

ABSTRACT

THE ADVERB עוֹד IN BIBLICAL HEBREW:
SYNTAX, SEMANTICS AND CHRONOLOGY

Emmanuel Mastey

This study is aimed at providing the syntactic description of one particle, namely the adverb עוֹד, which functions in four senses: still, again, anymore, and a fourth sense that is designated in this study as ‘the prophetic עוֹד’. The boundaries of the word’s use are characterized chronologically, first setting out the basic rules emerging from its appearance in the corpus of Classical Biblical Hebrew. These are strictly adhered to throughout the entire corpus, amounting to hundreds of occurrences. This framework is then used to test the usage of the word in later periods. When we approach texts that are indisputably late, deviations from the rules begin to emerge, each requiring a specific explanation, but all reflecting a substantial departure from the syntactic characteristics of Classical Biblical Hebrew. Some of these changes appear to have taken root in post-biblical Hebrew, while others remained temporary deviations. Thus, the adverb עוֹד opens up a window to the ways in which classical syntax was applied in later periods, demonstrating a gradual disintegration of the ancient linguistic framework that by all indications moves on a chronological axis.