

## מִפְלֵט

(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 m. Considered masculine on morphological grounds.  
Hupfeld (1870:52) suggested that מִפְלֵט may be an infinitive.

Occurrences: Total 1x OT (Ps 55.9), 0x Sir, 0x Qum, 0x inscr.

Text Doubtful:

**A.1** For several other possible occurrences see section Text Doubtful A.4 in entry on פִּלַּט piel.

**A.2** LXX Ps 55.9 reads προσεδεχόμεν τὸν σὸζοντα, which, along with Pesh (which also has a copula before the verb), is understood by BHS to represent מִפְלֵט אֶהְיֶה rather than מִפְלֵט אֶפְשֶׁה .

**A.3** Wallenstein (1955:250) restores מִפְּ[מִ] in 1QH 6.32. However, פִּלַּט (infinitive) has also been restored there (e.g. Bartke 1956:600): see פִּלַּט Text Doubtful A.6-7. “[E]scape” (Vermes 1997:274) could be based on either restoration.

**B.1** Hupfeld (1867:462) proposed reading the noun מִפְּלֵט in Ps 40.18, 70.6 and 71.5. The first two references have מִפְּלֵט, the latter requires a consonantal emendation. This emendation provides less sense than MT.

Qere/Ketiv: none.

### 1. Root and Comparative Material

**A.1** See פִּלַּט Qal.

**A.2** Ben Yehudah (3214) mentions no other occurrences of מִפְּלֵט in Hebrew.

**B.1** See פִּלַּט Qal.

### 2. Formal Characteristics

**A.1** *miqta:l*, cf. Bauer & Leander (1962:490zε). Hasel (1989:593 = 2001:555) says that it is a “*ma*-Präformativ geformte mask. Verbalnomen”. Often forms with preformative Mem denote a place (Bauer & Leander 1962:489wε), and this is consistent with the meaning ‘shelter’.

**B.1** [nil]

### 3. Syntagmatics

**A.1** Obj of הִפֵּחַ hiph ‘hasten’ or ‘secure quickly’ (BDB:301b).

**B.1** [nil]

### 4. Versions

a. LXX: ὁ σὸζων;

b. Aq, Thd: διασωσμός;

c. Sym: ἔκφυξις;

d. Pesh: *mn dmpš*’;

e. Tg: שזבוחא;

f. Vg: *festinabo ut salver* = [אָחִישָׁה מְפֹלֵט לִי].

**A.1** LXX and Pesh understand the word as מְפֹלֵט, whereas Tg, the Three and probably Vg (if the Psalterium iuxta Hebraeos as shown above is a paraphrase) support מְפֹלֵט. The relationship between מְפֹלֵט and מְפֹלֵט is discussed in the entry on פֹּלֵט piel (Text Doubtful A.4).

**A.2** Levy (1868:474b-75a) defines Arm שִׁיזְבוּחָא as “Rettung, Befreiung”.

**B.1** [nil]

## 5. Lexical/Semantic Field(s)

**A.1** See פֹּלֵט Qal.

**B.1** [nil]

## 6. Exegesis

**A.1** Hubbard (1997:624) takes מְפֹלֵט as “place of refuge”, denoting in the context of Ps 55 a “restful desert hideaway”. Zorell (462) gives the options of “evasio, fuga” and “suffugium”.

**A.2** The psalmist seems to be seeking refuge (probably metaphorically) from a stormy wind. The lexeme therefore denotes a shelter.

**B.1** [nil]

## 7. Conclusion

**A.1** The context of the lexeme suggests that it is a shelter, and the root suggests that the term originated as one related to rescue. The concept of “hastening” to the shelter mentioned in the psalm indicates that the notion of rescue or escape was still present in the lexeme. One hastened to the shelter in order to avoid or escape the effects of the storm.

**B.1** [nil]

## Bibliography

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