

## Ross Lesson 39, Geminate Weak Verbs LECTURE NOTES

### 1. Introduction to Geminate Verbs (Ross 39.1)

1.1. Hebrew has a number of verbs whose R-2 and R-3 are identical. They are called *Geminate* verbs. What does Gemini mean? (Think: constellations.) How were the space missions Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo different from one another?



1.2. Basic problem: While these verbs have 3 consonantal roots, as does the normal strong verb, there is a tendency to collapse R-2 and R-3 to form a monosyllable for the verbal core (instead of two syllables). The twin consonants are written only once, but whenever verbal inflections are added a DF will drop in to remind us that the single consonant really represents twin consonants—R-2 and R-3. NOTE: Whenever Geminates monosyllabicize, they behave similarly to Hollow verbs, who naturally have a monosyllabic core due to just the two roots. And, like Hollows, inflectional prefixes will usually be OPEN and have a LONG vowel, but they will reduce to VS in O/PPT position. We'll see this below.

### 2. Behavior of Geminates (Ross 39.2):

2.1. Tendency toward forming a monosyllable in the verbal core.

Root	סבב	סבב	סבב	סבב	קלל	תמם
Qal Pft	סָבַב	סָב	סָבְבוּ	סָבוּ	קָלַל	תָּמַם
Gloss	he went around	he went around	they went around	they went around	he was (s)light	he was complete

2.2. When Geminates monosyllabicize, R-2 and R-3 are written once and considered “doubled” or “strengthened” with DF. NOTE:

Uninflected (zero-ending) forms cannot put DF in a final consonant! So,

סָב (implied DF in ב), but סָבוּ (DF settles down in ב with inflectional ending)

2.3. When Geminates add verbal inflections that are *consonantal endings*, they use helping vowels after the doubled root consonant. This applies to all stems except the ones that normally double R-2 as part of the stem morphology (Piel, Pual, Hithp).

2.3.1. The perfect/suffix conjugation: ם helping vowel before cons. ending.

Root	סבב	סבב	סבב	קלל	קלל
Pft 2ms	סָבַבְתָּ	נִסְבַּבְתָּ	הִסְבַּבְתָּ	קָלַבְתָּ	הִקְלַבְתָּ
Gloss	Q. you went around	Ni. you doubled back	Hi. you brought around	Q. you were light	Hi. you despised

2.3.2. The imperfect/prefix conjugation (and those conjugations built off of it): ם helping vowel before cons. ending.

סבב	סבב	סבב	סבב	סבב	סבב
יִסְבֵּב	תִּסְבְּבוּ	תִּסְבְּינָה	סְבִינָה	תִּסְבְּינָה	תִּסְבְּינָה
Q. Impf 3ms	Q. Impf 2mp	Q. Impf 2fp	Q. Impv 2fp	Ni. Impf 2fp	Hi. Impf 2fp
he will go around	you will go around	y'all will go around	Go around!	y'all will double back/ be turned over	y'all will bring around

3. Representative forms (Ross 39.2, 39.5–39.8)

		Qal Active	Qal Stative	Niphal	Piel	Hiphil	Hophal
		סבב	קלל	סבב	הלל	סבב	סבב
Pft	3ms	{ סָבַבְתָּ סָבַבְתָּ	קָלַבְתָּ	נִסְבַּבְתָּ	הִקְלַבְתָּ	הִסְבַּבְתָּ	הוֹסְבַּבְתָּ
	3fs	{ סָבַבְתְּ סָבַבְתְּ	קָלַבְתְּ	נִסְבַּבְתְּ	הִקְלַבְתְּ	הִסְבַּבְתְּ	הוֹסְבַּבְתְּ
	2ms	סָבַבְתָּ	קָלַבְתָּ	נִסְבַּבְתָּ	הִקְלַבְתָּ	הִסְבַּבְתָּ	הוֹסְבַּבְתָּ
	3cp	{ סָבַבְתוּ סָבַבְתוּ	קָלַבְתוּ	נִסְבַּבְתוּ	הִקְלַבְתוּ	הִסְבַּבְתוּ	הוֹסְבַּבְתוּ

Impf	3ms	{	יָסַב	יָקַל	יָסַב	יְהַלֵּל	יָסַב	יּוֹסֵב
			יִסְבוּ					
	3mp	{	יָסְבוּ	יִקְלוּ	יִסְבוּ	יְהַלְלוּ	יִסְבוּ	יּוֹסְבוּ
			יִסְבוּ					
	3/2fp	{	תִּסְבְּיָנָה	תִּקְלִינָה	תִּסְבְּיָנָה	תִּהְלִלְנָה	תִּסְבְּיָנָה	תּוֹסְבְּיָנָה
			תִּסְבְּנָה					
WCI	3ms		וַיָּסַב				וַיָּסַב	
Impv	2ms		סַב	קַל	הַסַּב	הַלֵּל	הַסַּב	
	2mp		סְבוּ	קְלוּ	הַסְּבוּ	הַלְּלוּ	הַסְּבוּ	
	2fp		סְבִינָה	קְלִינָה	הַסְּבִינָה	הַלְּלִינָה	הַסְּבִינָה	
Ptc	ms		סַבֵּב	קַל	נָסַב	מְהַלֵּל	מִסַּב	מוֹסַב
	fs		סַבְּבָה	קְלָה	נָסַבָּה	מְהַלְלָה	מִסַּבָּה	מוֹסַבָּה
Infc		{	סַב					
Infc	+sfx		סְבִי	קַל	הַסַּב	הַלֵּל	הַסַּב	הּוֹסַב
Infa			סַבּוּב	קַלּוּל	הַסּוּב	הַלּוּל	הַסַּב	הּוֹסַב

#### 4. Guttural Irregularities: The Qal of אָרַר 'to curse' and the Hiphil of רָעַע 'to do evil' (Ross 39.3 and 39.9)

The problem here is that when Geminates monosyllabicize, the R-2/R-3 letter will double. However, we know that the Gutts gang will not allow a DF. Also, we learned in Ross 33 that when verbs end with a Gutt, the stems that have a šere theme vowel will switch to pataḥ when there is no inflectional ending. Here are a few examples of these problems (see next page).

		סבב	ארר	סבב	רעע
		Qal	Qal	Hiph	Hiph
Pft	3ms	סַבַּב	אַרַר	הִסַּב	הִרַע
	3fs	סַבְּבָה	אַרְרָה	הִסְבֶּה	הִרְעָה
	2ms	סַבּוֹת	אַרוֹת	הִסְבּוֹת	הִרְעוֹת
Impf	3ms	יִסַּב	יֶאֱר	יִסַּב	{ יִרַע יִרַע
	3mp	יִסְבוּ	יֶאֱרוּ	יִסְבוּ	יִרְעוּ
	3/2fp			תִּסְבְּינָה	תִּרְעִינָה
Impv	2ms			הִסַּב	הִרַע
	2mp			הִסְבוּ	הִרְעוּ