

מִפְלֵט

Introduction

Grammatical Type: n m. Considered masculine on morphological grounds.
Hupfeld (1870:52) suggested that מִפְלֵט may be an infinitive.

Occurrences: Total 1x OT (Ps 55.9), 0x Sir, 0x Qum, 0x inscr.

Text Doubtful:

A.1 For several other possible occurrences see section Text Doubtful A.4 in entry on פִּלַּט piel.

A.2 LXX Ps 55.9 reads προσεδεχόμεν τὸν σὺζοντα, which, along with Pesh (which also has a copula before the verb), is understood by BHS to represent מִפְלֵט אֶחֱיֵלָה rather than מִפְלֵט אֶחֱיֵשָׁה .

A.3 Wallenstein (1955:250) restores מִפְלֵט in 1QH 6.32. However, פִּלַּט piel (infinitive) has also been restored there (e.g. Bartke 1956:600): see פִּלַּט Text Doubtful A.6-7. “[E]scape” (Vermes 1997:274) could be based on either restoration.

B.1 Hupfeld (1867:462) proposed reading the noun מִפְלֵטִי in Ps 40.18, 70.6 and 71.5. The first two references have מִפְלֵטִי, the latter requires a consonantal emendation. This emendation provides less sense than MT.

Qere/Ketiv: none.

1. Root and Comparative Material

A.1 See פִּלַּט Qal.

A.2 Ben Yehudah (3214) mentions no other occurrences of מִפְלֵט in Hebrew.

B.1 See פִּלַּט Qal.

2. Formal Characteristics

A.1 *miqta:l*, cf. Bauer & Leander (1962:490zε). Hasel (1989:593) says that it is a “*ma-Präformativ geformte mask. Verbalnomen*”. Often forms with preformative Mem denote a place (Bauer & Leander 1962:489wε), and this is consistent with the meaning ‘shelter’.

B.1 [nil]

3. Syntagmatics

A.1 Obj of הִיחַ hiph ‘hasten’ or ‘secure quickly’ (BDB:301b).

B.1 [nil]

4. Versions

a. LXX: ὁ σὺζων;

b. Aq, Thd: διασωσμός;

c. Sym: ἔκφευξις;

d. Pesh: *mn dmps*’;

e. Tg: שזבוחא;

f. Vg: *festinabo ut salver* = [אָהײַשׁה מִפֶּלֶט לִי].

A.1 LXX and Pesh understand the word as מִפֶּלֶט, whereas Tg, the Three and probably Vg (if the Psalterium iuxta Hebraeos as shown above is a paraphrase) support מִפֶּלֶט. The relationship between מִפֶּלֶט and מִפֶּלֶט is discussed in the entry on פֶּלֶט piel (Text Doubtful A.4).

A.2 Levy (1868:474b-75a) defines Arm שׁיזבוּחא as “Rettung, Befreiung”.

B.1 [nil]

5. Lexical/Semantic Field(s)

A.1 See פֶּלֶט Qal.

B.1 [nil]

6. Exegesis

A.1 Hubbard (1997:624) takes מִפֶּלֶט as “place of refuge”, denoting in the context of Ps 55 a “restful desert hideaway”. Zorell (462) gives the options of “evasio, fuga” and “suffugium”.

A.2 The psalmist seems to be seeking refuge (probably metaphorically) from a stormy wind. The lexeme therefore denotes a shelter.

B.1 [nil]

7. Conclusion

A.1 The context of the lexeme suggests that it is a shelter, and the root suggests that the term originated as one related to rescue. The concept of “hastening” to the shelter mentioned in the psalm indicates that the notion of rescue or escape was still present in the lexeme. One hastened to the shelter in order to avoid or escape the effects of the storm.

B.1 [nil]

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