**Chapter 8: Imperfect Verbs**

**8.A.** **Introduction**: A Logos search reveals that there are about 50,000 qal verbs out of a total 74,017 verbs total in the Tanak (21,000 being Qal Perfect; 23,440 being Qal Imperfect). So the Qal is the major stem over all others and splits almost evenly between the perfect and imperfect forms. The Imperfect is used to describe incomplete action which may be rendered in the past, present or future time frame. In our paradigms we will translate it as a simple future but in usage it can be used for repeated, habitual or customary action in any tense. The incomplete aspect may be reflected in actions that are dependent or contingent resulting in modal expressions such as: may, might, if, perhaps, could, would or should. While the perfect conjugations have the pronominal endings as suffixed endings, in the imperfect the pronominal subjects will be prefixed onto the verb stem with accompanying suffixes on several of the imperfect forms. The imperfect is very flexible and hence dependent on the context to understand how it is to be translated.

**8.B. Chant Paradigm for the Qal Imperfects:** שָׁמַר to keep, guard, watch

1CS אֶשְׁמֹר I will keep 1CP נִשְׂמֹר we will keep

2MS תִּשְׁמֹר you (m.) will keep 2MP תִּשְׁמְרוּ you (m.) will keep

2FS תִּשְׁמְרִי you (f.) will keep 2FP תִּשְׁמֹרְנָה you (f.) will keep

3MS יִשְׁמֹר he will keep 3MP יִשְׁמְרוּ they (m.) will keep

3FS תִּשְׁמֹר she will keep 3FP תִּשְׁמֹרְנָה they (f.) will keep

**Imperfect Prefixes and suffixes**

1CS אֶ־־־ 1CP נִ־־־

2MS תִּ־־־ 2MP תִּ־־־וּ

2FS תִּ־־־ִי 2FP תִּ־־־ְנָה

3MS יִ־־־ 3MP יִ־־־וּ

3FS תִּ־־־ 3FP תִּ־־־ְנָה

Preformatives are generally attached with a ḥîreq (exception: 1CS א where a seghôl is used) and the stem vowel is a ḥôlem which is reduced to a ševā’ when a vocalic suffix is added (e.g. תִּשְׁמְרִי, תִּשְׁמְרוּ, יִשְׁמְרוּ) The ḥôlem is retained when the heavy suffix נָה ending is added (e.g. תִּשְׁמֹרְנָה ).   
There are two duplicate forms: 1) the 2MS = 3FS (תִּשְׁמֹר = you [m.] will keep and she will keep) and 2) the 2FP=3FP (תִּשְׁמֹרְנָה you [f.] will keep or they [f.] will keep). This is not often a problem because the context will usually distinguish clearly between the second and third person.

**8.C. Paragogic Nun**: One final thing should be noted. On occasion a Paragogic Nun is suffixed on the 3MP and 2MP imperfect verbal forms that both normally end in a šûreq. Hence instead of תִּשְׁמְרוּ for the 2MP תִּשְׁמְרוּן is written or defectively as תִּשְׁמְרֻן (you [m] will keep). Similarly, for the 3MP instead of יִשְׁמְרוּ it is sometimes יִשְׁמְרוּן is written as or defectively as יִשְׁמְרֻן. It does not impact the meaning.

**8.D. A Few Other Regular Verbs**

בָּרַךְ to bless, praise קָבַץ to gather

זָכַר to remember פָּקַד to visit

כָּתַב to write קָרַב to approach

כָּרַת to make a covenant קָטַל to kill

מָשַׁל to rule שָׁבַר to break

מָלַךְ to rule שָׁפַט to judge

**8.E. Same Pattern seen in Paradigms of other regular verbs**

קָטַל to kill

1CS אֶקְטֹל I will kill 1CP נִקְטֹל we will kill

2MS תִּקְטֹל you (m.) will kill 2MP תִּקְטְלוּ you (m.) will kill

2FS תִּקְטְלִי you (f.) will kill 2FP תִּקְטֹלְנָה you (f.) will kill

3MS יִקְטֹל he will kill 3MP יִקְטְלוּ they (m.) will kill

3FS תִּקְטֹל she will kill 3FP תִּקְטֹלְנָה they (f.) will kill

כָּתַב to write

1CS אֶכְתֹּב I will write 1CP נִכְתֹּב we will write

2MS תִּכְתֹּב you (m.) will write 2MP תִּכְתְּבוּ you (m.) will write

2FS תִּכְתְּבִי you (f.) will write 2FP תִּכְתֹבְנָה you(f.) will write

3MS יִכְתֹּב he will write 3MP יִכְתְּבוּ they (m.) will write

3FS תִּכְתֹּב she will write 3FP תִּכְתֹּבְנָה they (f.) will write

**8.F. Stative Verbs**: <https://www.scribd.com/document/27172484/Chapter-Four-Stative-Verbs> and <http://www.hebrew4christians.com/Grammar/Unit_Ten/Qal_Stative/qal_stative.html>

(Kelly, p. 80; Practico, p. 169)

**Fientive verbs** are our normal verbs of action (e.g. he looked, she stood).

**Stative verbs** describe a state of being “You are strong.” They can be classified according to the second vowel that is manifest when the 3MS perfect form or imperfect paradigms are examined: 1) Pataḥ Stative, 2) Ṣerê Stative or 3) Ḥôlem Stative. They are formed normally in the Perfect paradigm except for the 3MS when the special root form is manifest as seen in the chart below. In the Imperfect verbal forms, however, rather than the normal second stem vowel being a ḥôlem switches to a pataḥ in all three cases without regard to the original root vowel in the stative verb form.

