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 פלט Qal.

B.1 See פלט Qal.

2. Formal Characteristics
A.1 Strong triliteral root.

B.1 [nil]

3. Syntagmatics
A.1 Subj גבר.
A.2 The prepositional complement ממן + משׁברים, ‘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 פלט piel.

B.1 [nil]

6. Exegesis
A.1 In 1QH 3.10 והיפלט 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), ויפלט גבר, dessen Subjekt wieder פלט ist. He also states explicitly that והיפלט is piel. Dupont-Sommer (1961:208) translates והיפלט ממן משׁברים “and he shall deliver every man from the billows”. This clearly understands והיפלט 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**


P.J. Williams

First printed 27 October 1998