

Piel Verbs – Meaning

1

- Active voice.
- Look up the Piel meaning for each verb.
 - There are common types of Piel meanings (e.g., factitive), but you often cannot guess the Piel meaning from the Qal meaning.
- Parsing code: **P**
 - **Q = Qal**
 - **N = Niphal**
 - **P = Piel**

Piel Verbs – Spelling

2

- Vocal Shewa with Imperfect and Participle preformatives (וְּ וִי)
- First root consonant Pathach
 - Perfect has first root consonant Hireq.
- Dagesh Forte in second root consonant in most Piel verb forms
 - Often lose Dagesh Forte in “Skin-em, Levi” letters that have a Vocal Shewa (וְּ וִי וִי וִי וִי) (§26.16).
 - Will lose this for 2-guttural roots (Chapter 27 – Piel Weak).
- Participles have מ prefix in all major stems except the Qal and Niphal.
- Ambiguous spelling:
 - PM2MS = PC = PA

Parsing – Ex26, p211 (slide 1 of 2)

3

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|-----|---------------|---------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. | בִּקְשָׁתִי | בָּקַשׁ | PP1CS | ○ ○ ○ / ○ ○ ○ |
| 2. | תִּבְקְשֵׁי | בָּקַשׁ | PI2FS | ○ ○ ○ יְ |
| 3. | בִּקְשׁוּ | בָּקַשׁ | PM2MP | ○ ○ ○ |
| 4. | מִבְּקַשׁ | בָּקַשׁ | PPMS | ○ ○ ○ מְ |
| 5. | אֲדַבֵּר | דָּבַר | PI1CS | ○ ○ ○ יְ |
| 6. | מִדְּבָרוֹת | דָּבַר | PPFP | ○ ○ ○ מְ |
| 7. | דִּבְרוּ | דָּבַר | PP3CP | ○ ○ ○ |
| 8. | יְדַבְּרוּ | דָּבַר | PI3MP | ○ ○ ○ יְ |
| 9. | תִּסְפְּרֵנָה | סָפַר | PI3FP/2FP | ○ ○ ○ יְ |
| 10. | סִפְּרָה | סָפַר | PM2MS/PC/PA | ○ ○ ○ |

Parsing – Ex26, p211-212 (slide 2 of 2)

4

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|-----|----------------|--------|-------------|---------------|
| 11. | סִפְּרָתָּהּ | סָפַר | PP2FS | ○ ○ ○ / ○ ○ ○ |
| 12. | מִסְפָּרָהּ | סָפַר | PPFS | ○ ○ ○ מְ |
| 13. | מִסְפָּרֶתָּהּ | סָפַר | PPFS | ○ ○ ○ מְ |
| 14. | מִגְּדֻלִים | גָּדַל | PPMP | ○ ○ ○ מְ |
| 15. | גִּדְּלָהּ | גָּדַל | PM2MS/PC/PA | ○ ○ ○ |
| 16. | גִּנְדֵּלְהָ | גָּדַל | PI1CP | ○ ○ ○ יְ |
| 17. | גִּנְדֵּלְנוּ | גָּדַל | PP1CP | ○ ○ ○ |
| 18. | לְמִדְּבָרָהּ | לָמַד | PM2FP | ○ ○ ○ |
| 19. | לָמַדְהָ | לָמַד | PP3MS | ○ ○ ○ / ○ ○ ○ |
| 20. | לָמַדְהָ | לָמַד | PM2MS/PC/PA | ○ ○ ○ |

Bible Translation – Ex 26, p216, #9 (Exod 16:10) ⁵

וַיְהִי כִּדְבַר אֲהֲרֹן אֲל־כָּל־עֲדַת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
וַיִּפְּנוּ אֶל־הַמִּדְבָּר וַהֲיָה כְבוֹד יְהוָה נֹרְאָה בָּעָנָן

When Aaron spoke to all of the assembly of the sons of Israel, they turned to the wilderness, and behold, the glory of YHWH appeared in the cloud.

- וַיְהִי = וַיְהִי QIwc3MS ‘he was’
 - Begins a past-time narrative sequence, and left untranslated.
- כִּדְבַר = כִּי ‘like’ + דְּבַר PC (Diagnostic ֻֿֿ)
- Temporal use of כִּי with an infinitive construct → ‘when’
- The verb דְּבַר does not occur in the Qal, and is not intensive.
- וַיִּפְּנוּ = וַיִּפְּנוּ QIwc3MP ‘they turned’
- נֹרְאָה = נֹרְאָה NP3MS/NPFS ‘it appeared/appearing’

Bible Translation – Ex 26, p216, #12a (Exod 24:7) ⁶

וַיִּקַּח סֵפֶר הַבְּרִית וַיִּקְרָא בְּאָזְנֵי הָעָם
וַיֹּאמְרוּ כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר יְהוָה נַעֲשֶׂה וְנִשְׁמָע

He took the book of the covenant and he read [it] in the ears of the people, and they said, “all that YHWH has spoken, we will do and we will hear/obey.”

