14.1.Introduction.

Weak verbs are those verbs having one or more weak root consonants. The presence of a weak consonant in a verbal root can cause changes in the vocalization or consonantal**adjective** spelling of the verb.

14.2.I-Guttural, II-Guttural and III-ע/ח Weak Verbs.

I-Guttural verbs have a guttural for the first root consonant, as in עָמַד meaning “to stand”.

II-Guttural weak verbs have a guttural for the second root consonant, as in בָּחַר meaning “to choose”.

III-ע/ח weak verbs have either ח or ע for the third root consonant, as in לָקַח meaning “to take” or שָׁמַע meaning “to hear”.

A guttural cannot take a Vocal Shewa but prefers the reduced a-vowel, Hateph Pathach.

To stand To choose To hear To kill

I-Guttural II-Guttural III-ע/ח Strong

3ms עָמַד בָּחַר שָׁמַע קָטַל

3fs עֳמְדָה בֳּחֲרָה שֳׁמְעָה קָטְלָה

2ms עָמַ֫דְתָּ בָּחַ֫רְתָּ שָׁמַ֫עְתָּ קָטַ֫לְתָּ

2fs עָמַדְתְּ בָּחַרְתְּ שָׁמַ֫עַתְּ קָטַלְתְּ

1cs עָמַ֫דְתִּי בָּחַ֫רְתִּי שָׁמַ֫עְתִּי קָטַ֫לְתִּי

3cp עֳמְדוּ בָּחֲרוּ שֳׁמְעוּ קֳטְלוּ

2mp עֲמַדְתֶּם בְּחַרְתֶּם שְׁמַעְתֶּם קְטַלְתֶּם

2fp עֲמַדְתֶּן בְּחַרְתֶּן שְׁמַעְתֶּן קְטַלְתֶּן

1cp עָמַ֫דְנוּ בָּחַ֫רְנוּ שָׁמַ֫עְנוּ קָטַ֫לְנוּ

14.4.III-א Weak Verbs.

III-א to find Strong to kill

3ms מָצָא קָטַל

3fs מֳצְאָה קָטְלָה

2ms מָצָ֫אתָ קָטַ֫לְתָּ

2fs מָצָאת קָטַלְתְּ

1cp מָצָ֫אתִי קָטַ֫לְתִּי

3cp מֳצְאוּ קֳטְלוּ

2mp מְצָאתֶם קְטַלְתֶּם

2fp מְצָאתֶן קְטַלְתֶּן

1cp מָצָ֫אנוּ קָטַ֫לְנוּ

14.6.III-ה Weak Verbs.

The most significant change in this paradigm is the loss of the final ה root consonant in every form.

III-ה to build Strong to kill

3ms בָּנָה קָטַל

3fs בֳּנְתָה קֳטְלָה

2ms בָּנִ֫יתָ קָטַלְתָּ

2fs בָּנִית קָטַלְתְּ

1cp תָּנִ֫יתִי קָטַ֫לְתִּי

3cp בָּנוּ קָטְלוּ

2mp בְּנִיתֶם קְטַלְתֶּם

2fp בְּנִיתֶן קְטַלְתֶּן

1cp בָּנִ֫ינוּ קָטַ֫לְנוּ

The ה in the 3ms form is not a root consonant but rather a vowel letter (also called a mater母亲 lectionis).

It is helpful to understand that III-ה verbs were originally III-י and that the stem vowel of a form like בָּנִ֫יתָ is reminiscent引起联想的 of the original consonant in third root position.

14.8.Doubly Weak verbs.

Verbs of this type have more than one weak consonant as part of their verbal root. Most of the verbs in this weak class are both III-ה and I-Guttural or II-Guttural.

III-ה/II-Gutt to see III-ה/I-Gutt to go up Strong to kill

3ms רָאָה עָלָה קָטַל

3fs רָאֲתָה עֳלְתָה קֳטְלָה

2ms רָאִ֫יתָ עָלִ֫יתָ קָטַ֫לְתָּ

2fs רָאִית עָלִית קָטַלְתְּ

1cs רָאִ֫יתִי עָלִ֫יתִי קָטַ֫לְתִּי

3cp רָאוּ עָלוּ קֳטְלוּ

2mp רְאִיתֶם עֲלִיתֶם קְטַלְתֶּם

2fp רְאִיתֶן עֲלִיתֶן קְטַלְתֶּן

1cp רָאִ֫ינוּ עָלִ֫ינוּ קָטַ֫לְנוּ