The matter of the relative pronoun/ clause is a rather interesting problem in almost any language. In English it is a good deal simpler than in most other languages. As compared with Hebrew particularly, Hebrew is perhaps more logical but the English is a good bit simpler. Consequently, there are certain constructions in the Hebrew relative clauses which we do not find in the English. Now we can divide the subject of Hebrew relative clauses right away into two types. One of the types is sometimes called independent and the other dependent in the Hebrew. At other times the independent is called complete and the dependent is called incomplete. In English we do not have the independent or complete relative clause but only the other. Now as an example the dependent relative clause is just like it is in English: I say, "The man who told me that is dead." "Who told me that" is like an adjective; it is a clause which takes the place of an adjective and modifies the noun giving us further understanding of the meaning of the noun. This is a dependent relative clause, one which takes the place of an adjective in modifying a noun or antecedent as we sometimes say, the antecedent thus being expressed. I think that is clear, isn't it? That is, the dependent relative clause.

Now in Hebrew you can take the relative clause and use it not merely in the place of an adjective but also in place of a noun. In English we cannot do that as a rule except in a very few cases. Ordinarily we have to supply a noun or pronoun and make the relative clause modify it. Thus, if I would say in English:"He who did that is dead," the word "he" is the antecedent of the relative clause and the relative modifier. In Hebrew you don't need an antecedent. You would just say, "Who did that is dead." Now there is a sentence in Old English, "Who steals my purse steals trash." In that case the "who steals my purse" is an independent relative clause which in modern English would be expressed, "The man who steals my purse steals trash." I think that makes clear then the two types of relative clauses.

Now another thing to notice about the relative clauses is that in English the