Rocine Lesson 41

הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָּם מִפָּנֶ֣֫יךָ

Deuteronomy 12:30
Goals

Identify and read
• Niphal imperative
• Niphal infinitive
What we already know

• What kind of dagesh is in חָשֶׁם?

• What Hebrew letter very commonly assimilates to the next consonant (when there is no intervening vowel) and is displayed as a dagesh?
What we already know

מהו דגש זה?

מהו דגש זה?

מהו דגש זה?

מהו דגש זה?

What kind of dagesh is in התשמד?  

Forte

Can’t be a dagesh lene because it is preceded by a vowel.

What Hebrew letter very commonly assimilates to the next consonant (when there is no intervening vowel) and is displayed as a dagesh?  

Nun
Niphal imperative

The first word in our lesson verse is a Niphal Imperative.

RULE: The sign of the Niphal imperative is a pre-formed heh-hireq-dagesh forte, i.e. הִשָּׁמֶר
The first word in our lesson verse is a Niphal Imperative.

RULE: The sign of the Niphal imperative is a preformed heh-hireq-dagesh forte, i.e. ♀ ח.

Caution: Don’t confuse this with Hiphil.

• Hiphil imperative = ח
• Hiphil qatal = ח ק (+ no dagesh)

The dagesh following the heh in the Niphal imperative is the Niphal nun that has assimilated. The Niphal imperative prefix is really ח נ but you’ll never see the nun explicitly, because it always assimilates.
Niphal imperative

Let’s parse השמר.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root</th>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>PGN</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Root meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

לְךָ אָתָרָי, השמר מִפָּנֶ֫יךָ.
Let’s parse נִפֹּל.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>נשמר</td>
<td>Niphal</td>
<td>Imperative</td>
<td>ms</td>
<td>Hortatory Discourse mainline</td>
<td>To guard, be careful</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Niphal imperative

Here the Niphal לְךָ אָחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדוּ מִפָּנֶ֣יךָ has a reflexive sense.

– Recall Niphal can be passive, reflexive, reciprocal, etc.

The לְ also carries a reflexive sense.

– E.g. וַיִּקַּח־לְּוֹ לֶמְֶ  שְֵֵׁי נָּׁשִׁים Then Lamech took for himself two wives. (Gen 4:19)

Given this, how might we translate the first two words of our lesson verse?
Niphal imperative

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– Recall Niphal can be passive, reflexive, reciprocal, etc.

The לְ also carries a reflexive sense.

– E.g. וַיִּקַּח־לוֹ לֶמְֶ  שְִֵֵׁי נָּׁשִׁים Then Lamech took for himself two wives. (Gen 4:19)

Given this, how might we translate the first two words of our lesson verse?

Possible suggestions:
• Guard yourself for yourself! (Rocine)
• Watch out for your own good.
• Be careful, for your own sake.
Niphal infinitive

Infinitive Construct and Imperative look the same in the Niphal.

The difference in this verse is that the infinitive has a 3mp pronominal suffix.
RULE: The sign of the Niphal infinitive is the same as the sign of the Niphal imperative, - a heh-hireq-dagesh forte, i.e. הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָּם מִפָּנֶיךָ.
Niphal infinitive

הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הַשְּׁמַד מִפָּנֶיךָ

The root שָׁמַד in Niphal means be exterminated.

• How could חָסַי be translated here?
Niphal infinitive

הִשָּׁמֶר לְךָ אַחֲרֵי הִשָּׁמְדָּם מִפָּנֶיךָ

The root שמד in Niphal means be exterminated.

• How could השמד be translated here?

Rocine suggests using a gerund (an -ing noun): *their being exterminated.*

See http://pr-ofenglish.blogspot.ca/2016/01/gerunds-and-infinitives.html for the difference between gerunds and infinitives in English.
Niphal infinitive

In addition to context, how can Niphal infinitive and imperative be distinguished?
Niphal infinitive

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• Prefixes
  • Infinitives construct can take prefixes: e.g. מְבַלֶּךָ
  • A prefix is a good sign you have a infinitive construct.
In addition to context, how can Niphal infinitive and imperative be distinguished?

- **Prefixes**
  - Infinitives construct can take prefixes: e.g. מְכֹלֶבֶּל
  - A prefix is a good sign you have a infinitive construct.
- **Pronominal Suffixes**
  - These are more tricky.
  - Both infinitives construct and imperatives can take pronominal suffixes.
    - The difference is that imperatives will have a helping vowel (tsere) and the infinitives won’t.
    - See Animated Hebrew chapter 24 “Pronominal Suffixes on Imperatives” for details.
Niphal infinitive

In addition to context, how can Niphal infinitive and imperative be distinguished?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imperatives</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Translations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gen 1:28</td>
<td>כִּבְשֵׁהּ</td>
<td>“subdue it”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen 22:2</td>
<td>והעֲלֵהֻהָ</td>
<td>“and offer him there as a burnt offering”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jdg 16:28</td>
<td>זָכְרֵנָא</td>
<td>“remember me”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isa 6:8</td>
<td>וָּאֹמַר הִנְנִי</td>
<td>“And I said, Here am I. Send me.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Kngs 18:26</td>
<td>הבָעַל עֲנֵנוּ</td>
<td>“O Baal, Answer us!”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen 19:5</td>
<td>הוֹצִיאֵנָה</td>
<td>“Bring them out to us.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(There are no 2nd person suffixes on imperatives in the Hebrew Bible, but I guess that makes sense.)