “that” after a perf., though they may be impfs. of customary action in past time. In the former case, one could say that the impf. and simple waw had begun to be a stereotyped form to express purpose, such as we shall find in later books. The case for “that” after a perf. is more clear in 19:25. In 19:24 the use of the perf. consec. מִשָּׁלֹע makes it seem probable that both it and the preceding perf. are used of repeated action in the past. then the next verb, in poetical usage, is used in the imperf. to express what is the speaker’s intention for the future, or it may be that after boasting of the previous deeds performed, the speaker changes and would say: “Since I did all these things, I will also dry up etc.” Or, to put it more strongly, “Because I did all these things, therefore I will etc.”

**ISAIAH**

In Isaiah the classification becomes more difficult, because of the complex situations presented. It is not easy, for instance, to distinguish between the “then” and “that” usages after verbs. Then, as suggested in the notes on II Kings, some of the usages of the simple waw have become somewhat fixed, and we find them more and more after the perf. The doubtful cases are also more numerous than in the earlier books, as will be seen by the classification.

Of the “coordinates we have: 1 18 2 23a, 5 19a, 19b 7 6a, 6b, 6c 13 2 14 13 18 4 25 9b 26 11 35 1a, 1b, 2 38 21a 41 22a 43 9a1 45 a

1 The classification of 43 9a is given on the basis of considering מִשָּׁלֹע, preceding, as an imperative, as Kautzsch does (so Ewald, Olshausen, Hitzig and Delitzsch; Driver and Davidson doubtful; probably Dr. Buttenwieser would call it a precative perf. cf. a recent paper of his on the subject. König calls it a perf.).
47 13 50 10 55 7a 56 12. Of the "then" cases we have: 1 26 8 16 (ironical) 36 8 43 9d 44 16a. 16b 45 24 46 7a, 7b 55 3b, 7b 58 9 59 19. The "that" cases are: 2 3b, 3c 5 19c 26 2 35 4 37 2b 38 21b 41 22b, 22c, 23a, 23c, 23d, 25 42 21 43 9b 44 19 46 6 49 20 51 23 55 3a 65 5.

"Then" after a perf. appears in 31 2a, 2b (text?) 41 5, and "that" after a perf. in 8 11 25 9a 37 26 42 6a, 6b, 6c, and possibly in 63 6a, 6b, 6c, (or perhaps "so that"). For 37 24a, 24b cf. the notes on II Kings 19 23. "That" is found after a question in 19 12a, 12b 40 23 41 28a, 28b 46 5a, 5c, and "that" after a negative sentence occurs in 53 2a, 2b. Waw adversative is found in 34 11 (after a negative) 47 9 (after a negative). Possibly also 57 18a, 18b, 18c beginning "yet will I etc." Cases of the "intensive" or synonymous usage are found in 1 29 13 13 41 11a, 11b 42 14 44 17a, 17b 45 23 49 13 57 1; 59 7. There is a second case of "therefore" in 46 4, and one of "concomitant" action in 44 17e. In 5 29a, 29b, 29c we have a case of "intensive" usage, especially if we read the יִֽיָ. However, we may have a triple protasis, with a nominal sentence as apodosis (cf. three of the latter in verse 30).

There are some cases that may be classified as imps. frequentative of past time: 10 13a, 13b 48 8 57 17a, 17b 63 3a, 3b, 3c. We have examples of an apodosis to a causal clause (therefore): 43 4, 28a, 28b 47 11a (if not "intensive"). 11b. But in 28 26 waw = because. Waw = "or" is found 41 23b 43 9c. Waw and impf. is used in the protasis to a relative condition 41 28a, 28b, and the apodosis is so introduced in 41 28c. Further cases of waw and impf. in the protasis of a relative condition are: 5 30a, 30b, 30c 63 5a, 5b. Another case of an apodosis to a relative condition is 19 2a, but here the condition is introduced by וְ. A second apodosis is introduced by waw in 58 10. There are examples of protasis to a concessive clause (though) in 40 50a, 50b, and of a second apodosis to one in 12 1. For 37 25 cf. note on II Kings 19 24. וְנֵֽשָׁם nd impf. is followed by simple waw in 41 20a, 20b, 20e 43 10a, 10b, and וְנֵֽשָׁם and impf. is followed by simple waw in 1 24, 2a, 25b, 25c.

