

Chapter Twenty-Eight

First Nun Guttural Weak Verbs

Vocabulary

גור	to sojourn	[נסח]	[Pi.] to test, try
חיל	strength, wealth, army	[נקיה]	to be clean, innocent, guiltless
[נבט]	[Hif.] to see, look upon	[נקם]	to avenge, take vengeance
[נהל]	[Pi.] to lead, guide	[נצב]	[Nif.] to take a stand, set
נחלה	possession, inheritance (f)	[נשג]	[Hif.] to reach, attain
נזה	to spatter, sprinkle	[נתיץ]	to pull down, break down

Weak Verb Designations						
	III	II	I	← Modern designation	Modern	Description
	ל	ע	פ	← Traditional		
1	ד	ט	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	ה	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	ק	Lamed ‘Alef	III- ‘Alef	‘Alef in 3 rd 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 1st 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	ב	ט	Double ‘Ayin	Geminate	

I-Nun Guttural Weak Verbs

First Nun verbs are designated as Pe-Nun or I-Nun and are verbs whose initial consonant is Nun (נ). Examples of I-Nun verbs whose initial consonant is נ are:

נָגַשׁ	to draw near
נָפַל	to fall
נָתַךְ	to pour out

Rules of Inflection

Page Kelley identifies the following rules concerning the I-Nun verb ¹.

- A. When נ is the final consonant in a syllable other than the last syllable of the word, it is assimilated into the following consonant using the dagesh forte.

Qal impf 3ms	נָפַל	→	יָפַל
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- B. However, if the following consonant is a guttural, and therefore cannot be doubled, נ stands as an unassimilated consonant.

Qal impf 3ms	נָתַךְ	→	יָנַתַךְ
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Practice

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

¹ This section mostly adapted from Page Kelley, *Biblical Hebrew* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992)