**Pataḥ Stative Ṣerê Stative Ḥôlem Stative**

גּדַל to be great כָּבֵד to be heavy קָטֹן to be small

חָכַם to be wise זָקֵן to be old יָכֹל to be able

קָדַשׁ to be holy יָרֵא to be afraid

חָזַק to be strong

**Pataḥ Stative Paradigm:**

1CS אֶגְדַּל I am great 1CP נִגְדַּל we are great

2MS תִּגְדַּל you (m.) are great 2MP תִּגְדְּלוּ you (m.) are great

2FS תִּגְדְּלִי you (f.) are great 2FP תּגְדַּלְנָה you (f.) are great

3MS יִגְדַּל he is great 3MP יִגְדְּלוּ they (m.) are great

3FS תִּגְדַּל she is great 3FP תִּגְדַּלְנָה they (f.) are great

**Ṣerê Stative Paradigm:** כָּבֵד to be heavy, honor

1CS אֶכְבַּד I am honored 1CP נִכְבַּד we are honored

2MS תִּכְבַּד you (m.) are honored 2MP תִּכְבְּדוּ you (m.) are honored

2FS תִּכְבְּדִי you (f.) are honored 2FP תִּכְבַּדְנָה you (f.) are honored

3MS יִכְבַּד he is honored 3MP יִכְבְּדוּ they (m.) are honored

3FS תִּכְבַּד she is honored 3FP תִּכְבַּדְנָה they (f.) are honored

**Ḥôlem Stative Paradigm:**

1CS אֶקְטַן I am small 1CP נִקְטַן we are small

2MS תִּקְטַן you (m.) are small 2MP תִּקְטְנוּ you (m.) are small

2FS תִּקְטְנִי you (f.) are small 2FP תִּקְטַנָּה you (f.) are small

3MS יִקְטַן he is small 3MP יִקְטַנוּ they (m.) are small

3FS תִּקְטַן she is small 3FP תִּקְטַנָּה they (f.) are small

**8.G.** **Negation: Three ways of saying “No”.** We have learned so far that לֹא is the most common way of saying a negative “no.” It is usually placed directly in front of the accompanying verb as a permanent prohibition as in the ten commandments “thou shalt not…”. Secondly, אַל or אַל־ is used in cases that are not permanent but more limited to a specific context. Thirdly, אַיִן or more frequently in the construct state אֵין is a substantive standing just before a noun that it negates (אֵין הַסֵּפֶר טוֹב “nothing of the book is good”—Harris, p. 43).

**8.H. Parsing form:**

תִּשְׁמְרִי Qal Impf. 2FS from שָׁמַר meaning “you (f.) will keep”

יִכְבְּדוּ Qal Impf. 3MP from כָּבֵד meaning “they (m.) are honored”

**8.I. Chapter 8 Vocabulary List**

אַחֲרֵי after, behind 618

אַל no, not, nothing 694

בָּרַךְ to bless, praise 330

דָּוִד David 1,075

מֹשֶׁה Moses 766

גָּם also, even, moreover 769

מָה what? how? 757

מָלַךְ to rule, be king 348

פָּקַד to visit, number, appoint 320

תַּחַת under, below 510

**8.J. Speak: Lesson 8 Qal Imperfects**

בָּא לִי גְּלִידָה I feel like (lit. it comes to me) ice cream

כַּמָה זֶה עוֹלֶה?, כֵּן Yes, how much is it?

אֵין לִי ,אֲנִי מִצְטַעֵר I don’t have any, I’m sorry

בְּסֵדֶר הַכֹּל All right

דַּי Enough/stop it

לְהִתְרָאוֹת Good-bye

**8.K. Chapters 8-9: Sing Song**: **Hava Nagila** (Let us rejoice)—Israeli Folk   
 song—weddings with dancing (master this over this lesson and the next)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=82&v=YxP2cSa5aXE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEX2y0H7eO8>

הָבָה נָגִילָה Let’s rejoice Hava nagila

הָבָה נָגִילָה Let’s rejoice Hava nagila

הָבָה נָגִילָה וְנִשְׂמֵחָה Let's rejoice and be happy *Hava nagila ve-nismeḥa*

(repeat the above 3 lines)

הָבָה נְרַנְּנָה Let’s sing *Hava neranenah*

הָבָה נְרַנְּנָה Let’s sing *Hava neranenah*

הָבָה נְרַנְּנָה וְנִשְׂמֵחָה Let’s sing and be happy *Hava neranenah ve-nismeḥa*