If the text is correct, we have a coordinate use in 8 2, after impv., "Let me have as witnesses". In 5 6 we have an impf. and simple waw "coordinate" to an infin. abs. for an emphatic imperative. Continued questions are found in 28 24 40 27 42 2.
In 45:24 there seems to be a case of verbal subordination = "come shamefacedly," otherwise, we have to translate "come, and then be ashamed."

Of the "and may" type: 38:16, possibly, "and do thou strengthen me." Driver says of the case in 49:5 that it seems to be used for the sake of variety. Yet, it might be the apodosis to a concessive clause, i.e. "though Israel . . . yet, I shall be honored." 49:8a, 8b are probably to be classified with the cases of "that" after the perf. "I did so and so, that I might keep thee . . . ." 64:3 is very doubtful because of the text, and, further, because of the uncertainty of the reference of "them" in חֹֽורַב. With the present text, the simple waw may be equivalent to "yet", i.e. the apodosis to a concessive clause.

In many of the above instances the commentators and grammarians would emend the text, i.e. would read waw consec. for simple waw, but the classification given above is an attempt to give possible reasons why the Masoretes used simple waw.

**JEREMIAH**

Of the "coordinate" type we find: 3:25 4:3 5:5 6:4, 5a, 5b 8:14a, 14b 9:17a, 17b 11:19 15:1 18:18a, 18b, 21 31:6 40:15 46:9, 16 48:6 (text?) 51:9. "Then": 7:3 16:19 17:14 20:10a 26:13 33:3a, 3b 38:20a, 20b 40:4, 9 42:12 (cf. preceding jussives). The "that" cases are rare in Jeremiah, indeed. Some of the "then" cases above are close to the "that" classification. However, we find the examples 9:16a, 16b 42:3. There is one case of "that" after a perf. 6:27. "That" after a question is found in 6:10b 9:11a, 11b 23:18a, 18b. "That" after a negative sentence is found in 5:28.

Somewhat after the style of the petition or prayer, we have the abrupt change in 13:10, "let them be as this girdle . . . . . . ." "implying the abandonment of the nation", (cf. Driver, *Tenses*, § 125). Of the "intensive" usage we have: 14:10 18:16 19:8. The case in 3:18 is a second impf. after a time determination, one of Driver's apodotic waw's, and 8:1 differs from it only in being the first impf. after the time determination. Examples of an apodosis to a condition are found in 5:1 15:19 23:22a, 22b. "That" is found after an optative expression in 8:23 9:1a, 1b.
Continued questions are found in 3 19 6 10a. The impf. with simple waw occurs in what seems to be a general conclusion in 51 58a, 58b (for the idea expressed cf. Hab. 2 13), perhaps we should translate "so that". A general conclusion of a somewhat different nature appears in 42 17, and we may translate by "thus", with the Revised Version, or by "for", with Coverdale. There is one case following the impf. and יִֽהְיָ֗ה are 20 10b, 11c 21 26 36 7. 10 19 seems to be causal. "therefore", cf. Exodus 15 2.

EZEKIEL

The strictly "coordinate" type was not found. "Then" 24 27 33 31a, 31b; after perf. conseq. 13 15 26 21. "That": 2 i 13 11 37 9 43 11.

In 5 14 we have the apodosis to a relative condition, whose protasis is introduced by לְ and an infin. = "When . . . . . . "then" . . . . . .". Another case of the same kind is found in 47 9. In 43 27 we have a prot. to a rel. cond. "And when are ended . . . . . ." 12 12, possibly = "in the darkness, (then) he shall go out", after the style of the simple waw after a time determination, cf. Ex. 12 3. In 14 7, there is a case of a double protasis with waw, "any man soever . . . . who shall separate himself . . . . and shall take up into his heart . . . . I will answer," i. e. if there be any such, I will answer. A somewhat similar sentence is found in 12 25, but with יִֽהְיָ֗ה in the protasis and simple waw in the apodosis, also 12 28 (for this indefinite expression cf. 1 Sam. 23 1.), practically equivalent to "If I say (command) a thing, it is done."

