

I. בְּ, prep. **in**.I. *In*:

1. strictly, of position *in* a place (which often is expressed more precisely by בְּקֶרֶב, בְּתוֹךְ, בְּתוֹךְ). Preceded by a verb of motion (esp. עָבַר. בְּ = *through*).
2. of presence in the midst of a multitude, *among*. (diff. from עִמָּךְ *beside* thee). Spec. **a.** of an individual, implying eminency among. **b.** hence with some verbs, when the action refers to only a part of the object, as בְּ הִכָּה to smite *among* ... i.e. to smite some of ... (diff. from הִכָּה with accus.). **c.** specifying the parts of which a whole consists.
3. with reference to the limits enclosing a space, *within*.
4. often pregn. with verbs of motion, when the movement *to* a place results in rest *in* it, *into*: after בָּא, נָתַן, שָׁלַח, נָתַן, בָּא, שָׁב, עֵין בְּעֵין (with) eye (looking) *into* eye; בְּ פָנִים בְּפָנִים; בְּ עֵינֵי פ' the eyes of ... are *upon*, both in favorable and hostile sense.
5. applied to *time*.
6. of a state or condition, whether material or mental, *in* which an action takes place.
7. בְּ introduces the *predicate*, denoting it as that *in* which the subj. consists, or *in* which it shows itself **a.** a primary pred. With the pred. in the plural. **b.** a secondary pred. **c.** a pred. as accus. **d.** in comparisons, *in the form of*, *as*.

II. Denoting proximity

1. at, *by* (rare).
2. *on*.
3. often with verbs of *touching*, *approaching*, *taking hold of*, *cleaving*, etc.
4. with words expressing or implying an act of hostility **a.** against. **b.** *down to*, *upon* (*super* with accus.).

III.

1. **With a.** of accompaniment. **b.** often of what one takes or brings with one. Hence בְּאֵין, בְּאִפְס, בְּבִלְי, בְּלֹא = *without*. **c.** of concomitant (or surrounding) conditions.
2. of the instrument or means: as **a.** *with*, *by*, *through*. **b.** idiom., with certain verbs, *with*, *by*, *by means of*. **c.** בִּיהוָה *through* ה' (= by His aid). **d.** allied is the use of בְּ in such phrases as to bless, swear, speak, prophesy, etc., בְּשֵׁם *in the name of* ... (i.e. the name being used or appealed to in the act); almost = *in* the authority and power of. **e.** בְּמָה or בְּמָה *by means of what? how? בְּזֹאת by means of this; with this = on this condition*.
3. of cost or price (the *Beth pretii*), the price, whether given or received, being treated as the instrumental means by which the act is accomplished, *with*, *for*, *at the cost of*:
 - a.** with שָׂכַר *hire*, פָּדָה *redeem*, אֲרֵשׁ *betroth*, קָנָה *buy*; בְּנַפְשׁוֹ *at the cost of his life* hath A. spoken this word, who went בְּנַפְשָׁתָם *at peril of their lives*, יִסְדָּנָה *at the price of his firstborn* shall he lay its foundations, בְּרֵאשֵׁינוּ *to the jeopardy of our heads* he will fall away, etc.
 - b.** with מָכַר *sell*; עָעַר *serve*; הִמִּיר *exchange* their glory I will exchange *for* ignominy; בְּנִשְׁךְ נָתַן *to give for* interest; in other connexions; נָפֶשׁ בְּנַפְשׁ עֵין בְּעֵין *life for life, eye for eye*; בְּמָה הֶחָשֵׁב הוּא *at what is he to be accounted?* a thousand vines בְּאֶלֶף כֶּסֶף *at a thousand (shekels of) silver*. Hence (perhaps) the idiom usages בְּשָׁנָה בְּשָׁנָה *year for year*, one year like another, yearly; יוֹם בְּיוֹם (late), יוֹם בְּיוֹם *yearly*; בְּחָרֶשׁ (פָּעַם, יוֹם); בְּפָעַם בְּפָעַם; כְּיוֹם; חָרֶשׁ.
4. rather peculiarly, in certain cases where the object of an action may be treated as the *instrument* by which it is effected: as הִנִּיעַ *to shake with* the head (הִנִּיעַ רֵאשׁ); to open *with* the mouth, *with* the lips; to gnash *with* the teeth (to gnash the teeth); to wink *with* the eye (to wink the eye, *ib.*); נָתַן בְּקוֹל *to utter with* the voice (but נָתַן קוֹל is more common); to stretch out *with* the hand; בְּמִטָּה

הַרִים (unusual). So קָרָא בְּשֵׁם to call *with* the name — in diff. senses, acc. to the context, viz. *proclaim*; to *invoke*; to *name honourably*.

5. with a causal force, *through, on account of; because of; & (sts.) in בְּרַבַּר at, through, the word of ...*

6. of the material *with* which a work is wrought, both absol. עָשָׂה בְּזָהָב to work *with* gold; and to make a thing *with* (in our idiom, *of*) gold.

7. *with* for *although, in spite of*. **8.** of a standard of measurement or computation, *with, by*.

IV. בְּ is used also with certain classes of verbs, though the explanation of its use may be sometimes doubtful: viz.

a. with verbs of *taking refuge, trusting, relying*, as בָּטַח, חָסָה, הֶאֱמִין.

b. with verbs of *ruling, governing, restraining*, as מָלַךְ, מָשַׁל, נָגַשׁ, עָצַר, רָדָה, שָׁלַט.

c. with verbs of *rejoicing, feeling pleasure or satisfaction*, etc., as שָׂשׂ, עָלֵץ, גִּיל (but with this verb מִן is more common). [Prob. a case of **III. 5.**]

d. with verbs expressive of sensible perception, to denote the pleasurable or attentive exercise of the faculty concerned, as שָׁמַע בְּ to listen *to*, הִבִּיט בְּ, חָזָה, רָאָה, הִבִּיט בְּ, to look *upon*, הִרִיחַ בְּ, to smell *at* (*see these words*).

e. occasionally also with verbs of *speaking, thinking, mentioning, knowing*, to denote the object of the action, as דִּבֶּר בְּ to speak *about* (v. sub דִּבֶּר); הִלֵּל בְּ, הִזְכִּיר oft.; זָכַר; יָדַע; שָׁיַח, הִגִּיד, תְּהַלְלֵנִי בְּךָ *of* thee is my praise.

V. Followed by an inf. c., בְּ forms a periphrasis for the gerund, though in English it is commonly to be rendered by a verb and conj., viz.:

1. as a *temporal* conj., as בְּהִבְרָאם *in their being created = when they were* created, בְּהִיוֹתָם *in their being (= when they were)* in the field; and constantly. Sometimes it has in appearance the force of *after that*; but as a rule this is really due to the action denoted by the inf. being treated as extending over a period *within* which the action of the principal verb takes place.

2. as a *causal* conj. (cf. above **III. 5**), as יְעַלְיוּ בְּחַמְלַת *through J.'s having compassion upon* him, אֶתְנוּ בְּשִׂנְאֵת *through J.'s hating us*, etc. (similarly מִן), (= *in that* ye have ...)

3. as a *concessive* conj., *when = through*: אֲרֵץ בְּהִמְיֹר *though* the earth do change.
