



## Unlocking meaning: Truth-conditional semantic and syntactic analysis in the Bible

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### DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.30995/kur.v10i2.925>

### Article History

Submitted: Dec. 15, 2023

Reviewed: March 25, 2024

Accepted: Aug. 30, 2024

### Keywords:

christian Bible;  
conditional sentence;  
syntactic analysis; truth-  
conditional semantic

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This research examined complex conditional sentences in the Christian Bible through truth-conditional semantics and syntactic analysis to uncover theological messages. Using a qualitative approach, 20 verses were analyzed and categorized into four types of conditional sentences based on Ferdinand de Saussure's syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations. The methodology included word analysis, structural classification, context correlation, and historical and theological considerations. The findings revealed that conditional sentences predominantly featured compound-complex structures with active voice, emphasizing subjects and actions. They adhered to declarative formats, reflecting truth-telling principles in religious contexts. The complex structures and subordinate clauses conveyed conditions, reasons, and situations, demonstrating the interplay between syntax and semantics. Socially, this research promoted spiritual growth, critical thinking, and ethical understanding, fostering personal transformation and reflective faith. It equipped religious leaders with tools for more accurate scriptural interpretation and clarified how biblical language supports moral imperatives, ethical frameworks, and interfaith dialogue. Overall, this research contributed to the holistic development of individuals and communities while maintaining the Bible's relevance in shaping social behavior aligned with Christian teachings.

## Introduction

Truth-conditional semantics suggests that beyond the meaning of words, contextual information shapes how humans understand the truth and meaning of sentences. This approach also suggests that the human ability to use language effectively relies on understanding how sentences are structured. In specific cases, when someone says if "P", then "Q", for it to be true, the situation described by if "P" should be different from the actual situation if only the necessary ways are available to make "P" true. This idea implies that our choice of possible worlds should be ordered based on how much they differ from the actual world while still making the sentence facts true.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, truth-conditional semantics serve as linguistic tools to express connections between conditions and their potential consequences. They are vital for conveying hypothe-

<sup>1</sup> Wenshan Li and Liu Jiang, "About What About: The Semantics and Syntax of Irregular Wh-Questions in English," *Linguistics* 61, no. 1 (2023): 159–195. <https://doi.org/10.1515/ling-2020-0130>.

ticals, cause-and-effect links, and diverse meanings.<sup>2</sup> However, these sentences are not solely defined by grammar; context, intent, and situations shape understanding for effective communication. Such sentences portray situations that must occur for another event to be possible, permitted, or realized.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, truth-conditional semantics are tied to time, hypothesis, and inference. They enable reasoning about alternatives, deductions from limited data, imagining correlations between situations, and grasping possible outcomes.<sup>4</sup>

Conditional sentences have a complex two-clause structure: a subordinate clause and a main clause. Translating them is sensitive, as errors can distort meaning and the relationship between actions and reality. In logic, this statement clarifies that if we have the sentence “S, it is linked to another sentence “S.” If S implies “S” and “-S also implies “S”, then S’s truth depends on whether “S” is true. But, if “S” is not true, determining if S is true or false becomes uncertain; it is a third logic value, “nonsense,” suggesting unclear truth.<sup>5</sup> Thus, English categorizes conditional sentences by time frames and probabilities: First conditional for likely future events, second for less likely situations, and third for unreal past events. Each type corresponds to a specific syntactic structure: Zero conditional for universal truths (if + present tense, present tense), first conditional for hypothetical likely situations (if + present tense, future tense), second conditional for less likely events (if + past tense, conditional tense), and third conditional for unreal past events (if + past perfect tense, conditional perfect tense).<sup>6</sup> Conditional sentences and their syntactic structure are closely related through alignment. Each type of conditional has its unique syntactic patterns that convey the relationship between the condition and the result. These syntactic structures create connections in time and logic between different parts of the sentence, helping readers or listeners grasp the intended meaning and how real the situation is meant to be.<sup>7</sup>

Christian bible lacks a clear definition of conditional clauses and what is considered real or unreal. Generally, a verb is unreal when the situation's reality is uncertain. For conditional clauses, a “real” condition means it is possible but uncertain, and context affects interpretation due to personal beliefs.<sup>8</sup> Based on this statement, this research is necessary due to underlying research problems: First, the ancient language and cultural differences in the Christian bible make accurate modern interpretation challenging. The goal is to capture and interpret ancient contexts faithfully. Second, analyzing sacred texts like the Christian bible requires an approach that respects both linguistic integrity and religious importance. Third, insights from linguistic

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<sup>2</sup> Goldin Michelle, Julio Cesar Lopez Otero, and Esther Hur, "How Frequent Are These Verbs? An Exploration of Lexical Frequency in Bilingual Children's Acquisition of Subject-Verb Agreement Morphology," *Isogloss* 9, no. 2 (2023): 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.5565/rev/isogloss.194>.

<sup>3</sup> Hashim Aliwy Mohammed Alhuseini, "Words of Inclusiveness in English and Arabic Religious Texts," *Journal of Education College Wasit University* 1, no. 34 (2019): 613–634. <https://doi.org/10.31185/eduj.vol1.iss34.820>.

<sup>4</sup> Marti Genoveva and Jose Martinez Fernandez, "On 'actually' and 'dthat': Truth-conditional Differences in Possible Worlds Semantics," *Filozofia* 26, no. 3 (2019): 491–504.