וַלְכָל and impf. is followed by simple waw in 6 6.

HOSEA

"Coordinates": 6 1a 13 11 14 6, 7, 8. "Then": 5 14 6 2 13 8a, 8b. "That": 2 4 6 3b. Of the "intensive" type we have: 8 13 10 a, perhaps also 13 15b. Then 13 15a is perhaps the apodosis, of which the participle is the protasis, i. e. "when it goes up . . . . . then it shall dry up . . . . ." In that case the two would form the
double apodosis. Another suggestion from the grammarians is
to take the "east wind" as a _casus pendens_, then the waws are
apodotic. In 4 6 we have the apodosis to a causal clause.
"therefore", also perhaps in 14 9. In 6 3 there is a general
conclusion, after viewing the situation, "then let us....." In
6 1b, 1b we have examples of an apodosis to a concessive clause
(the prot. of one is introd. by 
fol. by the perf., the other prot.
has the simple impf.). Apparently 
= though, here, but in
11 10 it has the force of "when", and is also followed by a
simple waw. A case somewhat similar to the last one is that
of 10 10, but instead of a particle followed by a verb for a
protasis, we have an adverbial phrase: "When it is my desire,
(then) I will chastise them". "That", after a question, occurs
in 13 10 14 10a, 10b. If the text is right, probably 11 4 is fre-
quentative (cf. the freq. at the beginning of the verse).

JOEL

"Coordinate" 4 12. Concomitant action 2 17, "While they
say....."

AMOS

"That", 4 1 9 1. "That" after a question, 8 5. Adversative,
5 24 9 10, the alternative use, here = "nor", for "or", see Isa.
41 23b. There is a case of simple waw and the impf. after
in 5 14.

OBADIAH

"Coordinate", verse 1.

JONAH


MICAH

"Coordinate", 1 2 4 2a, 11 6 1. "That", 4 2b, 2e. "Intensive".
1 8 7 17. In 7 10 there is a case of the double voluntative and
waw in a condition. 7 16 is almost of the same form except that
there is but one waw, so, perhaps, we should have classed it as
KELLY: THE IMPERFECT WITH SIMPLE WAW IN HEBREW

a “then” case above. 6 14 is the protasis of a relative condition. There is a case of the causal, “because” in 6 16.

NAHUM

No case found.

HABAKKUK

“Coordinate”, 2 1a, 1b. “That”, only after a negative question, 2 13. Waw after a time determination, 2 3. The “intensive” usage is found in 1 13a, 15b, 16. A second question (negative) is introduced by simple waw in 2 6, 7.

ZEPHANIAH

“Then” is found after a perf. (apparently prophetic) in 2 11. In 2 13a, 13b, 13c we have a double apodosis and a single protasis, “When . . . . . then . . . . . then . . . . .”

HAGGAI

“Then”, 1 8a, 8b.

ZECHARIAH

“Then”, 1 3 9 5a, 5b 10 8. “Intensive”, 3 2. In 10 6 we have a case of “therefore”, cf. Ex. 15 2 (causal). There is another causal = “because”, 11 5, preceded by the equivalent of an imperative, though it approaches the “that” usage = “that I am rich.” The adversative usage is found in 7 14. If the text is correct, there is a case of the frequentative impf. in 8 10, and that after a perf., or its equivalent. Perhaps we might translate, “For I used to send . . . . .” If the pointing is correct in 10 9, we probably have the protasis of a concessive clause, “though.”

MALACHI

Of the “coordinate type we have 1 4b, yet this might be taken as a second adversative, following the adversative 1 4a. “Then”, 3 7.

