

Ross Lesson 29: Hithpael Stem LECTURE NOTES

1. Forms/principal parts of the Hithpael (Ross 29.1)

The Hithpael stem is often referred to as the “reflexive” stem, although that is only one of the semantic nuances of using this stem. It can also have reciprocal, iterative, and passive nuances. We first deal with the way the Hithpael is formed. NOTE: In the Hithpael stem, as in Piel/Pual, the form is characterized by doubling in R-2 (root 2); however, there is also a characteristic *taw* (ת) infix right before R-1.

For our paradigm verb פקד, the Hithpael means ‘to be mustered, counted’.

Forms	Hithpael
Pft 3ms	הִתְפַּקֵּד
Impf 3ms	יִתְפַּקֵּד
Wci(wayyiqtol) 3ms	וַיִּתְפַּקֵּד
Juss 3ms	יִתְפַּקֵּד
Coh 1cs	אֶתְפַּקְדֶּה
Impv 2ms	הִתְפַּקֵּד
Ptc ms	מִתְפַּקֵּד
Infc	הִתְפַּקֵּד
Infa	הִתְפַּקֵּד

Below, let’s fill in the vowel-pointing for the Hithpael stem. *Please have your “Principal Parts” master handout available to consult along with these lecture notes!*

Hithpael Stem:

Perfect

3ms	פקד	3cp	פקדו
3fs	פקדה		
2ms	פקדתם	2mp	פקדתם
2fs	פקדתן	2fp	פקדתן
1cs	פקדתי	1cp	פקדנו

Imperfect

3ms	י פקד	3mp	י פקדו
3fs	ת פקד	3fp	ת פקדנה
2ms	ת פקד	2mp	ת פקדו
2fs	ת פקדי	2fp	ת פקדנה
1cs	א פקד	1cp	נ פקד

Wci

3ms	וי פקד	3mp	וי פקדו
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Juss

3ms	י פקד	3mp	י פקדו
2ms	ת פקד	2mp	ת פקדו

Coh

1cs	א פקדה	1cp	נ פקדה
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Impv

2ms	פקד	2mp	פקדו
2fs	פקדי	2fp	פקדנה

Ptc

ms	פקד	mp	פקדים
fs	פקדה	fp	פקדות

Infinitive: cst פקד +3ms sfx הַתְּפַקְדוּ abs פקד

2. Metathesis and assimilation in the Hithpael (Ross 29.2)

Some problem areas exist for the formation of the Hithpael stem/binyan. In particular, the processes of metathesis and assimilation can affect the underlying form of a verb in the Hithpael, with the result that its surface form looks different from what is expected. Let's explain those two processes in general ways, and then see how they apply to forming the Hithpael stem in Biblical Hebrew.

Metathesis: occurs when two sounds (or consonants, in this case) switch places, often due to factors involving articulatory phonetics. Note that we have exx. of audible metathesis in English (even if the spelling does not reflect it!):

*Brett Favre (pronounced *Farve* rather than the more proper French *Fav-re*)

*My children metathesized (?) sounds in English words all the time:

“cramya” for *camera*

“Jophes” for *Joseph*

Assimilation: occurs when the sound of one consonant causes the consonant beside it to change its sound. [The Borg Problem: “resistance is futile, you will be assimilated...”]

Full assimilation: C-1 becomes identical to C-2.

“immobile” comes from *in-mobile* (not mobile, cf. inimitable)

Partial Assimilation: C-1 becomes like C-2 (in voicing, location of formation, emphatic character).

The [z] sound is added to the end of a verb to indicate it is 3rd person singular.

“lags” Final sound is [z], which is voiced, as expected.

“lacks” Final sound is [s], unvoiced, due to the preceding unvoiced [k]. The unvoiced [k] causes the underlying voiced [z] to partially assimilate, devoicing and becoming unvoiced [s].

The [d] sound is added to the end of a verb to indicate it is past tense.

“pegged” Final sound is [d], which is voiced, as expected.

“pecked” Final sound is [t], unvoiced, due to the preceding unvoiced [k]. The unvoiced [k] causes the underlying voiced [d] to partially assimilate, devoicing and becoming unvoiced [t].

Metathesis + Assimilation:

My kids performed double operations on some of their words, employing both metathesis *and* assimilation at the same time!

“spakettball” for *basketball* (metathesis: *sbakettball*; assimilation: *spakettball*)
 “pasketti” for *spaghetti* (metathesis: *pasghetti*; assimilation: *pasketti*)
 “jamamas” for *pajamas* (metathesis: *japamas*; assimilation: *jamamas*)

AND NOW THE HITHPAEL...

The consonant changes involved in the hithpael are due to the taw of the *hith-* prefix butting up against a R-1 consonant that is either dental or sibilant (formed close to the dental area). Why is this a problem? Because both R-1 and the taw of the *hith-* are homorganic (formed in the same area). What are the types of changes that can occur?

2.1. Metathesis, with no assimilation (prefixed dental ת + UNVOICED R-1 sibilant [ש ס שׁ]).

a. □□ הַתְּ+שׁ → □□ הַשׁ+תְּ

So, שמר Hith. (to take heed to oneself): הַתְּשַׁמֵּר → הַשְּׁתַּמֵּר

b. □□ הַתְּ+ס → □□ הַסְּ+תְּ

So, סבל Hith. (to become burdensome): הַתְּסַבֵּל → הַסְּתַבֵּל

2.2. Metathesis, and partial assimilation (prefixed dental ת + VOICED/EMPHATIC R-1 sibilant [ז צ]).

a. □□ הַתְּ+צ → □□ הַצְּ+תְּ → □□ הַצְּ+ט

So, צדק Hith. (to justify oneself): הַתְּצַדֵּק → הַצְּתַדֵּק → הַצְּטַדֵּק

2.3. NO Metathesis, and full assimilation (prefixed dental ת + ANY R-1 dental [נ ט ד ת]).

a. □□ הַתְּ+ט → □□ הַטְּ+תְּ → □□ הַטְּ

So, טהר Hith. (to purify oneself): הַתְּטַהֵר → הַטְּטַהֵר → הַטְּהַר

b. □□ הַתְּ+נ → □□ הַנְּ+תְּ → □□ הַנְּ

So, נבא Hith. (to prophesy): הַתְּנַבֵּא → הַנְּנַבֵּא → הַנְּבֵא

	Dentals	Sibilants
Unvoiced	ת/ת	ש ש ש
Voiced	ד/ד	ז
Emphatic	ט	צ
Nasal	נ	

3. Translating the Hithpael (Ross 29.3)

3.1. Directly reflexive: The S(ubject) acts directly on _____.

קדש (Qal: to be holy)	Pi	קִידֵשׁ	he...
	Pu	קִידֵשׁ	he...
	Hithp	הִתְקִידֵשׁ	he...

3.2. Indirectly reflexive: The S performs action _____.

פלל	Pi	פִלֵּל	he...
	Hithp	הִתְפִּיל	he...

3.3. Reciprocal: Plural S performs action _____.

דבר	Pi	דִּבְרוּ	they...
	Hithp	הִתְדַבְּרוּ (< הִדְבְּרוּ)	they...

3.4. Iterative: Action is done _____.

הלך	Qal	הִלְךְ	he...
	Hithp	הִתְהַלֵּךְ	he...