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PARENTHESIS IN BIBLICAL HEBREW

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The paper belongs to the area of Biblical Hebrew linguistics. The purpose of this paper is to isolate, collect, and analyze several types of parenthetical means and expressions which are employed in Biblical Hebrew, and to present them from the point of view of describing the options to insert parenthetical information into Biblical Hebrew texts. The parenthetical means and expressions are classified in two major groups: parenthetical words and phrases within a clause and full clauses which express external information in a chain of clauses. The terms parenthesis, parenthetical expression or remark, parenthetical unit or entity, and the like, are to be regarded in this paper as referring to any information external to a sentence. This information can be expressed by a single word, a phrase, or a clause. The following is a Biblical Hebrew example of a parenthetical remark which involves a full clause: Exod. 1:5 - וַיְהִי כֹל-נֶפֶשׁ יִצְחָק-יַעֲקֹב - “All the offspring of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt.” The parenthetical information in this verse deviates from the general description of Jacob’s descendants who went to Egypt in order to explain the whereabouts of one of them who was not included in the count. The clause includes a suffix auxiliary verb and should be considered as also involving word order inversion in comparison to the first clause initiated by a *wayyiqtol* prefix conjugation form.