

## ניִפֹּלַט niph

(For fuller discussion of the lexical field as a whole see the ‘Overview of SAHD entries for “Deliverance” words’ on this site)

### Introduction

Grammatical Type: vb.

Occurrences: Total 0x OT, 0x Sir, 1x Qum (1QH 3.10), 0x inscr.

Text Doubtful: none.

Qere/Ketiv: none.

### 1. Root and Comparative Material

A.1 See פִּלַּט Qal.

B.1 See פִּלַּט Qal.

### 2. Formal Characteristics

A.1 Strong trilateral root.

B.1 [nil]

### 3. Syntagmatics

A.1 Subj גבר.

A.2 The prepositional complement מן + מַשְׁבְּרִים, ‘breakers’, suggests separation and concords with the translation “is delivered”.

B.1 [nil]

### 4. Versions

A.1 [nil]

B.1 [nil]

### 5. Lexical/Semantic Field(s)

A.1 See פִּלַּט piel.

B.1 [nil]

### 6. Exegesis

A.1 In 1QH 3.10 ויִפֹּלַט is taken as niph implicitly by Burrows (1956:403, “comes forth”) and Bardtke (1956:592, “entrinnt”), and explicitly by Delcor (1962:112), Vermes (1997:259, “shall be delivered”), and Hubbard (1997:625). On the other hand, according to Van der Woude (1957:154), “גבר ist Objekt von יִפֹּלַט, dessen Subjekt wieder פֹּלַא ist.” He also states explicitly that יִפֹּלַט is piel. Dupont-Sommer (1961:208) translates ויִפֹּלַט גבר “and he shall deliver every man from the billows”. This clearly understands ויִפֹּלַט as a piel (or hiph). Early commentators were probably reluctant to parse as a niph since

this is not attested in MT. However, a passive meaning better suits the context, and therefore niph is to be preferred.

**B.1** [nil]

## **7. Conclusion**

**A.1** To judge by the meaning of פלט in other conjugations and by the context in 1QH 3.10 the lexeme means here “to be delivered”, i.e. (of a child) “to be brought out safely into the world”. This should be compared to the use of the piel of פלט to signify birth (see piel, Exegesis A.2).

**B.1** [nil]

## **Bibliography**

- Bardtke, H. 1956. Die Loblieder von Qumrân. *ThLZ* 81:589-604.
- Burrows, M. 1956. *The Dead Sea Scrolls: With Translations by the Author*. London.
- Delcor, M. 1962. *Les Hymnes de Qumran (Hodayot): Text Hébreu, Introduction, Traduction, Commentaire*. Paris.
- Dupont-Sommer, A. 1961. *The Essene Writings from Qumran*. ET G. Vermes. Oxford.
- Hubbard, R.L. 1997. Article 7117 פלט in *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis* 3, Carlisle:621-26.
- Van der Woude, A.S. 1957. *Die messianischen Vorstellungen der Gemeinde von Qumrân*. Assen.
- Vermes, G. 1997. *The Complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. London / New York / Victoria / Toronto / Auckland.

P.J. Williams

First printed 27 October 1998