

פָּלַט

(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. Klein (1987:509c) and *HAL* (880b) define it as an adjective.

Occurrences: Total 5x OT, 0x Sir, 0x Qum, 0x inscr.

Is 66.19 written as MT in 1QIsa^a.

Text Doubtful:

A.1 BHS (see also Rudolph 1968:260) suggests on the basis of Jr 44.14a that פִּי אֶם-פָּלַטִים in v. 14b may have been added secondarily.

B.1 [nil]

Qere/Ketiv: none.

1. Root and Comparative Material

A.1 See פִּלַּט Qal.

A.2 The lexeme is attested in RH, e.g. M. Sotah 1.17b, M. Sanhedrin 10.4.

B.1 See פִּלַּט Qal.

2. Formal Characteristics

A.1 Barth (1894:§112), Hasel (1989:593 = 2001:555) and *HAL* (880b) define פָּלַט as a *qatil* form. According to Barth it is the only nominal of this type in Hebrew which is active in meaning.

A.2 The lexeme is listed as פָּלַיַט by KB (762b) and Alonso Schökel (584b) and as פָּלַט by Zorell (650b) and Klein (1987:509c). Gesenius (1835:1105a) gives each form a separate entry. The lexeme is spelled plene in Nu 21.29, Is 66.19 (pl), and defectively in Jr 44.14, 50.28, 51.50.

B.1 Hubbard (1997:624) seems to consider פָּלַט as an analogous form to אָסִיר, and נָבִיא, citing Waltke & O’Connor (1990:88, §5.3e) and calling it a “*qātīl*” form. Waltke & O’Connor’s discussion, however, is related to פָּלַיַט, not פָּלַט.

3. Syntagmatics

A.1 Subj שׁוּב Qal (Jr 44.14), הֵלֶךְ Qal, עָמַד Qal, זָכַר Qal (Jr 51.50).

A.2 Obj שֶׁלַח piel (Is 66.19).

A.3 Nomen rectum of קוּל (Jr 50.28).

B.1 [nil]

4. Versions

a. LXX:

ἀνασσεσφασμένοι (Jr 44[51].14b);

ἀνασφζόμενοι (Jr 50[27].28, 51[28].50);
διασφζεσθαι (Nu 21.29);
σεσφσμένοι (Is 66.19).

b. The Three:
Sym σεσφσμένοι (Jr 51.50).

c. Pesh:
[[*bhmyr*']] (Nu 21.29);
[[*z'wr*']] (Jr 44.14b);
mšwzb' (Is 66.19);
dmtpl̄tyn (Jr 50.28);
'lȳn d'tpl̄tw (Jr 51.50).

d. Tg:
TgPro:
מְשִׁיבִין (Is 66.19, Jr 44.14b);
מְשִׁיבִינָא (Jr 51.50);
מְשִׁיבִין (Jr 50.28);
TgO: צִירִין (Nu 21.29).
TgNeo: שְׁלִילֶן בְּקוֹלְרִיא (Nu 21.29).
TgPsJ: לִמְגְלִי (Nu 21.29).
TgFrg: כְּפוּתִין בְּקוֹלְרִיא, כְּפוּתִין בְּקוֹלְרִיא (Nu 21.29, Klein 1980, Vol. 1:102, 199).
Samaritan Tg: דֶּאֶפְלָטוּ (Nu 21.29).

e. Vg:
ii qui evaserunt (Jr 50.28);
qui salvati fuerint (Is 66.19);
qui fugerint (Jr 44.14b);
qui fugistis (Jr 51.50);
in fugam (Nu 21.29).

A.1 The versions show less preference for a single equivalent root than with פְּלִיט. However, they reveal no obvious distinction between פְּלִיט and פְּלָט.

B.1 Pesh (*b*)*hmyr'* in Nu 21.29 apparently means 'as a hostage', a free rendering which is modelled on the more easily intelligible parallel expression שְׁבִיטָה.

B.2 Pesh *z'wr*, 'little', perhaps here 'few', can hardly be a translation of פְּלִיטִים in Jr 44.14b and is probably a modification to fit the very negative first part of the verse.

5. Lexical/Semantic Field(s)

A.1 פְּלִיטָה is set in parallel with שְׁבִיטָה (Nu 21.29), and פְּלִיטִים is set in parallel with נְסִימָה (Jr 50.28).

A.2 In Jr 44.14 פְּלִיטִים is in opposition to פְּלִיט and שְׁרִיד. For a contrast of פְּלָט with פְּלִיט see Lexical/Semantic Field(s) in the entry on פְּלִיט.

A.3 For a discussion of the semantic field of lexemes of the root פלט, and for a contrast of these lexemes with those of the root מלט see Lexical/Semantic Field(s) of פלט piel.

B.1 Hasel (1989:594 = 2001:556) suggests that both פליט and פלט occur in parallel to פריד. However, only the former does, and while in Jr 44.14 פלט occurs in the same verse as פריד, it is used in contrast to it.

6. Exegesis

A.1 Zorell (650b) understands פלט as “qui (fugiens) salvus evasit”; Alonso Schökel (584b) understands פליט as identical to פליט. Furlani (1948:307) understands פליט as “lo scampato, il fuggiasco” and פלט as “il profugo, il fuggiasco”.

A.2 It is widely held that Jr 44.14b, which talks of פלטים who will return, contradicts Jr 44.14a, which denies that there will be any פליט, and is probably a later addition (Carroll 1986:730, McKane 1996:1075). However, if a distinction of meaning exists between פלט and פליט, this hypothesis is unnecessary. This distinction is discussed in Lexical/Semantic Field(s) in the entry on פליט.

B.1 [nil]

7. Conclusion

A.1 A פלט, unlike a פליט, often has negative connotations (a sign of woe in Nu 21.29, and in a negative oracle Jr 44.14b). The פלט may be someone on the move having escaped a negative situation, but with no immediate prospect of a settled situation. The term thus may often be translated “fugitive”. In most cases the פלט is on the move (Is 66.19, Jr 50.28, 51.50), and in Nu 21.29 the word is parallel to שביית ‘captivity’, suggesting unsettled existence. In Jr 44.14b there may be a focus on the unsettled position of those who return if there is an opposition with לְשֹׁבָתָה. The term may often be glossed “refugee”.

B.1 [nil]

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