<sup>5</sup> Farahnak Farhood and Leila Kosseim, "Using conditional sentence representation in pointer networks for sentence ordering," in *Proceedings - 2021 IEEE 15th International Conference on Semantic Computing, ICSC 2021* (2021): 288–295, <https://doi.org/10.1109/ICSC50631.2021.00056>.

<sup>6</sup> Liljana Mitkovska and Eleni Bužarovska, "Contrasting a phenomenon at the syntax-discourse interface: Subject-verb inversion in English and in Macedonian," *Jezikoslovlje* 24, no. 1 (2023): 79–104, <https://doi.org/10.29162/jez.2023.3>.

<sup>7</sup> Dave Kush, Terje Lohndal, and Jon Sprouse, "On the island sensitivity of topicalization in Norwegian: An experimental investigation," *Language* 95, no. 3 (2019): 393–420, <https://doi.org/10.1353/lan.2019.0051>.

<sup>8</sup> Terry Godlove, "Truth, Meaning, and the Study of Religion," *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 30, no. 4-5 (2018): 357-377. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15700682-12341428>

analysis can influence how religious teachings are communicated to different audiences where precise interpretation captures essential messages.

Scholars have examined the diverse semantic relationships of conditionals and the pivotal role of context in determining meaning. The first finding highlights context's significance, such as linguistic, cognitive, and social, to grasp conditional meanings (Santorio, 2018). The second finding reveals how conditionals convey possibilities, regrets, volition, and cognitive reasoning.<sup>9</sup> The third finding reveals the complexity of conditionals in French, conveying possibilities, wishes, regrets, and volition.<sup>10</sup> The fourth finding shows conditional sentences' role in softening suggestions or commands. The fifth finding identifies several examples of applying semantic and syntactic analysis in interpreting the Bible influenced by local contexts in various regions of Indonesia, demonstrating how Christian teachings are applied while considering local customs and culture. For instance, in Flores, Christian teachings are often integrated with traditional solid customs, such as in wedding or funeral ceremonies. Matthew 5:18, which emphasizes the absoluteness of God's law, is usually interpreted literally as a prohibition against altering Christian teachings. However, there is an effort to combine Christian teachings with local cultural elements, such as traditional dances or rituals, while still upholding the principles of faith. Semantic approaches are used to interpret the meaning of biblical verses to make them relevant to local traditions, translating commitment to God's law as fidelity to morality that aligns with customary values. Meanwhile, syntactic analysis helps adjust the structure of traditional rituals to align with Christian teachings without altering the core theological meaning. Next, in Tana Toraja, the grand 'Rambu Solo' funeral ceremony, rich in traditional elements, is often integrated with Christian teachings on salvation and life after death, as reflected in John 11:25-26 about resurrection and eternal life. Despite the ceremony's strong emphasis on ancestral worship, it incorporates Christian theological concepts through prayers and hymns during the procession. Semantic analysis bridges the understanding of Christian salvation with local beliefs about ancestral spirits. At the same time, syntactic approaches organize the structure of rituals to respect church liturgy and the meaning of Christian teachings. Furthermore, in the Batak Toba community, the Martumpol (marriage covenant) ceremony integrates Batak customs with Christian traditions, where clan exchange and family recognition are carried out alongside church liturgy. Verses like 2 Corinthians 6:14, which contains a conditional statement, read: "If two people are not of the same faith, how can they walk together?" This verse emphasizes the importance of unity in faith within Christian marriage, semantically interpreted in Martumpol as a sacred commitment between two families. Syntactic approaches arrange the order of traditional processes to align with the church blessing, creating harmony between customary values and Christian teachings.<sup>11</sup> The sixth finding uncovers that French students often misinterpret present factual conditionals as predictive ones, mistakenly adding "will."<sup>12</sup> The seventh finding highlights the neglect of

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<sup>9</sup> Gabe Dupre, "Idealisation in Semantics: Truth-Conditional Semantics for Radical Contextualists," *Inquiry* 66, no. 5 (2023): 917-946, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2020.1712225>.

<sup>10</sup> Marziyeh Nekouezadeh and Taher Bahrani, "The Effect of Conversational Shadowing on Teaching and Learning Conditional Sentences," *International Journal of Language Learning and Applied Linguistics World* 4, no. 253 (2013): 2289-3245.

<sup>11</sup> Wiliansyah Pikoli, Yosafat Hermawan Trinugraha, and Yuhastina Yuhastina, "Peran Tokoh Agama Islam, Hindu, dan Kristen dalam Menjaga Kerukunan Beragama di Desa Banuroja, Gorontalo," *Al-Adabiya: Jurnal Kebudayaan dan Keagamaan* 16, no. 1 (2021): 79-95, <https://doi.org/10.37680/adabiya.v16i1.827>.