- וַיִּקַּח = וַיִּקַּח QIwc3MS ‘he took’ (לָקַח QI has ל → ֻ like 1-n verb)
- וַיִּקְרָא = וַיִּקְרָא QIwc3MS ‘he read’
- וַיֹּאמְרוּ = וַיֹּאמְרוּ QIwc3MP ‘they said’
- וַדִּבֶּר = וַדִּבֶּר PP3MS ‘he spoke’ (Diagnostic ֻֿֿ / ֻֿֿֿ)
- וַדִּבֶּר is not intensive in the Piel. דִּבֶּר does not occur in the Qal.
- Stem vowel ֻ → ֹ because of the Maqqef (ֿ).
- נַעֲשֶׂה = נַעֲשֶׂה QI1CP ‘we will do’
- For 1-Gut, Niphal Perfect/Participle begin with ִּ, Imperfect ִּ
- וְנִשְׁמָע = וְנִשְׁמָע QI1CP/NPMS ‘we will hear/being heard’ (conjunct. ׀).

Bible Translation – Ex 26, p216, #12b (Exod 24:8) ⁷

וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הַדָּם וַיִּזְרַק עַל־הָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה דַם־הַבְּרִית
אֲשֶׁר כָּרַת יְהוָה עִמָּכֶם עַל־כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה

Moses took the blood and sprinkled [it] on the people, and he said, “Behold the blood of the covenant which YHWH made with you according to all of these words.”

- וַיִּקַּח = וַיִּקַּח QIwc3MS ‘he took’ (לָקַח QI has ל → ֻ like 1-n verb)
- וַיִּזְרַק = וַיִּזְרַק QIwc3MS ‘he sprinkled’
- וַיֹּאמֶר = וַיֹּאמֶר QIwc3MS ‘he said’
- כָּרַת = כָּרַת QP3MS ‘he cut’. But כָּרַת בְּרִית = ‘made a covenant’
- עִמָּכֶם = עִם ‘with’ + 2MP type 1 pronominal suffix ‘you’

Bible Translation – Ex 26, p216, #13 (Exod 24:3) ⁸

וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה וַיְסַפֵּר לָעָם אֵת כָּל־דְּבָרֵי יְהוָה וְאֵת כָּל־הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים וַיַּעַן
כָּל־הָעָם קוֹל אֶחָד וַיֹּאמְרוּ כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר יְהוָה נַעֲשֶׂה

Moses came and reported to the people all of the words of YHWH and all of the judgments and all of the people answered [with] one voice and said, “All the words which YHWH spoke, we will do.”

- וַיָּבֹא = וַיָּבֹא QIwc3MS ‘he came’
- וַיְסַפֵּר = וַיְסַפֵּר PIwc3MS ‘he reported’ (Diagnostic ֻֿֿֿ)
- לָעָם = לְ ‘to’ + הַ ‘the’ (ע rejects ֻ, so ֻ → ֹ) + עָם ‘people’
- וַיַּעַן = וַיַּעַן QIwc3MS ‘he answered’ (Subject ... כָּל with singular verb)
- וַיֹּאמְרוּ = וַיֹּאמְרוּ QIwc3MP ‘they said’ (Subject ... כָּל with plural verb)
- וַדִּבֶּר = וַדִּבֶּר PP3MS ‘he spoke’ (Diagnostic ֻֿֿ / ֻֿֿֿ)
- Stem vowel ֻ → ֹ because of the Maqqef (ֿ).
- נַעֲשֶׂה = נַעֲשֶׂה QI1CP ‘we will do’
- For 1-Gut, Niphal Perfect/Participle begin with ִּ, Imperfect ִּ

Translation – Ex 26, p213, #6
הַמְּלָכִים דִּבְרוּ אֲלֵיהֶם כְּדִבְרֵים הָאֵלֶּה

9

The kings spoke to them according to these words.

- דִּבְרוּ = דִּבַּר PP3CP ‘they spoke’ (Diagnostic ֻּוּ / ֻּוּ)
- The verb has a normal meaning, ‘to speak’. It is NOT intensive.
- דִּבַּר does not occur in the Qal.
- הַמְּלָכִים = הַ ‘the’ + מְלָךְ plural ‘kings’
- אֲלֵיהֶם = אֶל ‘to’ + 3MP type 2 suffix ‘them’
- Preposition אֶל → אֲלֵ when added ‘heavy’ suffix יָהֶם
- כְּדִבְרֵים = כְּ ‘like’ + הַ ‘the’ + דִּבַּר plural ‘words’
- הָאֵלֶּה = הַ ‘the’ + אֵלֶּה ‘these’
- Demonstrative adjective b/c follows noun and has article.

Translation – Ex 26, p213, #7
וַיְדַבֵּר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲלֵיהֶם כְּדִבְרֵים הָאֵלֶּה

10

The king spoke to them according to these words.

