

Chapter Nineteen

Hithpa'el Strong Verbs

Vocabulary

אַהַב	to love	עֵד	a witness, testimony, evidence
בָּרָא	to create	עֵז	goat
דָּבַק	to cleave, cling to	עַתָּה	now
דּוֹר	generation	פֹּה	here
הָרָה	to conceive, become pregnant	פָּלַל	(Hithpa.) to pray
כְּבוֹד	glory, honor	פֶּן	lest
מָה	what?	קִיר	wall
מִי	who?	שׁוֹפָר	ram's horn, trumpet
מִקְדָּשׁ	sanctuary	שֶׁמֶן	oil, fat
נַעֲרָה	young woman	שָׁקֵר	deception, falsehood

Hithpa'el

The Hithpa'el (הִתְפַּעֵל) is the intensive reflexive verb stem. The Hithpa'el is used to express intensive action with a reflective voice.

Qal		Hithpa'el ¹	
אַמַּץ	He was strong	הִתְאַמַּץ	He strengthened himself
נָפַל	He fell	הִתְנַפַּל	He prostrated himself
נָשָׂא	He lifted	הִתְנַשָּׂא	He exalted himself
קִדְּשׁ	He was holy	הִתְקַדְּשׁ	He sanctified himself

For example:

יְתִצְּבוּ מַלְכֵי-אָרֶץ וְרוֹזְנִים נוֹסְדוּ-יַחַד עַל-יְהוָה וְעַל-מְשִׁיחוֹ

“The kings of the earth **set themselves**, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD
and against His Anointed” (Psalm 2:2)

¹ Adapted from Page Kelley, *Biblical Hebrew* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992), p. 110

Hithpa'el Perfect Form

To form the Hithpa'el perfect, add the Hithpa'el prefix (הת), a Pathach (ַ) under the first root consonant, and a Dagshesh Forte (ֿ) in the second root consonant.

Example, פקד + הת = התפקד "he appointed himself"

Perfect			
	Qal	Hithpa'el	Translation
3ms	פָּקַד	הִתְפַּקֵּד	he appointed himself
3fs	פָּקְדָהּ	הִתְפַּקְדָּהּ	she appointed herself
2ms	פָּקַדְתָּ	הִתְפַּקַּדְתָּ	you appointed yourself
2fs	פָּקַדְתְּ	הִתְפַּקַּדְתְּ	you appointed yourself
1cs	פָּקַדְתִּי	הִתְפַּקַּדְתִּי	I appointed myself
3cp	פָּקְדוּ	הִתְפַּקְדוּ	they appointed themselves
2mp	פָּקַדְתֶּם	הִתְפַּקַּדְתֶּם	you appointed yourselves
2fp	פָּקַדְתֶּן	הִתְפַּקַּדְתֶּן	you appointed yourselves
1cp	פָּקַדְנוּ	הִתְפַּקַּדְנוּ	we appointed ourselves

Vocal Changes

There are changes that occur based on the natural way Hebrew is pronounced.

1. *Sibilants* ס, ש, or שׁ. When the Hithpa'el prefix (הת) is placed before one of the sibilants ס, ש, or שׁ, the prefix ת is moved to the other side of the sibilant².

הת + שָׁמַר	→	הִשְׁמַרְתָּ	"he guarded himself"
הת + סָתַר	→	הִסְתַּתְרָהּ	"he hid himself"

2. *Emphatic sibilant* ז. When the Hithpa'el prefix (הת) is placed before an emphatic sibilant ז, not only does the prefix move, but the prefix ת is changed to the emphatic dental ז.

הת + צַדֵּק	→	הִצְטַדַּקְתָּ	"he justified himself"
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3. *Assimilation of* ת. When the Hithpa'el prefix (הת) is placed before the dentals ד, ט, or ת, the prefix ת assimilates and the dental receives a dagshesh forte.

הת + טָהַר	→	הִטְהַרְתָּ	"he purified himself"
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Hithpa'el Perfect Form of שָׁמַר

² This is referred to as metathesis: the transposition of two contiguous (side-by-side) consonants in order to smooth out pronunciation of the word.

