(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: n f?
   Occurrences: Total 1x OT (Ps 68.21), 0x Sir, 0x Qum, 0x inscr.
   Text doubtful: none.
   Qere/Ketiv: none.

1. Root and Comparative Material
   A.1 [See [יִשְׁע]]
   B.1 [nil]

2. Formal Characteristics
   A.1 Only the plural form מושעֵות is attested. It is not certain either from the form or from the syntagmatic context whether it is masculine or feminine. However, HAL suggest that it is feminine, the singular form being מושעָה (see BL:490e).
   B.1 Briggs & Briggs propose that the lexeme is an Arm inf from the verb ישע, citing the LXX rendering (1907:110). The plural form, however, makes this unlikely.

3. Syntagmatics
   A.1 The pl is found preceded by ל and in predicative position to אל ‘God’ (Ps 68.21). The lamed expresses a relational sense of God to מושעֵות, perhaps a lamed of specification (see Waltke and O’Connor: § 11.2.10 d). Alternatively, the lamed might indicate the possessive, and the expression אל לֹא מושעֵות would be comparable to the construct chain frequent in the Psalms of לֹא מַעֲשֶׂים (e.g. Ps 18.47; 24.5).
   B.1 Gunkel sees the ל as a dittography after אל (290).

4. Versions
   a. LXX: σῶζω as articular infinitive (Ps 68[67].21);
   Minor Greek Versions [MRN]:
      b. Peshitta: ʾmpṣynʾ (Ps 68.[20]21);
      c. Targum: תַּקְוָה ופָרָקָן (Ps 68.21);
      d. Vulgate: salus (Ps 68[67].21 [s for pl]).

   A.1 The LXX, Pesh and Vg clearly understand the root meaning as ‘to save’. Although in the Tg the verse is greatly expanded, the phrase תַּקְוָה ופָרָקָן ‘protection and deliverance’ renders a similar sense, the double translation perhaps aiming to cover the full range of the semantics of the lexeme.
   B.1 [nil]
5. Lexical/Semantic Field(s)
   A.1 [See [ישוע]]
   A.2 The noun [מוֹשָעָה] is a hapax legomenon, found at Ps 68.21. [מוֹשָעָה] seems to be in parallelism with both ‘salvation’ in the previous verse and ‘escapes from death’ later in the same verse.

B.1 [nil]

6. Exegesis
   A.1 [מוֹשָעָה] appears in a Psalm that describes in broad terms God’s saving acts, including the deliverance from Egypt, defeat of the enemies, conquest of the land and protection from evil. The obvious connection of [מוֹשָעָה] with the verb ישוע, its parallelism with ישוע, and the context indicate that it is a noun denoting ‘deliverance’.
   A.2 HAL (532) glosses [מוֹשָעָה] as ‘Hilfeleistung’, and BDB (448) preserves the plural form in its gloss ‘saving acts’.

B.1 [nil]

7. Conclusion
   A.1 The evidence from the context, the parallelisms, the Versions and the likely root yšʿ all point to [מוֹשָעָה] denoting ‘deliverance’ or ‘saving act’, with reference to victories over enemies and even over death/Mot.
   A.2 [מוֹשָעָה] is probably the plural form of a feminine noun מֶשׁועָה.

Bibliography

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