Rocine Lesson 41
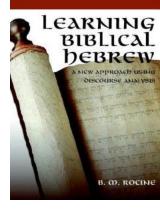
הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָם מִפָּנֶיךָ

Deuteronomy 12:30

Goals

Identify and read

- Niphal imperative
- Niphal infinitive

What we already know

הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָם מִפָּנֶיךָ

- What kind of dagesh is in הִשָּׁמֶר?

- What Hebrew letter very commonly assimilates to the next consonant (when there is no intervening vowel) and is displayed as a dagesh?

What we already know

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- What kind of dagesh is in הִשָּׁמֶר?

  Forte
  Can't be a dagesh lene because it is preceded by a vowel.

- What Hebrew letter very commonly assimilates to the next consonant (when there is no intervening vowel) and is displayed as a dagesh?

  Nun

Niphal imperative

הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָם מִפָּנֶיךָ

The first word in our lesson verse הִשָּׁמֶר is a Niphal Imperative.

RULE: The sign of the Niphal imperative is a pre-formed heh-hireq-dagesh forte, i.e. ◌ הִ

Niphal imperative

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Caution: Don't confuse this with Hiphil.
- Hiphil imperative = הַ
- Hiphil qatal = הִ (+ no dagesh)

The dagesh following the heh in the Niphal imperative is the Niphal nun that has assimilated. The Niphal imperative prefix is really הִן but you'll never see the nun explicitly, because it always assimilates.

Niphal imperative

הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָם מִפָּנֶיךָ

Let's parse הִשָּׁמֶר.

Root	Stem	Form	PGN	Function	Root meaning

Niphal imperative

הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָם מִפָּנֶיךָ

Let's parse הִשָּׁמֶר.

Root	Stem	Form	PGN	Function	Root meaning
שׁמר	Niphal	Imperative	ms	Hortatory Discourse mainline	To guard, be careful

Niphal imperative

הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ֫ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָם מִפָּנֶ֫יךָ

Here the Niphal הִשָּׁמֶר has a reflexive sense.

— Recall Niphal can be passive, reflexive, reciprocal, etc.

The לְךָ֫ also carries a reflexive sense.

— E.g. וַיִּקַּח־לוֹ לֶמֶךְ שְׁתֵּי נָשִׁים Then Lamech took for himself two wives. (Gen 4:19)

Given this, how might we translate the first two words of our lesson verse?

Niphal imperative

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Given this, how might we translate the first two words of our lesson verse?

Possible suggestions:
- Guard yourself for yourself! (Rocine)
- Watch out for your own good.
- Be careful, for your own sake.

Niphal infinitive

הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָם מִפָּנֶיךָ

- Infinitive Construct and Imperative look the same in the Niphal.

- The difference in this verse is that the infinitive has a 3mp pronominal suffix.

Niphal infinitive

הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָם מִפָּנֶיךָ

RULE: The sign of the Niphal infinitive is the same as the sign of the Niphal imperative,
- a heh-hireq-dagesh forte, i.e. ⊙ הִ

Niphal infinitive

הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָם מִפָּנֶיךָ

The root שמד in Niphal means be exterminated.

- How could הִשָּׁמְדָם be translated here?

Niphal infinitive

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The root שׁמד in Niphal means be exterminated.

- How could הִשָּׁמְדָם be translated here?

Rocine suggests using a gerund (an *-ing* noun): *their being exterminated*.

See http://pr-ofenglish.blogspot.ca/2016/01/gerunds-and-infinitives.html
for the difference between gerunds and infinitives in English.

Niphal infinitive

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In addition to context, how can Niphal infinitive and imperative be distinguished?

Niphal infinitive

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In addition to context, how can Niphal infinitive and imperative be distinguished?

- Prefixes
  - Infinitives construct can take prefixes: e.g. מְ ◌ כְּ בְּ לְ
  - A prefix is a good sign you have a infinitive construct.

Niphal infinitive

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- Prefixes
  - Infinitives construct can take prefixes: e.g. מְ ◌ כְ בְ לְ
  - A prefix is a good sign you have a infinitive construct.
- Pronominal Suffixes
  - These are more tricky.
  - Both infinitives construct and imperatives can take pronominal suffixes.
    - The difference is that imperatives will have a helping vowel (tsere) and the infinitives won't.
    - See Animated Hebrew chapter 24 "Pronominal Suffixes on Imperatives" for details.

Niphal infinitive

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In addition to context, how can Niphal infinitive and imperative be distinguished?

NOTE

The following statement is true for **<u>niphal imperatives</u>**, but not imperatives in general.

- *"Of the two [inf. const. and imperatives], only the infinitive takes a pronominal suffix as in our lesson verse."* (Rocine 41.3b, p. 233)

Imperatives **<u>often</u>** take pronominal suffixes (395x in HB). E.g.

• Gen 1:28	כִבְשֻׁהָ	"subdue it"	3fs sfx
• Gen 22:2	וְהַעֲלֵהוּ שָׁם לְעֹלָה	"and offer him there as a burnt offering"	3ms sfx
• Jdg 16:28	זָכְרֵנִי נָא	"remember me"	1cs sfx
• Isa 6:8	וָאֹמַר הִנְנִי שְׁלָחֵנִי	"And I said, Here am I. Send me."	1cs sfx
• 1 Kngs 18:26	הַבַּעַל עֲנֵנוּ	"O Baal, Answer us!"	1cp sfx
• Gen 19:5	הוֹצִיאֵם אֵלֵינוּ	"Bring them out to us."	3mp sfx

(There are no 2nd person suffixes on imperatives in the Hebrew Bible, but I guess that makes sense.)