

Chapter 11: Narratives with the Future Tense

Vocabulary:

appointed place; time, season: מוֹעֵד	one: אֶחָד
camp: מַחֲנֶה	widow: אֵלְמָנָה
rod, staff; tribed (extended): מַטֵּה	mother: אִמָּה, אִמּוֹת
מִטָּה,	forarm; cubit: אַמְּוָה
kingdom; kingship: מַלְכוּת	he gathered; took in: אָסַף
gift; grain offering: מִנְחָה	ark; chest: אָרוֹן
he left; he abandoned: עָזַב	with, beside (prep.): אֵת
transgression, iniquity: עֲוֹן	stranger; protected citizen: גֵּר
inward part: קִרְבִּי	he clung: דָּבַק
guilty; wicked (adj.): רָשָׁע	grace; favor: חֵן
peace; health: שְׁלוֹמִים	orphan: יָתוֹם
he judged: שָׁפַט	as (conj.): כַּאֲשֶׁר
world (fem): תְּבִילָה	glory, honor: כְּבוֹד
teaching; law: תּוֹרָה	

Chapter 11: Narrative with future discourse

Section One: Review of inflections learned to this point in the textbook

Review of what has been learned to this point

To this point in the textbook, the student has encountered two types of tenses in Hebrew narratives: present and past tenses. The present tense has mainly been experienced with participles and infinitive constructs, but there have been several instances where the perfect inflection has also been used in the present. The past tense

has mainly been expressed with the preterite and the perfect inflections, while the participle was used to express continuous action in the past if it followed a verb that indicated the past tense.

Review of the inflections learned to this point

So far the student has encountered two inflection: the perfect and preterite inflections. The perfect inflection is an affirmative inflection (the primary inflection part of the verb is formed by placing an ending *after* the root of the verb). The preterite is a preformative inflection (the primary inflection part of the verb is formed by placing an prefix *before* the root of the verb). To this point, the student has only learned a few forms of the preterite (3ms, 3fs, and 3mp). The preterite has been distinguished from the imperfect inflection because it typically follows a *waw* with an /a/ class vowel, and the first preformative prefix is doubled (e.g.,). The third inflection that the student has experienced is the imperfect. The imperfect look exactly like the preterite in most cases except it does *not* follow a *waw* with an /a/ class vowel or have a doubling of the preformative prefix (e.g, and not). The following table summarizes the inflections encountered to this point in the textbook:

<u>Characteristic Features</u>	<u>Typical Translation</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Inflection Name</u>
-main ending <i>after</i> verbal root	I guarded	שָׁמַרְתִּי	Perfect
-main prefix <i>before</i> verbal root -verb follows <i>waw</i> with /a/ -preformative is doubled	He guarded	וַיִּשְׁמַר	Preterite
-main prefix <i>before</i> verbal root -not following <i>waw</i> with /a/ -preformative is <i>not</i> doubled	He will guard	יִשְׁמַר	Imperfect

The two most frequent ways to express the future tense in Hebrew

Two most frequent ways to express the future tense in Hebrew are by far much more common than any other method. This textbook thus emphasizes these two methods, but it should be noted from the very beginning that there are exception to both of these method. However, the exceptions should be learned later as exceptions rather than as the rule. While each method is described in detail below, it is helpful to simply list the two main methods:

1. An imperfect verb (e.g. **יִשְׁמַר** “he will guard”)
2. Perfect after a simple *waw* conjunction (e.g., **וְלָקַחַתָּ** “and he will take”)

It is quite common for these two methods to be found in the same sentence. When this is the case, it is most common for a sentence to contain an imperfect + the *waw* conjunction + a perfect. The following are several examples of both the imperfect and the *waw* + perfect as future tense verbs:

- Gen 24:4 **כִּי אֶל-אֶרְצִי וְאֶל-מוֹלְדֹתַי תֵּלֵךְ וְלָקַחְתָּ אִשָּׁה לְבָנִי לְיִצְחָק**
 - “For to my land and to my kindred you will go, and you will take a wife for my son, for Isaac
 - Both an imperfect (**תֵּלֵךְ**) and a *waw* + perfect (**וְלָקַחְתָּ**) as future verbs
- Gen 24:7 **לְיִרְעֶךָ אֶתֵּן אֶת-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת**
 - “To your seed I will give this land...”
 - An imperfect (**אֶתֵּן**) as a future verb
- Ex 4:22 **וְאָמַרְתָּ אֶל-פַּרְעֹה כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה בְּנִי בְּכֹרִי יִשְׂרָאֵל** :
 - “And you will say to Pharoah, ‘Thus the LORD has said: Israel is my firstborn son.’”
 - A *waw* + perfect (**וְאָמַרְתָּ**) as a future verb