<sup>12</sup> Yossiri Yossatori, Theerapong Binali, Sirisira Chokthawikit, and Cathy Weng, "Thai EFL University Students' Productions of the English Past Counterfactuals and Their Influences from Interlanguage Fossilization," *SAGE Open* 12, no. 1 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1177/21582440221079892>.

present factual conditionals in many ESL/EFL textbooks and teaching practices, despite their prevalence in everyday English. It reveals the use of if-clause to fulfill a range of functions, including presenting choices, contrasting ideas, giving examples, and drawing conclusions. If-clauses can also be employed to issue instructions, convey humor or sarcasm, and extend apologies, commands, advice, and instructions.<sup>13</sup>

The novelty discussed in this research is the challenges posed by complex language and sentence structures in the Christian bible, which often lead to multiple interpretations of verses.<sup>14</sup> To navigate this complexity and uncover the intended meanings, truth-conditional semantics and syntactic analysis offer a structured approach. Furthermore, Ferdinand de Saussure's semantic theory is central to this research in providing a framework for analyzing how word order (syntagmatic relations) and word choice (paradigmatic relations) shape sentences and affect Bible interpretation. Thus, one significant novelty in existing research is the limited exploration of how semantic and syntactic analyses of conditional sentences affect practical theological applications and spiritual growth. It demonstrates that accurate interpretation of Biblical texts enhances personal transformation, deepens ethical understanding, and fosters interfaith dialogue, thereby contributing to community development. Moreover, the research fills another crucial novelty by applying modern linguistic theories, specifically Saussure's semantic theory, to ancient religious texts. This application offers a systematic method for analyzing how syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations affect the interpretation of conditional sentences, marking a notable advancement in both linguistic and theological studies.

This research provides insights into human communication with God in the Christian bible. It uses truth-conditional semantics and syntactic analysis to uncover dialogues between God and humans.<sup>15</sup> It reveals how language conveys not just propositional truth but also layers of meaning, analogies, multiple predicates, and coherent narratives to convey divine truths throughout the Christian bible. Moreover, it explores interpreting English conditional sentences by considering their truth context. Unlike traditional studies on syntax and semantics, broader contextual understanding remains unexplored. This research investigates how background and speaker intent impact interpretation, enhancing our grasp of sentence complexity. The research question is: How does using truth-conditional semantics and syntactic analysis on the Christian Bible explore the meaning of multiple predicates to understand theological messages?

This research uses qualitative methodology to analyze conditional sentences in Christian bible through word surveying, classification of conditional sentence structure, context correlation, contextual clues, synonyms exploration, and acknowledgment of historical and theological influences that are described as follows: Surveying word occurrences in Christian bible: Listing and analyzing occurrences of the chosen word both within Christian bible; Classification of conditional sentence types: Identifying which conditional structure is being used in Christian bible verse; Creating conceptual correlation: Identifying the context of diffe-

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<sup>13</sup> Olga Evstafiadi, "Syntactic and Pragmatic Markers of Subjectively Charged English Complex Conditional Sentences," *European Proceedings of Social and Behavioural Sciences* 83, no. 1 (2020): 55–61, <https://doi.org/10.15405/epsbs.2020.04.02.7>.

<sup>14</sup> Robert Holmstedt, "Parenthesis in Biblical Hebrew as Noncoordinative Nonsubordination," *Brill's Journal of Afroasiatic Languages and Linguistics* 12, no. 1 (2020): 99–118, <https://doi.org/10.1163/18776930-01201003>.

<sup>15</sup> Samuel Perry, "The Bible as a Product of Cultural Power: The Case of Gender Ideology in the English Standard Version," *Sociology of Religion: A Quarterly Review* 81, no. 1 (2020): 68–92, <https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srz022>.

rent words under general concepts, recognizing multiple interpretation that can be realized in English language examples; Applying to specific context: Using established ideas for Christian bible context and adjusting particular meaning based on subject and context; Contextual semantic analysis: Noting context cues to narrow word meaning, like author's definitions, clarifications, similarities, and parallels in Christian bible verses can also offer insights; Exploration of synonyms: Investigating similar words which bring unique contexts to the overall thought pattern since English is full of such diverse meaning to enrich interpretation, as the truth value of conditional sentence is not always the same as the original statement, and; Considering historical and theological background consideration: Exploring Christian bible's historical and theological context according to Christian faith can unveil new or shifted meanings.<sup>16</sup>

As the subject of this research, this research examines 20 verses of conditional sentences in the Christian bible. It classifies them into four types of English conditional sentences: 5 verses in a zero conditional sentence, five verses in a first conditional sentence, five verses in a second conditional sentence, five verses in a third conditional sentence, which consist of "if clause + main clause + independent clause" by judging the probability of realizing the condition in the result-clause.<sup>17</sup> The conditional sentences in this research explore how actions or states in semantics can challenge English conditionality since the hypothetical meaning of an action or state is a consequence of imagined actions or states that either "happen" or "do not happen." This conditional sentence analysis in the Christian bible can reveal truth-conditions as a goal of semantic theory.<sup>18</sup> This research uses three types of such sentences to determine truth-conditional semantics in main and subordinate clauses: First, factual conditionals: "Condition" as fact (100% probability), such as, "If you heat ice, it melts." Second, predictive conditionals: "Condition" as a real possibility (50% probability), such as, "If it rains tomorrow, I will bring an umbrella." Third, hypothetical conditionals: "Condition" as imaginary but possible (10% probability), such as, "If I were an astronaut, I would explore space." Fourth, counterfactual conditionals: "Condition" as unreal (0% probability), such as "If they had heeded warnings, they would not have gotten lost." Moreover, this research uses Ferdinand de Saussure's theory to explore truth-conditional semantics with two essential theories: syntagmatic relations, which deal with word order in sentences like "Subject-Verb-Object", and paradigmatic relations, which involve choosing words from the same category that fit the meaning like "Noun-Verb-Adverb." These theories aid in understanding how conditional sentences in the Christian bible are structured to convey their intended meanings.<sup>19</sup>

This research obtains data on English conditional in Christian bible verses by using descriptive qualitative procedures through truth-conditional semantic interpretation by carefully observing English semantic rules to ensure the validity and reliability as follows: First, context-based restrictiveness: Christian bible interpretation considers varying restrictiveness degrees tied to conditional structures since it is situational, not fixed. Second,

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<sup>16</sup> Ocheja Theophilus Attabor, "Syntactic Interference: A Study of Igala and English Noun Phrases in Malachi 1:6 and Matthew 2:1," *Journal of Literature, Languages, and Linguistics* 60, no. 2011 (2019): 40–46, <https://doi.org/10.7176/jlll/60-06>.