1 96a, 5b is like Micah 7 16, except that there are two waws following the first statement.
"That", 19319. 110 is usually translated "that" after a question, but it might be taken as subordinate after an optative expression (if it is such): "Would there be one among you that would close . . . ."

PSALMS

"Coordinate" 23512c 259 2714 314, 25 34 4 35 4b, 26, 27a, 27b 4015a 15b 45 5 64 11 68 2, 4 69 31 70 3b, 5a, 5b 71 2, 21 72 11, 15b, 15c, 16 17 83 5, 18c 90 17 91 15b, 16 96 11 107 22a. 22b 107 32 109 11, 15, 29 119 15 129 5 138 2 141 5 144 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b2. Of the "then" class we find: 28 4 9 4 18 38 (cf. II Sam. 22 38); 22 27, 28a, 32 27 6a 34 3 37 4 40 4a, 4b 42 5 43 4a, 4b 45 12 50 7a, 7b, 15 51 9 55 7, 20 58 12 67 8 69 32 77 4a, 4b 81 9, 11 86 9a, 9b, 17b 90 14a, 14b 91 15a 102 16 (dependent on vs. 14), 27 104 29, 32 107 42 118 17 119 27, 33, 34a, 34b, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48a, 48b, 74, 77, 88, 116, 117a, 117b, 134, 146, 175 145 19. The "that" cases are: 24 7, 9 41 11 59 14 81 16 (Driver, "so that") 83 17, 19 86 17a 90 12 109 27 119 18, 42, 115, 125, 144. "That" after a question occurs in 107 43a, 43b.

"That", after a negative is found in 49 10 (going back to vs. 8, vs. 9 being a parenthesis). Of the "intensive" type, we have: 7 18 9 3 21 10, 14 22 28b 27 6b 31 8 35 4a 28 37 29 40 15a, 17 41 3 52 7 55 3, 18 57 8 66 4 68 4 69 38 70 3a, 5a 71 2 83 4, 18a, 18b 95 6 108 2, 4 118 24 138 7 139 10 145 1, 2. Beginning a request or petition, "and may", or "and let", we find: 9 10 18 47 59 13, 15a (? cf. vs. 7) 72 8, 15a 19 119 41 145 21. Waw and imperf. occur after מָלָם in 78 6, 7, and after מ in 2 12. In causal clauses, we have waw for "therefore", 91 14 118 28 (cf. Ex. 15 2), and for "because", 5 12b 49 9 72 14. Cases in which the reason follows the simple waw and imperf. 4 9 11 52 11 86 12 138 5. "For", in parenthesis, occurs in 49 9. In 52 8 there is a case of a double waw in a rel. cond., and perhaps the same in 7 6a, 6b, if these are not simple "coordinates". There seems to be a case of an abbreviated concessive sentence in 59 5, "without guilt (on my part), they run and prepare themselves" (double apodosis), the whole being equivalent to "though I am not guilty . . . . yet . . . ." There is a case of a second question in 42 3. The adversative

2 Note in 144 6 the strict continuance of the impv. in the impf.
usage is found in 5 12a 7 19. Imperfs. of customary action (past
time) occur in 18 43. probably also in 18 46. cf. parallel passage
in II Samuel 22. Verbal subordination, using simple waw and the
imperf. is found in 57 4 107 20a, 20b (cf. Ges.-Kautzsch,
§ 120 d. e). Of concomitant action we have: 50 21 59 7, 15b 73 7
77 2 (with ellipsis of the preceding verb) 85 4 (giving heed) 97 3
104 30. In 51 18. we have a case of "so that", or "else", and in
55 13a, 13b, cases of "then", or "else", (cf. Driver, Tenses, § 64.
on these passages). Both follow negatives. As positives they
could be stated in the form of conditions. In 65 5, there is a
second verb after a construct with a clause. merely another case
of the coordinate function of waw.

PROVERBS

"Coordinate" 1 1: 23 3: 31 .a. "Then" 3 10, 22 4 8a, 6b, 8 9 b,
9a, 9b 16 20 22 22 10a, 10b 25 29 17a, 17b. "That", 27 11 31 7.
"Then", after perf., 22 3 (perf. probably of general truth).
Causal (therefore) 1 31. After imper. and מ, 31 5a, 5b. After
imperf. and מ 9 11 (really intensive).