- 1 Kings 6:23 וְשָׁכַנְתִּי בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלֹא אֶעְזֹב אֶת-עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל
 - “And I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel and I will not abandon my people, Israel
 - a *waw* + perfect (וְשָׁכַנְתִּי) and an imperfect (אֶעְזֹב) as future verbs

Orthography of the imperfect inflection

As noted above the imperfect inflection is a *preformative* inflection—an inflection where the main inflected part of the verb is placed *before* the verbal root. The student has already encountered the preformatives of *yod* and *taw* for the 3ms and 3fs forms respectively; thus, this concept will be already known. The other preformatives are logically derived from the pronouns:

<u>Typical Translation</u>	<u>Impf Example</u>	<u>Translation</u>	<u>Pronoun</u>	<u>Preformative</u>
I will guard	אֶשְׁמֹר	I	אֲנִי/אֲנֹכִי	-א
You will guard	תִּשְׁמֹר	You (ms)	אַתָּה	-ת
You (fs) will guard	תִּשְׁמְרִי	You (fs)	אַתְּ	-ת
He will guard	יִשְׁמֹר	He	הוא	-י
She will guard	תִּשְׁמֹר	She	היא	-ת
We will guard	נִשְׁמֹר	We	אֲנֵחֶנּוּ	-נ
You (mp) will guard	תִּשְׁמְרוּ	You (mp)	אַתֶּם	-ת
You (fp) will guard	תִּשְׁמֹרְנָה	You (fp)	אַתֶּן	-ת
They (mp) will guard	יִשְׁמְרוּ	They (mp)	הֵם/הֵמָּה	-י
They (fp) will guard	תִּשְׁמֹרְנָה	They (fp)	הֵן/הֵנָּה	-ת

The following two paradigms (the personal pronouns and the imperfect) must be memorized:

נִשְׁמַר	אֲשַׁמַּר
תִּשְׁמַרְוּ	תִּשְׁמַרְוּ
תִּשְׁמַרְנָה	תִּשְׁמַרְנָה
יִשְׁמַרוּ	יִשְׁמַרוּ
תִּשְׁמַרְנָה	תִּשְׁמַרְנָה

אֲנִי/אֲנִי	אֲנִי/אֲנִי
אַתָּה	אַתָּה
אַתָּן	אַתָּן
הוּא	הוּא
הֵן/הֵמָּה	הֵן/הֵמָּה
הֵן/הֵמָּה	הֵן/הֵמָּה

Imperfect verbs with /a/ as the vowel between second and third root letters

All verbal roots with gutturals as second or third root letter have an /a/ vowel instead of /o/ between the second and third root letters. If the final root letter is *aleph*, there is a lengthening of the /a/ vowel to a long /a/. The next chapter (Chapter 12) will also introduce stative verbs, and these verbs also that take the /a/ vowel in the imperfect.

III-א	II-Guttural	III-Guttural	Pronoun
אֶקְרָא	אֶבְחַר	אֶשְׁמַע	אֲנִי/אֲנִי
תִּקְרָא	תִּבְחַר	תִּשְׁמַע	אַתָּה
תִּקְרָאֵי	תִּבְחַרְיִ	תִּשְׁמַעֵי	אַתָּן
יִקְרָא	יִבְחַר	יִשְׁמַע	הוּא
תִּקְרָא	תִּבְחַר	תִּשְׁמַע	הֵן/הֵמָּה
נִקְרָא	נִבְחַר	נִשְׁמַע	אֲנִי/אֲנִי
תִּקְרָאוּ	תִּבְחַרוּ	תִּשְׁמַעוּ	אַתָּם
תִּקְרָאנָה	תִּבְחַרְנָה	תִּשְׁמַעְנָה	אַתָּן

הֵם/הֵמָּה	יְשָׁמְעוּ	יִבְחָרוּ	יִקְרְאוּ
הֵן/הֵנָּה	תִּשְׁמַעְנָה	תִּבְחַרְנָה	תִּקְרְאֵנָה

The Dual (Lambdin, pp. 100–101)

Interrogative pronouns (Lambdin, p. 83)

The nouns בֵּן and יָשָׁם. (Lambdin, p. 104)