

הַצִּלָּה

(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 (Est 4.14), 0x Sir, 0x Qum, 0x inscr.

Text doubtful: none.

Qere/Ketiv: none.

1. Root and Comparative Material

A.1 [see נצל hiphil]

2. Formal Characteristics

A.1 The h- prefix appears to derive from a hiphil inf (BL:486 jε). The form is *haqtāl* + h fem ending. It has been suggested that הַצִּלָּה has been formed under Aramaic influence (BDB:665; HAL:244).

B.1 Barth (90) suggests that there is a proto-Semitic inf in *â*.

3. Syntagmatics

A.1 הַצִּלָּה is the subject of the verb עָמַד ‘to arise’.

A.2 הַצִּלָּה is followed by the preposition לְ + הַיְהוּדִים ‘for the Jews’.

A.3 הַצִּלָּה is joined by *waw* to the noun רַחֵם ‘relief’.

4. Versions

a. LXX: σκέπη;

Minor Greek Versions : [nil]

b. Peshitta: *pwrqn*’;

c. Targum: midrashic text;

d. Vulgate: whole phrase paraphrased by verb *libero*.

A.1 The Syr *pwrqn*’ ‘redemption, ransom, salvation’ (J. Payne Smith:439) is the only versional rendering that clearly suggests that הַצִּלָּה is cognate with the verb נצל, although the paraphrase in the Vg may imply it. The other Versions are of little assistance.

B.1 The LXX translation σκέπη ‘protection’ suggests that the LXX translator views the noun הַצִּלָּה as being cognate with the verb hif צלל III rather than with נצל (Muraoka, *Index*:42). The noun צל is often translated by σκέπη in the LXX (e.g. Ho 4.13; 14.8). At 2Sm 20.6 the verb σκιάζω is the equivalent for Heb נצל hiph, and this also suggests the translator was reading hif צלל III, although in that case the MT is difficult to interpret and the LXX translator may have been trying to find a way to render a problematic *Vorlage*.

5. Lexical/Semantic Field(s)

A.1 [See נצל hiphil]

A.2 הַצִּלָּה is only found in LBH (Est 4.14) and later in RH (cf. נצל hiphil, Root and Comparative Material A.1).

6. Exegesis

A.1 Although the LXX implies that הַצִּלָּה should be from a different root, most scholars see it as a nominal form of נצל (e.g. BDB:665; HAL:244; Sawyer 1972:96; Bergmann 1979:97; Hossfeld & Kalthoff 1986:571; Klein 1987:164).

A.2 הַצִּלָּה is found in the speech of Mordechai and denotes the ‘escape’ that the Jews will expect after the King’s decree to kill all Jews. It appears to denote ‘deliverance’ (BDB:665), ‘Rettung’ (HAL:244), and although it is found first in LBH (Est 4.14), its meaning is clear from the context, its root and syntagmatics.

7. Conclusion

הַצִּלָּה is a noun that appears only from the time of LBH and appears in RH. It denotes deliverance or means of escape that is afforded to someone.

Bibliography

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