<sup>17</sup> Christian Locatell, "Temporal Conjunctions and Their Semantic Extensions: The Case of \*in\* in Biblical Hebrew," *Journal of Semitic Studies* 65, no. 1 (2020): 93–115, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jss/fgz040>.

<sup>18</sup> Prathomwat Suraprajit, "Use, Errors, and Self-Perceptions of Thai EFL Learners with Conditional Sentences," *English Language Teaching* 15, no. 8 (2022): 23, <https://doi.org/10.5539/elt.v15n8p23>.

<sup>19</sup> Daniel Lassiter, "Decomposing Relevance in Conditionals," *Mind and Language* 38, no. 3 (2023): 644–668, <https://doi.org/10.1111/mila.12418>.

linking imperative meaning to restrictiveness: Imperatives inherently carry restrictiveness; they signify “do only X.” This indicates the necessity to force an action. Third, complex meaning analysis: Interpreting conditional sentences can be complex, especially when conditionality and causality appear together. “Do X, be sure of Y” or “do X to avoid Y” semantic model brings potential for diverse meanings and ambiguity. Fourth, conjunction's impact: Conjunctions and sentence structure can shape meaning. Implicit imperative subjects can influence recipients’ actions, so it is recommended that equal subjects in both clauses are equivalence. In addition, complex connections between conditionality and causality and subject-grammar effects are emphasized. This clarifies how sentence structure interacts with conditional sentence meaning.<sup>20</sup>

## Analysis of Zero Conditional Sentence

| Biblical Texts   | The meaning of truth-conditional sentence   | Syntactic analysis   |
|--|---|--|
| <p>If you are the son of God, say that these stones are made of bread (Mt. 4:3).</p> <p>Present counterfactual state – Present hypothetical consequence.</p>           | <p>This sentence uses a conditional structure where the present counterfactual state (being the son of God) is followed by a present hypothetical consequence (say that stones are made of bread). The imperative tone instructs the person hypothetically addressed as the “son of God.” This sentence comprises a main sentence, a conditional clause, and a complement clause. It proposes that if this person is God’s son, they should exhibit their power by changing stones into bread.</p>                            | <p>The sentence uses a subject-verb pattern in the main sentence (you...say...). The conditional clause sets up a hypothetical scenario (if you are the son of God), and the complement clause (that these stones are made of bread) contains what the speaker suggests should be said.</p>              |
| <p>But if life is in the flesh, this is the fruit of my work (Phil. 1:22).</p> <p>Present counterfactual state - Present hypothetical consequence</p>                  | <p>It starts with a conditional clause (but if life is in the flesh), suggesting that if life were limited to human desires and constraints (also known as “flesh”), then the speaker envisions a hypothetical condition. In a biblical sense, “flesh” symbolizes human nature with its limitations, while “life” refers to spiritual vitality. The sentence then proposes a hypothetical consequence: “This is the fruit of my work,” emphasizing that our choices and actions as humans result in visible consequences.</p> | <p>The sentence connects a condition (if life is in the flesh) to a result (the fruit of my work) by using a subject-verb structure (this is). This pattern illustrates a cause-and-effect relationship: if life is linked to the physical (flesh), the outcome is attributed to the speaker’s work.</p> |
| <p>But if Christ is in you, the body is dead to sin, but the spirit is life by justice (Rom. 8:10).</p> <p>Present factual state - Present predictive consequence.</p> | <p>“But if Christ is in you,” establishes Christ’s presence. After the comma, the first outcome is reduced susceptibility to sin (dead to sin). Then, a second outcome: the spirit gains a righteous life (life by justice). This verse highlights how Christ transforms</p>  | <p>This sentence comprises two subject-verb pairs (the body is, the spirit is) with complementary clauses (dead to sin – life by justice). It means that if Christ is within, the outcomes follow: the body resists sin, and the spirit flourishes through justice. The</p>                              |

<sup>20</sup> Costas Gabrielatos, “If-Conditionals: Corpus-Based Classification and Frequency Distribution,” *ICAME Journal* 45, no. 1 (2021): 87–124, <https://doi.org/10.2478/icame-2021-0003>.

