

Hebrew Grammar
Ross Homework Key

IBH 39.11

Section a. 1-20

- (1) Have mercy on me!; חַנּוּן Qal impv 2ms + 1cs sfx¹
- (2) You measured; מָדַד Qal wci 2fs
- (3) Surround the city!; סָבַב Qal impv 2mp
- (4) They will measure (or, Let them measure); מָדַד Qal impf (or juss) 3mp
- (5) I cursed him; אָרַר Qal pft 1cs + 3ms sfx
- (6) He will show bitterness (or, Let him show bitterness); מָרַר Pi. impf (or juss) 3ms
- (7) You will be surrounded; סָבַב Niph. wcp 2ms²
- (8) They did evil; רָעַע Hiph. pft 3cp
- (9) His praised ones/men/people; הִלֵּל Pu. ptc mp + 3ms sfx
- (10) Leading/Causing to turn; סָבַב Hiph. ptc mp
- (11) You surrounded them; סָבַב Qal pft 2mp/2fp³ + 3mp sfx

¹ See p. 288, para. 39.4 for this form.

² Note: the prefix *nun* on this form cannot be the imperfect 1cp prefix, since there is a *perfect 2ms* suffix תָּ at the end. So, where do you find a prefix *nun* along with perfect suffixes? That's right--in the Niphal perfect. But the *waw* that comes at the very beginning of the perfect form tells you this is a wcp, and therefore future time.

³As a reminder, see Ross p. 173, which tells us that when you add a pronominal object suffix to a perfect 2mp/2fp form, the personal ending תָּ/תָּ/תָּ changes to תּוּ before the pronominal suffixes are added.

- (12) They will be bad/evil; רעע Qal impf 3mp⁴
- (13) When he/it is complete/finished; תמם Qal infc + 3ms sfx + ב prep
- (14) They (fp)/You (fp) will surround/go around; סבב Qal impf 3fp/2fp
- (15) He showed favor; חנן Qal wci 3ms⁵
- (16) Do not do/cause evil!; רעע Hiph. juss 2ms (possibly 3fs: Let her not do evil)
- (17) He made bitter; מרר Hiph. pft 3ms⁶
- (18) You (Y'all) broke/annulled/frustrated; פרר Hiph. pft 2mp
- (19) They made light (of someone)/lightened/treated with contempt; קלל Hiph. pft 3cp⁷
- (20) We will desolate/ravage; שמם Hiph. impf 1cp⁸

⁴ Note: this form--as provided by Ross--is strange. The verb רעע, in the Qal stem, is stative in meaning (“to be evil”) and so seems to follow the the stative pattern modeled by יקל, תקל, יקלו: קלל. Since the geminated letter is a one of “the Gutts,” when the imperfect 3mp personal ending is suffixed, the dagesh forte is rejected and the preceding *patah* undergoes compensatory lengthening: ירעו. There are two possible problems with the form Ross provides, however. First, if this form is following קלל, the accent should be on the R-1 syllable (ירעו), cf. (יקלו), not the end. Secondly, the only attested form of the Qal impf 3mp (I searched for all imperfect plural forms) in MT neither preserves nor compensatorily lengthens the vowel under R-1 *reš*; rather, it shows the vowel reduced to to VS: ירעו (Neh 2:3).

⁵ This verb was introduced in Ch. 29 (Hithpael). This preterite form is distinguished from the imperfect due to the change of stress (now placed on the prefix vowel). The Qal impf 3ms is יחן (with tone-long U-class theme vowel); with the change of stress off of the theme vowel, we now have a closed, unaccented syllable. Due to the CUSS rule, this syllable must have a short vowel, so the tone-long *holem* reduces to the tone-short *qameš hatup*. You would pronounce יחן wayyāhon.

⁶ Because the verb מרר has one of “the Gutts” for its geminate letter, when the theme vowel *šere* precedes the Gutt in closing position, the Gutt causes it to change to the A-class *patah*: expected חמר (cf. הסב) becomes חמר.

⁷ This verb is a little unusual, in that the Hiphil perfect form shows alternation of the theme vowel between the expected I-class of the Hiphil, and the unexpected A-class. קלל occurs three times in the Hiph. perfect. Twice the theme vowel is A-class: הקל (Isa 8:23), הקלו (Eze 22:7). Once it is I-class: הקלתני (2Sa 19:44).

⁸ See the entry for this word in the vocab list at the end of Lesson 39; it indicates that there are two forms of the Hiphil impf of שמם: the normal geminate form ישם (cf. סב), and a form in which it mimics a I-nun verb in the

Section b. 1–12: translate and parse verbs. NOTE: Do not parse וְיָהָיָה and/or וְיָהָיָה.

