

I. **אֵת**, with makk. **אֵתְּ** — the mark of the accusative, prefixed as a rule only to nouns that are *definite*. In postB Heb., used in combination with another prep.

1. As mark of the accus. prefixed to subst. defined either by the art. (or **כֹּל**), or by a genitive or pron. affix, or in virtue of being proper names:

a. with transitive verbs. Similarly **אֵת־מִי** *whom* (in particular), (but never **אֵת־מָה**); also with **זֶה**, **זֹאת**, **אֵלֶּה**. So pretty uniformly in prose; but in poetry **אֵת** is commonly dispensed with. By the use of **אֵת** the pron. affix, a pron. can at once, if required, be placed in a position of emphasis. It also sometimes enables the reflexive sense to be expressed (elsewhere **נִפְשָׁם**). Rarely with a subst. which is undefined; or which, though definite, is without the art.

b. with a *passive* verb conceived as expressing neutrally the action in question and construed accordingly with an *accus.* of that which is its real object: exx. occur with tolerable frequency.

c. with *neuter* verbs or expressions, esp. such as involve the idea of *regarding*, or *treating*, appy. by a constr. *κατὰ σύνεσις* (rare).

d. poet. (*si vera l.*), after an abstr. noun used with a verbal force.

2. **אֵת** marks an accus. in other relations than that of direct obj. to a verb: **a.** with verbs of motion (very rare); denoting the goal. **b.** denoting time (duration), also very rare. **c.** expressing the accus. of limitation (rare).

3. Chiefly in an inferior or later style, **אֵתְּ** (or **אֵתְּךָ**) is used irregularly, partly (α), as it would seem, to give greater definiteness (so esp. **אֵתְּךָ**) at the mention of a new subject (when it may sometimes be rendered *as regards*), or through the influence of a neighbouring verb (a constr. *κατὰ σύνεσις*), or by an anacoluthon, partly (β) as resuming loosely some other prep.