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|  | believers, restructuring their relationship with sin and righteousness, with the Holy Spirit's role in promoting good living.   | conditional part presents a hypothetical (Christ is in you), while the complements contrast effects. The syntax demonstrates the cause-and-effect between Christ's presence and the changed condition of body and soul.   |
| For if the truth of God in me has abounded in glory why am I judged as a sinner? (Rm. 3:7).<br><br>Present predictive state - Present hypothetical consequence.          | This sentence challenges a paradox by using a truth-conditional structure. It questions the inconsistency of being called a sinner while having God's truth and glory within (hypothetical situation). By asking "Why am I judged as a criminal?" reveals the contradiction between claiming to have a relationship with God's truth and seeing him as a sinner.              | The main sentence has a subject-verb structure with a complement (why am I judged as a sinner). The causal clause (for if the truth of God in me has abounded in glory) describes the situation. It implies if the speaker has received so much glory for God's truth, it is puzzling why someone would be judged as a sinner. The syntax links God's truth to their judgment.  |
| If you lack wisdom, pray to God who gives all simply and without shame, and it is given to him (Ja. 1:5).<br><br>Present factual state - Present predictive consequence. | This sentence emphasizes the importance of seeking wisdom through prayer. It begins with a present factual state (If you lack wisdom) and it is followed by a present predictive consequence (pray to God who gives all simply and without shame, and it is given to him). The phrase communicates that if one lacks wisdom, one should pray to God, and the result is wisdom | This sentence uses a subject-verb-object structure (you should ask God). It introduces a conditional part (if any of you lacks wisdom), the relative clause provides extra information about God (who gives generously to all without fault), and the result clause describes the result seeking God's wisdom (it will be given). The verse advises seeking God's wisdom when lacking, as God provides without criticism. |

### Analysis of the First Conditional Sentence

| Biblical Texts   | The meaning of truth-conditional sentence  | Syntactic analysis   |
|--|--|--|
| The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light (Mt. 6:22).<br><br>Present hypothetical state - Future hypothetical consequence | This sentence uses a present hypothetical state (if your eyes are healthy) and a future hypothetical consequence (your whole body will be full of light) to convey metaphorical lesson, where "healthy eyes" symbolize understanding and "full of light" signifies wisdom and spiritual insight. This suggests that spiritual awareness has a profound effect on well-being. | This sentence uses syntax to reveal cause-and-effect and similarity. This metaphor of "the eye is the lamp of the body" links the eye to a lamp, referring to light. "If your eyes are healthy" sets a condition. "Your whole body will be full of light" predicts a result. The sentence highlights a similarity between healthy eyes and a bright body to emphasize their positive connection. |
| If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer (Prv. 9:12).<br><br>Present factual state - Future predictive consequence               | This sentence predicts outcomes using present factual states ("if you are wise" and "if you are a mocker") and future predictive consequences ("your wisdom will reward you" and "you alone will suffer"). It emphasizes the results of wisdom as the first condition and warns  | The sentence contains a conditional structure with two clauses, presenting contrasting conditions and their outcomes. The syntax follows "If [condition], [consequence]." This structure highlights the cause-and-effect   |

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|---|--|---|
|   | <p>against mocking behavior as the second result.</p>  | <p>relationship and the future tense verb emphasizes predictive consequences and it encourages reflection on choices and consequences. The sentence conveys the message that wisdom brings reward, while mockery results in suffering, prompting contemplation of choices.</p>  |
| <p>For if the dead do not rise, Christ will not rise (1 Cor. 15:16).</p> <p>Present counterfactual state - Future counterfactual consequence</p>                                      | <p>This sentence uses a present counterfactual state (for if the dead do not rise) and a future counterfactual consequence (Christ will not rise). It highlights the essential connection between the resurrection of the dead and Christ's resurrection. This verse emphasizes the central role of Christian faith in salvation and eternal life.</p>   | <p>This sentence uses a conditional structure, introducing a hypothetical condition about the resurrection of the dead (if the dead do not rise). The consequence clause (Christ will not rise) predicts an outcome based on that hypothetical condition. This emphasizes the connection between the resurrection of the dead and Christ's resurrection, underlining their significance for Christian faith and everlasting life.</p>                           |
| <p>If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? (Mt. 5:46).</p> <p>Present factual state - Future predictive consequence</p> | <p>This sentence uses a factual situation (loving those who love you) to predict a future consequence (questioning the reward and comparing to tax collectors) to show that genuine love should exceed mere reciprocity, rejecting a lot of selfishness. In contrast to the tax collectors, Jesus demands a higher degree of love and encourages compassion and selflessness.</p>  | <p>The sentence uses a series of questions in its structure. The first question introduces a hypothetical situation with the conditional clause "If you love those who love you." The second question, "what reward will you get?", presents a consequence. The third question, "Are not even the tax collectors doing that?", compares the tax collectors' behavior. This verse challenges the conventional view of what love means and what motivates it.</p> |
| <p>Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit (Mt. 15:14).</p> <p>Present hypothetical state - Future hypothetical consequence</p>     | <p>This metaphorical sentence warns against following misguided leaders, using a hypothetical situation (if the blind lead the blind) and a future outcome (both will fall into a pit). The metaphor "blind guides" represents leaders lacking insight, showing potential consequences for both leaders and followers ending up in a pit. It highlights the need for discernment and the dangers behind spiritually ignorant leadership.</p> | <p>This sentence is an imperative followed by a conditional statement. The conditional part presents a hypothetical situation where blind individuals lead others who are also blind. "Leave them" is a command to separate. The consequence, "will fall into a pit," emphasizes the negative outcome of following blind guides.</p>  |