(1) When they began to do evil, I turned away my eyes. [a] חָלַל Hiph. infc⁹ + 3mp sfx + prep ב; [b] רָעַע Hiph. infc¹⁰ + prep ל; [c] סוּר Hiph. wci 1cs

(2) You will be cursed, because you broke my covenant. [a] קָלַל Pu. impf 2ms (3fs is theoretically possible, but not in this context); [b] פָּרַר Hiph. pft 2ms

(3) He did evil more than all the kings before him. [a] רָעַע Hiph. pft 3ms

(4) When the priests heard, they began to tear their garments. [a] שָׁמַע Qal infc + prep ב; [b] חָלַל Hiph. pft 3cp; [c] קָרַע Qal infc + ל prep

(5) The prophet began to enter the city, and he called (out)/proclaimed in the name of YHWH. [a] חָלַל Hiph. wci 3ms; [b] בּוֹא Qal infc + ל prep; [c] קָרָא Qal wci 3ms

(6) For his blessed ones will inherit (the) land, but his cursed ones will be cut off. [a] בָּרַךְ Pu ptc mp cst + 3ms sfx; [b] יָרַשׁ Qal impf 3mp; [c] קָלַל Pu ptc¹¹ mp cst + 3ms sfx + conj ו; [d] בָּרַת Ni impf 3mp

(7) And they finished eating, and they arose to return to the camp. [a] תָּמַם Qal wci 3mp; [b] אָכַל Qal infc + prep ל; [c] קוּם Qal wci 3mp; [d] שׁוּב Qal infc + prep ל

Hiphil imperfect: יִשִּׁים (cf. the Hiphil impf of the I-nun נָגַד, which is יִגִּיד). The form provided by Ross for this exercise is the one that mimics the I-nun pattern. Sneaky!

⁹ This is the adverbial-temporal use of the infc, indicated by the prep ב. It's past time based on the wci וְיָהָיָה.

¹⁰ Because the verb רָעַע has one of “the Guttts” for its geminate letter (ע), the expected Hiph Inf theme vowel for Geminates—*se* (cf. הִסָּב)—change to the A-class *paṭaḥ*: הָרַעַע (instead of הָרַעַע). Note: this form is the objective complement use of the infc, answering the question, “What did they begin to do?” To review the uses of the infc, see Ross Lesson 22, pp. 163–164.

¹¹ The two Pual ptcs in this verse are functioning substantivally (that is, they function as nouns, both as the subjects of their respective verbs). The 3ms pronoun attached probably indicates the agent of the verbal action, so one could possibly gloss this as ‘the ones blessed of/by him’ and ‘the ones cursed of/by him’.

(8) The thing is evil (or ‘will be evil’ or ‘was evil’) in the eyes of YHWH, and you are cursed. [a] רעע Qal impf 3ms; [b] ארר Qal pass ptc ms (abs)¹²

(9) And when he had mercy on us,¹³ we were astonished (or ‘were silent’). [a] חנן Qal infc¹⁴ + prep ב + 3ms sfx; [b] דמם Qal wci 1cp

(10) Surround the camp of our enemies, and do not draw near to enter it, lest you be destroyed with it. [a] סבב Qal impv 2mp; [b] איב Qal ptc mp cst + 1cp sfx; [c] קרב Hi juss 2mp; [d] בוא Qal infc + prep ל; [e] אבד Pu impf 2mp

(11) And God said to him, “If you seek favor, I will show you favor, and I will establish my covenant with you.” [a] אמר Qal wci 3ms; [b] חנן Hithp pft 2ms; [c] חנן Qal impf 1cs; [d] קום Hi wcp 1cs

(12) And to Seth—him also—a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time, to call on the name of YHWH was begun.¹⁵ [a] ילד Pu pft 3ms; [b] קרא Qal wci 3ms; [c] הלל Ho pft 3ms; [d] קרא Qal infc + prep ל

¹² The passive ptc is a predicative use, where אַתָּה ‘you’ (2ms) is the S and the copula is null (unstated but implied): ‘you [are] cursed’.

¹³ The prep ב attached to the infc is temporal and should be rendered ‘when...’. The timeframe is determined by the fact that the clause begins with וַיְהִי, which is a wci form and therefore past time. This makes us render the infc as past: ‘when *he had mercy* on us’.

¹⁴ The Qal infc of חנן is חָן (in implied DF in nun, which will drop into the nun when a suffix is added). When the 3ms sfx is attached, DF drops in and the *i*-vowel takes the stress, leaving a CUSS syllable that needs to take a short vowel. Hence, the *holem* shortens to qibbuṣ. The path is as follows: חָן > חָנוּ > חָנוּ.

¹⁵ Don’t forget that there are two verbs with the root letters הלל; this is הלל II, meaning ‘to begin’ in the Hiphil (not הלל I, which has to do with defilement!). Since our verb is Hophal, it will have a passive sense, ‘to be begun’. The subject is the infc phrase ‘to call on the name of YHWH’—it is this activity which ‘was begun/started’ at that time.