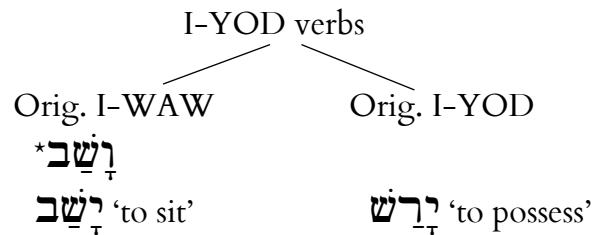


Weak Verbs: I-Waw & I-Yod (Ross 35)
Dr. Phillip Marshall

1.1 Hebrew has a number of verbs that are spelled with R1-YOD. However, historically these kinds of verbs can be divided into two sorts:

1. Those that were originally I-WAW (where the original R1-waw was changed to a R1-yod), and
2. Those that were originally I-YOD (the R1-yod was retained, and so it looks identical to the I-waw verbs after waw became yod).



It appears that Hebrew avoided writing waw when it was the first root letter of a noun or verb, so whenever a word began with waw, it was switched to yod. Let's look at the Holladay lexicon to see how many words begin with waw.

1.2 Typical weaknesses of these types of verbs: [Note: when R1 opens a syllable, it appears as cons. yod: יָשַׁב 'he sat' (Qal pft 3ms).]

1.2.1 R1-waw/yod will NOT close the syllable with the prefixes (stem-prefixes or prefix-conjugation's "nutty" prefixes). This will leave the prefix with an open syll., and a long vowel (instead of a closed syll. with a short vowel). [Note: this weakness occurs in all the same places as the R1-nun experiences when trying to close the syll.—Qal impf/juss/coh/wci, Ni pft/ptc, and all Hi/Ho forms.]

1.2.2 The orig. R1-waw or -yod will frequently appear as a vowel-marker (*mater*), and in one place as the orig. R1-waw consonant (Niphal impf/juss/coh/impv).

The chart below exemplifies these weaknesses

I-WAW

Qal pft 3ms	Qal impf 3ms	Ni pft 3ms	Ni impf 3ms	Hi pft 3ms	Ho pft 3ms
פָּקַד	יִפְקֹד	נִפְקַד	יִפְקֹד	הִפְקִיד	הִפְקִיד
יָשַׁב	יֵשֵׁב	נֹשֵׁב	יִנְשַׁב	הוֹשִׁיב	הוֹשִׁיב

I-YOD

Qal pft 3ms	Qal impf 3ms	Qal pft 3ms	Hi pft 3ms	Hi impf 3ms
פָּקַד	יִפְקֹד	פָּקַד	הִפְקִיד	יִפְקִיד
יָרַשׁ	יִירָשׁ	יָטַב	הִיטִיב	יִיטִיב

1.2.3 QIIC weakness: In Qal Impv and Infc, most I-waw verbs undergo apheresis (like many I-nuns) and so behave similarly (only R2/R3 in the Qal Impv, only R2/R3 + bonus tau in Qal Infc).

The chart below exemplifies these weaknesses

Root	Qal Impf 3ms	Qal Impv 2ms	Qal Infc	Qal Infc + 1cs sfx
יָשַׁב	יֵשֵׁב	יָשֵׁב	לְשַׁבֵּת	נִשְׁבַּתִּי
יָרַד	יֵרַד	יָרַד	יִרְדָּת	רִדְתִּי

Interestingly, the verb יָרַשׁ ('to inherit, possess') behaves according to both the orig. I-waw and the I-yod patterns.

Parsing	Inflected form	Pattern followed
Qal impf 3ms	יִירָשׁ	I-yod

Qal impv 2ms	רֵשׁ	I-waw (apheresis R1)
	יֵרֵשׁ	I-yod (no apheresis)
Qal infc	רֵשׁתְּ	I-waw (apheresis R1)
Hi pft 3ms	הוֹרִישׁ	I-waw

1.3 The Qal Impf forms of יִכַּל 'to be able': This verb is an orig. I-waw verb; the impf prefix will have a shureq, which is a mater representing that original waw as a vowel-marker.

Qal impf 3ms	יִכַּל	he will be able
3fs	תִּכַּל	she will be able
1cs	אִכַּל	I will be able

1.4 Irregular הָלַךְ.

This verb is the other multiple-personality verb in the Hebrew language. Even though it is I-gutt, in the Qal and Hiphil, it behaves as if it were I-waw!

Qal Pft	3ms	הָלַךְ	he walked
Qal Impf	3ms	יֵלֵךְ	he will walk
Qal Impv	2ms	לֵךְ	walk!
Qal Infc		לֵכָת	to walk/the act of walking
Hi Pft	3ms	הוֹלִיךְ	he led
Hi Impf	3ms	יּוֹלִיךְ	he will lead
Hi Impv	2ms	הוֹלִיךְ	lead!
Hi Ptc	ms	מוֹלִיךְ	leading