

Chapter Twenty-Six

Third-Alef Guttural Weak Verbs

Vocabulary

אַמָּה	cubit (f)	עֲשָׂרָה	ten (f)
חָבֵא	to hide	צְדָקָה	righteousness, just (f)
חָנָה	to encamp	צָמָא	to be thirsty
יָרָה	to teach	צָפָה	to keep, watch
כְּלִי	tool, weapon, vessel	קָבַץ	to collect, gather
כָּסָה	to cover,conceal	קָנָה	to take, possess
נָבֵא	to prophesy	שָׁחָה	to bow down, worship
סָבִיב	around, surrounding	שָׁחָה	to destroy, corrupt

Weak Verb Designations						
	III	II	I	← Modern designation	Modern	Description
	ל	ע	פ	← Traditional		
1	ד	מ	ט	Pe Guttural	I - Guttural	Guttural in 1 st root position
2	ל	א	ש	‘Ayin Guttural	II - Guttural	Guttural in 2 nd root position
3	ח	ל	ש	Lamed Guttural	III - Guttural	Guttural in 3 rd root position
4	ל	כ	א	Pe ‘Alef	I – ‘Alef	‘Alef in 1 st root position
5	א	צ	כ	Lamed ‘Alef	III- ‘Alef	‘Alef in 3rd root position
6	ה	נ	ה	Lamed He	III - He	He in 3 rd root position
7	ל	פ	נ	Pe Nun	I - Nun	Nun in 1 st root position
8	ב	ו	ש	‘Ayin Vav or Yod	II – Vav or Yod	II – Vav/Yod
9	ב	ש	ו	Pe Vav or Yod	I - Vav or Yod	I – Vav/Yod
10	ב	ה	ס	Double ‘Ayin	Geminate	

III-Alef Guttural Weak Verbs

Third Alef verbs are designated as Lamed-Alef or III-Alef and are verbs whose final consonant is an alef (א). Examples where the third consonant is א are:

- בָּרָא to create
- קָרָא to call
- רָפָא to heal

Rules of Inflection

The III-Alef verb has the following distinct characteristics.

- Any syllable that ends with א becomes an open syllable and must have a long vowel.¹ In this case, the stem vowel Patach (ַ) is lengened to a Qamets (ָ).

	Strong verb	III-Alef
Qal Perfect 3ms	בָּרַשׁ	בָּרָא

- When a BeGaD KeFaT (ב, ג, ד, כ, פ, ת) letter is placed after an א in a III-Alef verb it loses its dagesh lene.

	Strong verb	III-Alef
Qal Perfect 2ms	בָּרַשְׁתָּ	בָּרַאְתָּ

- Qal Perfect III-Alef verbs contain the Qamets before consonantal suffixes.

	III-Alef
Qal Perfect 2ms	בָּרַאְתָּ
Qal Perfect 2fs	בָּרַאְתְּ
Qal Perfect 1cs	בָּרַאְתִּי
Qal Perfect 2mp	בָּרַאְתֶּם
Qal Perfect 2fp	בָּרַאְתֶּן
Qal Perfect 1cp	בָּרַאְנוּ

- The stem vowel in prefixed perfect verbs in all stems except Qal is Tsere (ֵ).

III-Alef Perfect Verbs				
	Nif'al Perfect	Pi'el Perfect	Pu'al Perfect	Hif'il Perfect
2ms	בִּרְאַתְּ	בִּרְאַתָּ	בִּרְאַתָּ	בִּרְאַתָּ

¹ Page Kelley, Biblical Hebrew (Grand Rapids:Eerdmans, 1992), p. 275

5. For Qal imperfect verbs in all forms except 3fp and 2fp, the vowel before ך is a Qamets.

	Strong verb	III-Alef
Qal Imperfect 3ms	יִמְשֵׁל	יִמְצֵא

6. The stem vowel before ך endings is the s^egol (ֵ).

III-Alef ך suffix Verbs				
	Qal	Nif'al	Pi'el	Hif'il
Impf 3fp, 2fp	תִּמְצַאֲנָה	תִּמְצַאֲנָה	תִּמְצַאֲנָה	תִּמְצַאֲנָה
Impv 2fs	מְצַאֲנִי	הִמְצַאֲנִי	מְצַאֲנִי	הִמְצַאֲנִי

7. The feminine singular participle has Tserere as its stem vowel.

III-Alef Fem Sg. Part				
	Qal	Nif'al	Pi'el	Hif'il
ms	מְצַאֲנָה	נִמְצַאֲנָה	מְצַאֲנָה	מְצַאֲנָה
fs	מְצַאֲנָה	נִמְצַאֲנָה	מְצַאֲנָה	מְצַאֲנָה

Practice

- I. Memorize the vocabulary
- II. What is a weak verb?
- III. What are the two rules of III-Gutturals?