- וַיְדַבֵּר = דִּבַּר PIwc3MS ‘he spoke’ (Diagnostic ֻּוּיְ)
- The verb has a normal meaning, ‘to speak’. It is NOT intensive.
- דִּבַּר does not occur in the Qal.
- הַמֶּלֶךְ = הַ ‘the’ + מֶלֶךְ ‘king’
- אֲלֵיהֶם = אֶל ‘to’ + 3MP type 2 suffix ‘them’
- Preposition אֶל → אֲלֵ when added ‘heavy’ suffix יָהֶם
- כְּדִבְרֵים = כְּ ‘like’ + הַ ‘the’ + דִּבַּר plural ‘words’
- הָאֵלֶּה = הַ ‘the’ + אֵלֶּה ‘these’
- Demonstrative adjective b/c follows noun and has article.

Translation – Ex 26, p213, #8
דִּבְרוּ אֶל־הַעֲבָדִים

11

Speak to the servants!

- דִּבְרוּ = דִּבַּר PM2MP ‘speak!’ (Diagnostic ֻּוּ)
- The verb has a normal meaning, ‘Speak!’ It is NOT intensive.
- דִּבַּר does not occur in the Qal.
- Subject omitted, as is typical with second person verbs.
- אֶל ‘to’
- הַעֲבָדִים = הַ ‘the’ + עָבַד plural ‘servants’

Translation – Ex 26, p213, #9
הַמְּלָכִים דִּבְרוּ אֶל־הַעֲבָדִים

12

The kings spoke to the servants.

- דִּבְרוּ = דִּבַּר PP3CP ‘they spoke’ (Diagnostic ֻּוּ / ֻּוּ)
- The verb has a normal meaning, ‘to speak’. It is NOT intensive.
- דִּבַּר does not occur in the Qal.
- הַמְּלָכִים = הַ ‘the’ + מְלָךְ plural ‘kings’
- אֶל ‘to’
- הַעֲבָדִים = הַ ‘the’ + עָבַד plural ‘servants’

וַיְסַפֵּר אֶת־הַחֵלֹם אֶל־אָחָיו

He reported the dream to his brothers.

- וַיְסַפֵּר = סַפֵּר PIwc3MS ‘he reported’ (Diagnostic ◊◊◊?)
 - The verb has a normal meaning, ‘to report’. It is NOT intensive.
 - This verb occurs in the Qal, meaning ‘to write’ or ‘to count’.
 - Subject omitted. This often occurs.
- אֶת־ = DDO marker
- הַחֵלֹם = הַ ‘the’ + חֵלֹם ‘dream’
 - Direct object is definite b/c of הַ, so it is preceded by אֶת־
- אֶל־ ‘to’
- אָחָיו = אח plural ‘brothers’ + 3MS type 2 suffix ‘his’
 - Type 2 suffix, so the noun is plural (‘brothers’)

מִה־תִּבְקֹשׁ

What are you seeking? / What is she seeking?

- מִה־ = ‘what?’
 - Interrogative pronoun first when it occurs.
- תִּבְקֹשׁ = בְּקֹשׁ PI3FS/2MS ‘she/you will seek’ (Diagnostic ◊◊◊?)
 - בְּקֹשׁ does not occur in the Qal.
 - בְּקֹשׁ may be in the Piel because it has an iterative sense (§26.2.4), in that seeking consists of looking in one place, then in another.
 - This could be 3FS ‘she is seeking’ or 2MS ‘you are seeking’
 - Imperfect aspect could be future ‘will seek’.
 - Imperfect aspect could be present ‘are seeking’ / ‘do seek’

אֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר שָׁבְרוּ אֶת־לִוְחַת הָאֲבָנִים

The men of the city broke the stone tablet.

- אֲנָשֵׁי = אִישׁ plural construct ‘men of’
 - ‘*The* men of’ b/c word at end of construct chain (הָעִיר) is definite
- הָעִיר = הַ ‘the’ + עִיר ‘city’
- שָׁבְרוּ = QP3CP ‘they broke’ (Qal Perfect strong verb paradigm)
- אֶת־ = DDO marker
- לִוְחַת singular construct ‘tablet of’
 - Construct and absolute same spelling, but has אֶת־ so definite, and only way for it to be definite is to be in construct to הָאֲבָנִים
- הָאֲבָנִים = הַ ‘the’ + אֲבָן ‘stone’
 - Construct of material (intermediate Hebrew), so translate ‘tablet of stone’ as ‘stone tablet’.

אֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר שָׁבְרוּ אֶת־לִוְחֹת הַתּוֹרָה

The men of the city smashed the tablets of the law.

- אֲנָשֵׁי = אִישׁ plural construct ‘men of’
 - ‘*The* men of’ b/c word at end of construct chain (הָעִיר) is definite
- הָעִיר = הַ ‘the’ + עִיר ‘city’
- שָׁבְרוּ = PP3CP ‘they smashed’ (Diagnostic ◊◊◊ / ◊◊◊)
 - This is a classic example of an ‘intensive’ Piel verbal meaning.
 - The intensive idea of ‘smashing’ may be fundamentally iterative rather than intensive. Keep on breaking until it is totally smashed.
- אֶת־ = DDO marker
- לִוְחֹת singular construct ‘tablet of’
- הַתּוֹרָה = הַ ‘the’ + תּוֹרָה ‘stone’

