

HEBREW WEAK VERBS REVIEW

GENERAL INFORMATION

System Designating Weak Verbs:

ל ע פ
3 2 1

Guttural Variations (א ה ח ע ר)

- 1) Gutturals refuse to be doubled (reject the dagesh)
- 2) They prefer compound shevas
- 3) They prefer "A" class vowels

Some consonants may disappear (ך or ך)

PE GUTTURAL VERBS

Means: "guttural" is in the Pe (פ) position

- 1) 1st root letter *refuses dagesh forte*
 - affects Nifal, Imperfect, Imperative, Infinitive Construct
 - Thus, the preceding vowel under the preformative is *lengthed* יעטל
- 2) They prefer *compound shevas*
 - A prefix vowel takes the corresponding short vowel יעבר
- 3) When two *vocal shevas* are used, then the Pe Guttural reverts to a *full short vowel* (forms with vowel affirmatives, but no changes in intensives)
- 4) Qal Imperfect prefers a "holem" for a preformative vowel יאכל

PE ALEPH VERBS

Means: "Aleph" is in the Pe (פ) position

- 1) The "aleph" tends to *quiesce*
- 2) In Qal Imperfect, preformative vowel is a "holem" יאכל
- 3) They have Pe Guttural tendencies

AYIN GUTTURAL VERBS

Means: "guttural" is in the Ayin (ע) position

- 1) 2nd root letter *refuses dagesh forte*
 - Affects all intensives
 - May lengthen the preceding vowel or double guttural by implication
- (בּוּרְךָ piel perf 3ms) or (בּוּרְךָ pual perf 3ms)

2) They prefer *compound shevas*

בָּכַחוּ qal perf 3cs

3) Prefer "A" class vowels instead of "O" class

יִשְׁחַט qal imperf 3ms

LAMED GUTTURAL VERBS

Means: "guttural" is in the Lamed (ל) position

1) They like "A" class vowels before & around them

שָׁלַח qal imperf 3ms

שָׁלַחְתָּ qal perf 2fs

זָבַח piel perf 3ms

שָׁמַע qal act part ms

LAMED ALEPH VERBS

Means: "Aleph" is in the Lamed (ל) position

1) They like *long "A" class vowels* before them (or sometimes long "E")

יִקְרָא qal imperf 3ms

מִלָּא pual perf 3ms

2) Some like nothing under them (they *quiesce*) before consonant affirmatives

מְלִמְאֵתִי qal perf 1cs

תִּקְרָאנִי qal imper 3fp

LAMED HE VERBS

Means: "He" is in the Lamed (ל) position

1) "He" (ה) will *dissappear* when suffix added

- Yod (י) is *preserved* when ending begins with a *consonant*

בְּכִיתִי qal perf 1cs

- Yod (י) is *lost* when ending begins with a *vowel*

בָּכוּ qal perf 3cp

2) "He" (ה) has *thematic vowels*:

הָ all perfects (גָּלָה)

הַ all imperfects (יִגְלֶה)

הֵּ all imperatives (גָּלֵה)

וְהַ all infin const (גְּלוּת)

הֶּ all participles (גֹּלֵה)

HEBREW WEAK VERBS REVIEW

PE NUN VERBS

Means: “Nun” is in the Pe (נ) position

1) When the “nun” has sheva (ְ) as a syllable divider:

- “Nun” (נ) drops out
- The next letter gets a *dagesh forte*
- Affects many qal imperfect, nifal imperfect, nifal participle, hifil and hofal stems

יִנְפַל becomes יִפַּל qal imp 3ms

נִנְגַד becomes נִגַּד nif imp 3ms

3) In Hophal, הֻ reverts to הֶ

הֻנְגַּשׁ becomes הֶגַּשׁ hof per 3ms

4) Qal Imperative the “nun” may drop (נִשׁ)

5) Qal Infinitive Construct the “nun” drops and a “tav” is added at the end (נִשְׁתָּ)

6) לָקָה acts like a Pe Nun verb

AYIN VAV & AYIN YOD VERBS (Hollow Verbs)

Means: “Vav” or “Yod” is in the Ayin (ע) position

1) Middle letter “vav” or “yod” (ו or י):

- Either drops out
- Or remains as a vowel

2) Qal Perfects usually *lose* the middle letter:

בָּן בָּא מִתְּהָם

3) Qal Imperfects usually *lengthen* vowel of prefix:

יְשִׁים יְקוּם

4) Intensives -- Piel, Pual, Hithpael -- *double the last consonant* instead of doubling middle consonant:

קוּמִים “polel” (piel) perfect 3ms

קוּמָם “polal” (pual) perfect 3ms

5) Hophal gets a *Sureq* (הוּ or וּ) preformative vowel:

הוּקָם hofal per 3ms

6) Hiphil gets a *Sere* (הִ or הֵ) preformative vowel:

הִקָּם hifil perfect 3ms

7) Watch for *separating vowels* before consonant endings

נְהוּמֹתָ nifal perfect 2ms

תְּהוּמְנָה qal imperfect 3fp

PE YOD & PE VAV VERBS

Means: “Yod” or “Vav” is in the Pe (פ) position

1) “Pe Yod” may *merge* with preceding preformative vowel:

יִיטֵב qal imperfect 3ms

הִיטִיב hifil perfect 3ms

2) “Pe Vav” may *drop* out (qal imperfect, qal imperative, qal infinitive construct):

יֵשֵׁב qal imperfect perfect 3ms

(“vav is dropped, . becomes ..)

דָּע qal imperative 2ms

3) “Pe Vav” *reappears* in Nifal, Hifil and Hofal as a vowel

הוֹשִׁיב hifil perfect 3ms

נוֹשֵׁב nifal perfect 3ms

תּוֹלֵד nifal imperfect 2ms

הוֹשֵׁב hofal perfect 3ms

4) הִלָּךְ *acts like* a “Pe Vav” verb

DOUBLE AYIN VERBS

Means: the 2nd & 3rd root letters are the same so that the letter in the Ayin (ע) position is doubled

1) The duplicated last consonant may *drop*

2) Get a *dagesh forte* when the ending is added:

קָלְלוּ becomes קָלְלוּ qal perfect 3cp

- Consonant affirmatives get a helping vowel

- Vowel affirmatives do not

3) The intensive stems are *usually regular*

4) Vowels of the preformatives will change:

Qamets (ָ) used with qal imperfect, nifal perfect, nifal participle, hifil imperfect

Sere (ֵ) used with hifil perfect, hifil participle

Sureq (וּ) used with hofal