## Analysis of the Second Conditional Sentence

| Biblical Texts   | The meaning of truth-conditional sentence  | Syntactic analysis   |
|--|--|--|
| <p>If this were not from God, nothing would be possible for anyone (Jn. 9:33).</p> <p>Simple past factual state - Past future predictive consequence</p>   | <p>This sentence pairs a past factual state (if this were not from God) with a past future predictive consequence (nothing would be possible for anyone). The past factual condition implies something not from God, using “were” for a hypothetical tone. The predictive consequence, “nothing would be possible for anyone,” suggests that God’s involvement is crucial for making possibilities happen to emphasize His power.</p>  | <p>The sentence is a conditional statement illustrating cause and effect. The conditional clause introduces a hypothetical cause (something not from God), while the consequence clause reveals the effect (nothing possible for anyone). This structure encourages contemplation of divine influence on possibilities.</p>  |
| <p>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? (1 Cor. 12:17).</p> <p>Simple past hypothetical state - Past future hypothetical consequence</p>  | <p>This sentence uses the past hypothetical state (“if the whole body were an eye” / “if the whole body were an ear”) and the past future hypothetical consequence (“where would the sense of hearing be?” / “where would the sense of smell be?”) to emphasize the importance of diverse spiritual gifts within the Christian community. It compares the body of believers to a human body’s senses, conveying that each member’s unique role contributes to the church’s unity and well-being.</p> | <p>The sentences present conditional questions, each featuring a hypothetical scenario and its consequence. They emphasize how body parts and senses depend on each other, encouraging readers to consider the interconnectedness of bodily functions.</p>   |
| <p>If you were blind to spiritual things, you would have no sin and would not be blamed for your unbelief; but since you claim to have spiritual sight, you have no excuse so your sin and guilt remain (Jn. 9:41).</p> <p>Simple past factual state – Past future factual consequence</p> | <p>This sentence connects a past factual state (“if you were blind to spiritual things”) with a past future factual consequence (“you would have no sin and would not be blamed for your unbelief”), suggesting that being unaware of spiritual truths could lessen responsibility, while rejecting understood truths entails accountability. It highlights the significance of honestly acknowledging understanding and the repercussions of ignoring spiritual truths.</p>                         | <p>The sentence features two conditional clauses (“if you were blind to spiritual things” / “but since you claim to have spiritual sight”) and their corresponding consequence clauses (“you would have no sin and would not be blamed for your unbelief” / “you have no excuse so your sin and guilt remain”). It prompts reflection on how belief and understanding influence one’s spiritual journey.</p> |
| <p>My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place (Jn. 18:28).</p> <p>Simple past factual state - Past future predictive consequence</p>  | <p>This sentence presents a factual past condition (the kingdom not being of this world) and predicts a past consequence (servants not fighting to prevent arrest). It highlights the distinction between Jesus’ spiritual kingdom and the kingdoms of the earth. His servants did not fight to demonstrate His peaceful work against the forces of world power.</p>   | <p>The sentence is constructed with a contrast-comparison structure, presenting a contrast between two different conditions, that is Jesus kingdom and the world. The contrast-comparison structure encourages readers to consider the origin and nature of the Jesus kingdom and its distinctiveness from the world.</p>  |

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| <p>Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you (Psalms 139:18).</p> <p>Simple past factual state - Past future hypothetical consequence</p> | <p>This sentence uses the simple past factual state (were I to count them) and the past future hypothetical consequence (when I awake, I am still with you) to emphasize God's limitless knowledge and the psalmist's unwavering connection to God. The metaphor of counting thoughts like grains of sand illustrates God's boundless understanding. The phrase "when I awake, I am still with you" emphasizes the lasting spiritual bond with God.</p> | <p>The sentence presents a conditional statement (were I to count them) followed by a consequence (they would outnumber the grains of sand) and an additional reflection (when I awake, I am still with you). It contemplates the vastness of experiences and the enduring presence of a higher being.</p> |
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## Analysis of Third Conditional Sentence

| Biblical Texts   | The meaning of truth-conditional sentence  | Syntactic analysis  |
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| <p>If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened (Ps. 66:18).</p> <p>Past perfect hypothetical state - Past future perfect predictive consequence</p>   | <p>This sentence connects a hypothetical past perfect state (cherishing sin in the heart) with a past future perfect outcome (the Lord not listening), emphasizing the impact of a sinful heart on one's connection with God. It teaches that a genuine connection with the divine demands a heart free from sin to emphasize the significance of repentance and moral purity. It serves as a reminder that spiritual fellowship and purity of heart are vital for effective communication with God.</p> | <p>The sentence is a conditional statement with an if-clause (If I had cherished sin in my heart) and a main clause (the Lord would not have listened). The if-clause presents a counterfactual condition (cherishing sin in the heart), and the main clause describes the hypothetical consequence (the Lord not listening) resulting from that condition. It suggests that cherishing sin in the heart would result in the Lord not listening, encouraging reflection on the link between moral disposition and divine communication.</p> |
| <p>If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into (Mt. 24:42).</p> <p>Past perfect hypothetical state - Past future perfect hypothetical consequence</p> | <p>This sentence uses a hypothetical past perfect state (knowledge of the thief's arrival time) to predict a corresponding past future perfect hypothetical consequence (taking preventive measures), as a metaphor for being spiritually prepared. It emphasizes the importance of vigilance and readiness for unexpected events, especially during the end times, encouraging believers to remain spiritually alert and prepared for challenges.</p>   | <p>The sentence features a conditional structure with an if-clause and a main clause showing cause and effect. The if-clause presents a counterfactual scenario (owner knowing the thief's arrival time) as the cause, and the hypothetical consequence (vigilance and prevention) as the effect. It encourages reflection on the significance of readiness and its role in averting negative outcomes.</p>   |
| <p>For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second (Heb. 8:7).</p> <p>Past perfect factual state - Past future perfect predictive consequence</p>  | <p>The sentence uses the past perfect factual state (for if that first covenant had been faultless) and the past future perfect predictive consequence (there would have been no occasion to look for a second) to suggest that the establishment of a new covenant was a response to the shortcomings of the old one. It emphasizes the significance of the new covenant in Christ, which is</p>  | <p>The sentence sets up a cause-and-effect link. The hypothetical condition (the first covenant being faultless) is the cause, and the possible outcome (the first covenant being faultless) is the result. It prompts consideration of the role and importance of covenants and their characteristics.</p>   |