Perfect			
	Qal	Hithpa'el	Translation
3ms	שָׁמַר	הִשְׁתַּמַּר	he guarded himself
3fs	שָׁמְרָה	הִשְׁתַּמְּרָה	she guarded herself
2ms	שָׁמַרְתָּ	הִשְׁתַּמַּרְתָּ	you guarded yourself
2fs	שָׁמַרְתְּ	הִשְׁתַּמַּרְתְּ	you guarded yourself
1cs	שָׁמַרְתִּי	הִשְׁתַּמַּרְתִּי	I guarded myself
3cp	שָׁמְרוּ	הִשְׁתַּמְּרוּ	they guarded themselves
2mp	שָׁמַרְתֶּם	הִשְׁתַּמַּרְתֶּם	you guarded yourselves
2fp	שָׁמַרְתֶּן	הִשְׁתַּמַּרְתֶּן	you guarded yourselves
1cp	שָׁמַרְנוּ	הִשְׁתַּמַּנּוּ	we guarded ourselves

Hithpa'el Imperfect Form

To form the Hithpa'el imperfect, add the unique Hithpa'el imperfect performative, a Pathach (_) under the first root consonant, and a Daghesh Forte (·) in the second root consonant. The Hithpa'el imperfect performatives are יִתְּ, תִּתְּ, אִתְּ and נִתְּ.

Imperfect			
	Qal	Hithpa'el	Translation
3ms	יִשְׁמַר	יִשְׁתַּמַּר	he will guard himself
3fs	תִּשְׁמַר	תִּשְׁתַּמְּרָה	she will guard herself
2ms	תִּשְׁמַרְתָּ	תִּשְׁתַּמַּרְתָּ	you will guard yourself
2fs	תִּשְׁמַרְתְּ	תִּשְׁתַּמַּרְתְּ	you will guard yourself
1cs	אִשְׁמַר	אִשְׁתַּמַּר	I will guard myself
3mp	יִשְׁמְרוּ	יִשְׁתַּמְּרוּ	they will guard themselves
3fp	תִּשְׁמַרְנָה	תִּשְׁתַּמְּרָנָה	they will guard themselves
2mp	תִּשְׁמַרוּ	תִּשְׁתַּמְּרוּ	you will guard yourselves
2fp	תִּשְׁמַרְנָה	תִּשְׁתַּמְּרָנָה	you will guard yourselves
1cp	נִשְׁמַר	נִשְׁתַּמַּר	we will guard ourselves

Hithpa'el Infinitive Form

The Hithpa'el infinitive construct and absolute are the same and are formed as follows: add the Hithpa'el prefix (הִתְ) and the verbal stem with a Daghesh Forte (·) in the second root consonant.

Hithpa'el Infinitive
הִשְׁתַּמֵּר

Hithpa'el Imperative Form

The Hithpa'el imperative has the same form as the infinitive with the addition of the imperative sufformatives.

	Qal Imperative		Hithpa'el Imperative	
2 ms	שְׁמַר	→	הִשְׁתַּמֵּר	Guard yourself!
2 fs	שְׁמְרִי	→	הִשְׁתַּמְרִי	Guard yourself!
2 mp	שְׁמְרוּ	→	הִשְׁתַּמְרוּ	Guard yourselves!
2 fp	שְׁמַרְנָה	→	הִשְׁתַּמְרְנָה	Guard yourselves!

Hithpa'el Participle Form

To form the Hithpa'el participle, add the Hithpa'el participle prefix (מִתְ), add the verbal stem with the Daghesh Forte (·) in the second root consonant, and the participle suffix.

	Qal Participle		Hithpa'el Participle	
ms	שֹׁמֵר	→	מִשְׁתַּמֵּר	guarding himself
mp	שֹׁמְרִים	→	מִשְׁתַּמְרִים	guarding themselves
fs	שֹׁמְרָה	→	מִשְׁתַּמְרָה	guarding herself
fp	שֹׁמְרוֹת	→	מִשְׁתַּמְרוֹת	guarding themselves

Practice

- I. Memorize the vocabulary

II. Memorize the Hithpa'el Perfect for שמר, Imperfect, and Participle forms.

III. Translate the following:

1. וְגִבְרֹתַיִם בִּיהוָה וּבְשֵׁמוֹ יִתְחַלְכוּ נְאֻם יְהוָה (Zech. 10:12)
2. וַיִּתְחַלֵּךְ חֲנוּךְ אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים וְאֵינְנוּ כִּי־לָקַח אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים (Gen. 5:24)
3. וַיִּנְחַם יְהוָה כִּי־עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם בְּאָרְץ וַיִּתְעַצֵּב אֶל־לְבוֹ (Gen. 6:6)
4. וַתִּתְפַּלֵּל חַנָּה וַתֹּאמֶר עֲלֵךְ לִבִּי בִיהֵא קָמָה קַרְנֵי בֵיתָה קָחַב פִּי עַל־אוֹיְבֵי כִּי שָׁמַחְתִּי בִישׁוּעַתְּךָ (1 Sam. 2:1)