(repeat above 3 lines)

עוּרוּ, עוּרוּ אַחִים Awake, my brothers! *Uru, uru aḥim!*

עוּרוּ אַחִים בְּלֶב־שָׂמֵחַ Awake, my brothers with a happy heart

*Uru aḥim be-lev sameaḥ*

(repeat 2 above lines 4 times)

עוּרוּ אַחִים, עוּרוּ אַחִים Awake, my brothers, awake my brothers

*Uru aḥim, uru aḥim!*

בְּלֶב שָׂמֵחַ with a happy heart *Be-lev sameaḥ*

**8.L.** **Practice reading this text from Ps. 1:1-2 out loud until you are totally fluid with it.**   
 Memorize so you can orally recite line A, B, C, D and E:

אַשְׁרֵי ־ הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא הָלַךְ בַּעֲצַת רְשָׁעִים A:

wicked in the counsel walks not which the person blessed

וּבְדֶרֶךְ חַטָּאִים לֹא עָמָדB:

stand not sinners and in a way

וּבְמוֹשַׁב לֵצִים לֹא יָשָׁב׃ C:

sit not mockers and in the seat

כִּי אִם בְּתוֹרַת יְהוָה חֶפְצוֹ D:

his delight will be in the Torah but

וּֽבְתוֹרָתוֹ יֶהְגֶּה יוֹמָם וָלָיְלָה׃E:

and night daily meditate and in the Torah

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew: Ch. 8 Imperfect Verbs

1. Write out the imperfect chant for שָׁמַר and translate from memory -- to keep, guard, watch

1CS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1CP \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2MS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2MP \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2FS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2FP \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3MS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3MP \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3FS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3FP \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Add the prefixes and suffixes onto the verb זָכַר and translate -- to remember

1CS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1CP \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2MS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2MP \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2FS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2FP \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3MS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3MP \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3FS \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 3FP \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Parse the following

Form: יִקְטֹל 3ms Qal Imperf from קָטַל meaning “he will kill”

תְּפְקֹד \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

נִפְקֹד \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

יִפְקְדוּ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

אֶפְקֹד \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

תִּשׁמְרִי \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

תּשְׁמְרוּ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

תִּשְׁמֹרְנָה \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

יִזְכֹּר \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

תִּזְכְּרוּ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

אֶזְכֹּר \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Translate each of the following

1. וְאַתָּה אֶת־בְּרִיתִי תִשְׁמֹר Gen 17:9 [בְּרִיתִי = my covenant]

2. כֹּל אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵלֶיךָ שָׂרָה שְׁמַע בְּקֹלָהּ כִּי בְיִצְחָק יִקָּרֵא לְךָ זָרַע׃ Gen. 21:12 [בְּקֹלָהּ = in her voice; זָרַע = offspring]

3. יִפְקֹד אֱלֹהִים אֶתְכֶם Gen. 50:25

4. וַיֹּאמֶר פַּרְעֹה מִי יהוה אֲשֶׁר אֶשְׁמַע בְּקלוֹ Exod 5:2

5. אֶת־חַג הַמַּצּוֹת תִּשְׁמֹר שִׁבְעַת יָמִים תֹּאכַל מַצּוֹת Exod. 23:15   
 [ חַג= feast; שִׁבְעַת = seven]

6. וְאֶת־אַהֲרֹן וְאֶת־בָּנָיו תִּפְקֹד וְשָׁמְרוּ אֶת־כְּהֻנָּתָם Num 3:10

7. וַיִּפְקֹד דָּוִד אֶת־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר אִתּוֹ 2 Sam 18:1 [ וַיִּפְקֹד = mustered]

8. וַיִּפְקֹד אֶת־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל׃ 2 Kgs 3:6

9. וְלֹא יִזְכְּרוּ־בוֹ וְלֹא יִפְקֹדוּ Jer 3:16 [ יִפְקֹדוּ = missed]

10. אֶפְקֹד כִּי מִי כָמוֹנִי Jer 49:19 [אֶפְקֹד = appoint]

5. Write out the Hebrew from memory for the following English conversation:

I feel like (lit. it comes to me) ice cream \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Yes, how much is it? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I don’t have any, I’m sorry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

All right \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Enough/stop it \_\_\_\_\_

Good-bye \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**6.** **Practice reading this text from Ps. 1:1-2.**   
 Memorize so you can orally recite line A, B, C, D and E:

A:

wicked in the counsel walks not which the person blessed

B:

stand not sinners and in a way

C:

sit not mockers and in the seat

D:

his delight will be in the Torah but

E:

and night daily meditate and in the Torah

**7. Sing: Hava Nagila**

**Sing: Aaronic Blessing (Num. 6:24-26)**

**Sing: Oseh Shalom**

**Sing: Shema lullaby (Deut 6:4)**

**Sing: Hinneh Mah Tov (Ps. 133:1)**

**Sing: Hevenu Shalom Aleichem**