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|  | designed by God. Through Jesus, the new covenant is shown as better, addressing the limitations of the old covenant and offering a closer connection to God.  |  |
| If you had known what these words mean, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice," you would not have condemned the innocent (Mt. 12:7).<br><br>Past perfect hypothetical state - Past future perfect hypothetical consequence | The sentence highlights prioritizing compassion over rituals by using a hypothetical past perfect state (knowing the words' meaning) to predict a past future perfect consequence (not condemning the innocent). Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for valuing rituals over core values, stressing genuine empathy and compassion in interactions.                                      | The sentence establishes a cause-and-effect relationship using a conditional structure (if-clause and main clause). The if-clause presents a counterfactual condition (knowing word meanings) as the cause, and the main clause outlines the hypothetical consequence (not condemning the innocent). The syntax prompts consideration of the importance of understanding and compassion.   |
| None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory (1 Cor. 2:8).<br><br>Past perfect factual state - Past future perfect predictive consequence          | The past perfect factual state (none of the rulers of this age understood it) and the past future perfect predictive consequence (they would not have crucified the Lord of glory) highlight the past rulers' lack of understanding led to Christ's crucifixion to emphasize the distinction between God's higher purpose and the contrast between human and divine perspectives. | The sentence uses a conditional structure: an explanatory clause (rulers did not understand) and a main consequence clause (if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord). The rulers' lack of understanding is the cause, leading to the hypothetical effect of not crucifying the Lord. It establishes a clear cause-and-effect link between their lack of comprehension and the hypothetical outcome of not crucifying the Lord. |

## Semantic Conditions in the Bible: Truth and Consequences for Social Value

The research findings show that hypothetical constructions can explore language, demonstrating that grammar combines rules and speaker choice. They allow creativity and imagination to present situations that do not exist while dealing with situations that do not exist. By understanding the logic behind hypotheticals and embracing imagination, readers can effectively use these constructions to express non-existent possibilities. The exploration of this research answers such as "How does using truth-conditional semantics and syntactic analysis on Christian Bible explore the meaning of multiple predicates to understand theological messages or value?" are described as follows:

This research finding proves the several points that need to be considered in terms of truth-conditional sentences to explore the meaning of multiple predicates in understanding theological messages as follows: First, English conditional sentences in the Christian bible vary in reality and possibility to reflect how language captures cause and effect, potential outcomes, and hypotheticals. The differences in verbs, tenses, and phrases can cause this variation.<sup>21</sup> Conjunctions affect interconnected meaning, and imperative sentences affect the speaker's

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<sup>21</sup> Natalia Sklyarova, "Interconnection and Interaction of Interrogative Sentences in the English Language," *International Journal of Cognitive Research in Science, Engineering and Education* 1, no. 2 (2013): 45–50.

actions. This analysis highlights how conditionality, causality, subjects, and grammar determine meaning to reveal the relationship between syntax and meaning in conditionals. Second, understanding diverse conditionals reveals how humans reason about alternatives and draw inferences from limited information. The verse highlights varied approaches to understanding God, including critical thought, echoing Christian bible conditionals. These conditionals often link actions to consequences, such as "If you obey, you'll be blessed" (Deut. 28:1), mirroring understanding God's will through actions and results.<sup>22</sup> Third, many Bibles contain narrative teachings, needing interpretation consistent with message and context. Examining conditionals in the Christian bible can help to understand how language is used in theological and moral concepts since truth in the Bible is metaphorical by nature, and seemingly straightforward claims rely on indirect understanding through language. Fourth, the Christian bible's conditional sentences show context-dependent restrictiveness. It depends on the context and structure of the first clause. "Do only X" implies imperative. Contextual interpretation of the Christian bible can be complicated, primarily because of the overlap of circumstances and causes. A sentence like "Do X, be sure of Y" introduces diverse meanings and ambiguity.

The finding of this research proves the several points that need to be considered in terms of syntactic analysis to explore the meaning of multiple predicates in understanding theological messages as follows: First, analyzing Christian bible text shows compound-complex sentences mainly using the active voice due to the focus on subjects and actions in religious verses. Second, conditional sentences in the Christian bible contain declarative sentences, which are the most appropriate for religious verses because they tell the truth following religious principles. Modal verbs like "will" or "would" indicate the speaker's responsibility to perform the actions in the verse. Third, simple sentences are not used, as all sentences take the form of conditional promises using complex structures. Moreover, subordinate clauses convey details about conditional, reason, or situation in the sentences. In summary, this comprehensive analysis of the English context in the Christian bible reveals a profound grasp of semantics and syntactic interplay to improve the interpretation of the sacred text. It highlights a strong symbiosis between language and spirituality, aiming for translation and sharing logic behind language.