JOEL

"Coordinate". 9 27 21 2. "Then", 6 10a, 10b 12 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b
13 17a, 13b 15 18 7, 14 22 18, 27 23 7 24 23, 27 21a 30 22 33 33 38 3.
"That", 10 2 14 4 21 19 31 3 (really after an optative) 32 20a, 20b.
In 38 14, 1 4, 7, we probably have "so that", i.e. they should
be classified with "that" above. "That", continuing an infin. of
purpose with מ is found in 38 1. "That", after a perf., occurs
in 16 4. "Then", occurs after a perf. in 34 3, also in 31 3, and
we seem to have a similar construction in 29 21a, 21b. "they
listened for me, then waited and were silent," though the two
forms might be of concomitant action, "they listened for me
(to speak), waiting in silence." There is a case of verbal subor-
dination in 69b, also in 69e, and one in 23 3, after a perf. The

1 38 3, "their light" is: ironical.
In 31 note the actual 18 (then) in place of the simple waw, in the
winter tichon.
frequentative with simple waw is found, after another frequentative of past time, in 29 23, 25a, 25b. One is found after a perf. of experience in 41 21. Of continued questions, we find 3 11 7 21 13 24 15 2, 8 18 4 19 2 21 17 24 25 39 11 40 29. Of the “intensive” type we have: 14 11 15 33 20 8 21 12 27 21b 23 34 20a, 20b 36 15 37 1 39 28 41 16. Then we find the simple waw and imperfect after impf. and 7 מ 2 3 28, 27a, 27b 15 5 34 37, or ה, 15 4 (or is מ omitted as some say?), or זילעל, 22 10, or ל ז 22 26. There is a case of concomitant action in 26 11. “That” after a question occurs in 41 3. There is a continued protasis of a concessive sentence in 20 13, and an apodosis to a concessive clause is found in 17 9. The protasis of a double waw condition occurs in 5 4, and in 10 16a. Both protasis and apodosis occur in 22 28. These are the so-called “relative conditions”. The apodosis to an ordinary condition is found in 12 5a 13 19 (i. e. introd. by waw), the protasis being introduced by a particle. In 12 15b, 15c, we have the same construction for the apodosis, but the protasis has waw instead of the particle. Continued apodosis is found in 10 16b, 17 16 4 36 12 and continued protasis in 9 11 11 10a, 10b 14 21 16 6 19 5 31 17 36 11. An apodosis to a rel. cond. (not introd. by waw), is found in 20 23 and 23 15. Of 20 23 we may say that it should be translated: “Let it happen that when he fills . . . . then let . . . .” A second rel. protasis occurs in 34 29. A simple waw after an optative = “that”, 6 9a 11 5, 6 19 23a, 23b. A second verb after an optative, with waw = “then”, 13 5 14 13 23 5. Instances of “apodotic waw” after casus pendens, 15 17 35 14. “For” (assigning a reason), 27 22. In 30 26 there seems to be an error in pointing, cf. the preceding parallel stichos, which has impf. consec. It can scarcely be a frequentative.

SONG OF SONGS

“Coordinates” 1 4 3 2 4 16. “That”, 7 1, and after a question, 6 1. Possibly 7 9 may be a case of “and let”, similar to the usage in a wish, or petition, in other books.

RUTH

LAMENTATIONS

“Coordinate”, 3 2:40a, 40b. “Then”, 5 21. “That”. occurs after the perf., in 1 19 3 26, possibly, also in 1 21, though it would seem better to read with the Syriac (אנה עֲלָךְ) for (אנה לְךָ), unless one admits that the Hebrew has a precative perf. (cf. a recent paper by Dr. Buttenwieser). There is an instance of “that” after a question in 2 13, and one of a second protasis in 3 8. In 3 30, we have simple waw after an impf. and (אנה).