This research also explores how the conditional semantics of truth and the syntactic analysis of conditional sentences in the Christian Bible reveal theological messages and their impact on social behavior and ethical decision-making. The study uncovers how biblical language conveys complex theological concepts and their practical applications in contemporary society by analyzing various types of conditional sentences. In a biblical context, conditional sentences often deliver profound theological messages and significant social implications. For example, sentences like "If you believe in Christ, you will be saved" (Jn. 3:16) reflect a direct cause-and-effect relationship: faith in Christ leads to salvation. Understanding this sentence emphasizes the importance of faith in achieving salvation, which can motivate individuals to adhere to Christian teachings and lead a life aligned with biblical principles. Practically, this can influence social behavior by promoting religious adherence and ethical living, such as social programs in communities that use this teaching to inspire charitable actions and support those in need.

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<sup>22</sup> Solehah Yaacob, "Predicament of English Translation Dilemma in Academia: An Analysis on Selected Scriptures and Traditional Books," *Journal of Al-Tamaddun* 17, no. 1 (2022): 157-166, <https://doi.org/10.22452/JAT.vol17no1.12>.

Conversely, conditional sentences like “If you seek wisdom, you will find it” (Prv. 2:4-5) predict that actively seeking wisdom will result in discovering it, reflecting the principle of divine guidance in response to human actions. This predictive structure highlights the value of proactive behavior in seeking spiritual growth and moral understanding, which can encourage individuals to engage in practices such as prayer, study, and community involvement. Socially, this may be reflected in increased participation in educational and religious activities, fostering a culture of ongoing personal and spiritual development. Contrafactual conditional sentences like “If you had known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes” (Lk. 19:42) reflect missed opportunities for peace and salvation due to a lack of recognition or response. This emphasizes the importance of heeding divine advice and responding appropriately to spiritual insights, which can warn against moral and ethical decision-making negligence, encouraging greater awareness and action in addressing social issues and personal challenges.

Examples that illustrate how semantic and syntactic interpretation and conditional sentences can enhance social-humanitarian awareness in Indonesia include the development of social service programs, conflict resolution within communities, and the promotion of interfaith tolerance. First, a church in Jakarta addresses the need to help disaster victims by developing aid programs based on the teaching, “If you feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, you have done it for Me” (Mt. 25:35). This includes providing food, shelter, and psychological support, thus improving the quality of life and well-being of those affected by the disaster. Second, to resolve disputes among religious groups in Ambon, the teaching “If you bring your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering and go first to be reconciled with your brother” (Mt. 5:23-24) is applied in mediation, which helps reduce tension and create a harmonious atmosphere. Lastly, in Yogyakarta, facing religious diversity, interfaith dialogue is facilitated based on the teaching “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mt. 22:39), which encourages social harmony and reduces tension.

The limitations of this research include several vital aspects. First, the study may not fully explore the philosophical dimensions of conditional sentences in the Bible, such as their relationship to concepts like determinism, freedom, or ethics within Christianity. This limitation could affect the comprehensiveness of the analysis. Second, the research might only capture part of the spectrum of contexts influencing the understanding of Biblical verses, including their use in liturgy or expository traditions. This may restrict the research's ability to provide a complete interpretation. Lastly, the research may need to fully account for how historical interpretations of Biblical texts have shaped the understanding of conditional sentences, potentially impacting the accuracy of the research in reflecting these interpretive changes.

## Conclusion

This research highlights the complex interactions between verb forms, modal verbs, and diverse meanings within English conditional types. It is necessary to prioritize understanding the meanings of conditionals over rigid type classifications. As a result, the varying range of conditionals, from “zero” to those without an “if” clause, can be complex due to contextual subjectivity. Thus, it is essential to concentrate on possible meanings and how they are expressed to deal with tricky conditionals instead of memorizing grammar terms. By understanding and using different ways hypothetical meanings are conveyed, readers can better use conditionals in real communication. The scope of this research is limited by certain factors,

such as selecting appropriate Christian bible verses encompassing a range of genres, historical contexts, and theological themes, which can present challenges.

Additionally, the complexity of the Christian bible text is compounded by elements such as ambiguous language, metaphors, and allegorical expressions. The contribution of this research proves how syntax and semantics interact in conditionality to emphasize the significance of dependent sentences with conditional clauses for clear grammatical representation. It addresses potential ambiguity from conjunctions and predicates in clauses, suggesting contextually unconditioned structures for meaningful interpretation.

Moreover, this research explores the importance of conditional imperative within the context to stimulate engagement and imagination, revealing a pragmatic dimension beyond syntax since revealing critical reflection remains crucial for a genuine understanding of God in the Christian bible. The exploration of truth-conditional semantics and syntactic analysis in the Bible, as presented in "Unlocking Meaning," has significant social implications. By applying these linguistic frameworks to biblical texts, individuals can better understand religious doctrines and their practical applications, leading to enhanced religious literacy and more informed ethical decision-making. This refined comprehension of cause-and-effect relationships within biblical teachings can guide individuals in aligning their actions with religious values, promoting integrity and moral responsibility.

Furthermore, a varied understanding of biblical texts can facilitate more constructive interfaith dialogues and inspire social justice and humanitarian efforts by translating theological insights into real-world actions. Educationally, this approach can enhance religious studies programs by fostering critical thinking and deeper engagement with sacred texts. Overall, truth-conditional semantic and syntactic analysis enriches individual lives and societal dynamics by promoting religious understanding, ethical behavior, and social harmony. Moving forward, future research can focus on how linguistic, cultural analysis and neuro-cognitive exploration reveal the role of subordinate clauses in conveying situations, causes, and conditions within metaphorical sentences.

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