ECCLESIASTES

Here there does not appear to be a strict adherence to the consecutive usage, hence what occurs with simple waw is doubtful. One true “coordinate” is 11 9. Approaching the same usage we have 12 6a, 6b, 6c, after and a negative particle followed by an impf.: apparently the three particles are understood as being replaced by the waw. 12 5a, 5b, 5c, appear to be causal clauses, referring to the beginning of the verse. In 12 4a, 4b there appear to be further cases of apodosis to (אנה בְּךָ) whose first apodosis is the first part of the verse. In 2 19 we have a form of the adversative, “and yet”. 1 18 appears to be the protasis to a second condition. 8 10, as Barton thinks, may be of customary action of past time. In 7 7 there is a case of an impf. after (אנה).

ESTHER


DANIEL

Only the Hebrew portion will be considered. “Coordinate”. 1 12a, “Then”, 1 13. “Then” after a participle 12 12. “That”, 1 12b, 12c. Causal (“for”), probably, 12 4, 13a, 13b; (“therefore”). 9 25a, 25b. “Intensive”, 12 10a, 10b. The eleventh chapter of this book is usually set down as defying classification with regard to the simple waw and impf. Yet, where we have so many cases of the perf. consec. along with the impf. and simple waw, the
original writer must have used the different forms with some degree of discrimination, for, in many cases, the impf. consec. is out of the question. Perhaps with König we may take 114 as final, “that”, or even “so that” (result), so also perhaps verse 22. Possibly the waw at the beginning of v. 5 = “then”, going back to the “when” of v. 4, i.e. when all this is fulfilled .... “then ....” In that case, the next simple waw, in v. 5, according to the Hebrew accents, would be adversative = “but”. In 7a, 7b there seems to be an instance of double waw in a relative condition; likewise in 10a, 10b, also in 15a, 15b, and the protasis of another condition is found in v. 16a, the apodosis having a participle. 16b would be a general conclusion following the preceding. At the beginning of v. 11, the waw refers back to v. 10, and = “then”. The same may be said of v. 17, as related to v. 16, and the same construction, “then”, is continued in vs. 18 and 19. At the beginning of v. 25, we have a protasis of a relative condition. The same may be said of v. 28, but it has no finite verb in the apodosis. In v. 30, there is a case of verbal subordination = “again he shall”. Possibly v. 45 also has a protasis to a relative condition. In v. 40 waw probably represents “then”. In v. 36a, 36b we have instances of concomitant action.

EZRA

In the Hebrew portion of this book, there are two instances of simple waw, both being “coordinate”, 1 3a, 3b.

NEHEMIAH

“Coordinate”, 6 2, 7, 10 9 5. “That”, 5 2b, 2c. “That” after a participle is found in 5 3. There is an instance of “therefore let”, after a statement of conditions, in 5 2a, however, some supply the participle in this passage as in 5 3, thus making the constructions the same. In 2 5 815 we have simple waw and the impf. and ישן = “that” (conjunction); simple waw is also used after נַלְמָל and impf. in 6 13. In 3 14, 15a, 15b we have impfs. of past time, if the text is correct, also in 9 28. In 9 27
the waw is almost "who", though it might be translated "that they might save them".

I CHRONICLES


II CHRONICLES

"Coordinate", 19 11 24 32. "Then", 7 26 10 4. "That", 110a, 10b 12 8 16 2 28 22 30 6 8; after a question. 18 6. Continued protasis. 7 14a, 14b, 14c, 14d. Contin. apod. 7 14e, 14f. Prot. and double apod. 29a, 9b, 9c. Additional cases of "that" after a question are 19 9 18 19a, 19b 36 23. "That" after expression of strong desire or wish 29 10. "And let", or "and may", in entreaty or prayer, 18 12. For 18 5 cf. 1 Ki. 22 5, and for 18 14, cf. 1 Ki. 22 15. In the latter passage we have תנן instead of impf. pl. Niphal ינהנ of Chron. Waw and impfs. of customary action. 24 11a, 11b, 11c.