

Introduction to Hebrew

Session 7: Verb Tense Complete

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A verb is an action word, and verbs are the heart and foundation of any language. Hebrew verbs use a simple three-letter root system as the foundation to all verbal patterns, and then attaches letters to the front and back of these verbs to change their sense of meaning. Hebrew verbs are different from English because they either convey a complete sense of action or an incomplete. The resulting meaning can be quite powerful.

3-Letter Verbal Root System

love	אהב
say, speak	אמר
choose, select	בחר
trust	בטח

3-Letter Verbal Root System

walk, go	הלך
remember	זכר
rule	מלך
guard, keep	שמר

3-Letter Verbal Root System



Complete
(Perfect)



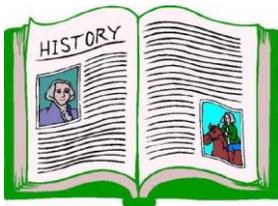
Incomplete
(Imperfect)

Greek/Western Sense of Time

Past

Present

Future



Perfect (complete)

בְּיוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי

By the seventh day God **completed** His work which He had **done**, and He **rested** on the seventh day from all His work which He had **done**.

Gen 2:2

Hebrew/Biblical Sense of Time

At the time of the creation, God declared that all His work was complete. In the Greek/western concept of time, this makes no sense because we can see that God's work is not yet complete. However, in the Hebrew/Biblical sense of time, if God says it is complete, we can live with that understanding and actually participate in it.

So now, let's look at the Hebrew/Biblical sense of time. We know that God created time because He created all things. Furthermore, we can perceive God as *in* His created time. Therefore, since God is eternal and ever-present, He is in all aspects of time. He is in the Greek sense of what has already happened, and in the Greek sense of the future that hasn't happened yet, as well is in the time we are in right now. Perhaps that it is easy for you to understand God in all aspects of time, but now we must consider mankind existing in God's time.

To the extent that we are one with God, which we can be from time to time when we are in alignment and harmony with our Righteous God, then we will be *with* God in His time. That is, we can be with Him at the time of creation, and at the time of the Exodus, and at the time of the death and resurrection of His son. All these things are in the Greek sense of past time, but they can be present and real for us when we are one with God. We can also be with God in future time, when Scripture speaks prophetically of things that have not yet happened. We can experience the past and the future as if we were actually there.

Pronouns

אֲנִי	אָנֹכִי
אַתָּה	אַתָּם
אַתְּ	אַתֶּן
הוא	הֵם
היא	הֵן

Guard, keep (singular) – שָׁמַר

אֲנִי	שָׁמַרְתִּי	א
אַתָּה	שָׁמַרְתָּ	You (<i>m. sing.</i>)
אַתְּ	שָׁמַרְתְּ	You (<i>f. sing.</i>)
הוא	שָׁמַר	He (<i>m. sing.</i>)
היא	שָׁמְרָה	She (<i>f. sing.</i>)

Guard, keep (plural) - שָׁמַר

אֲנַחְנוּ	שָׁמַרְנוּ	We
אַתֶּם	שָׁמַרְתֶּם	You (<i>m. pl.</i>)
אַתֶּן	שָׁמַרְתֶּן	You (<i>f. pl.</i>)
הֵם	שָׁמְרוּ	They (<i>m.</i>)
הֵן	שָׁמְרוּ	They (<i>f.</i>)

Perfect (complete)

שָׁמַרְנוּ	שָׁמַרְתִּי
שָׁמַרְתֶּם	שָׁמַרְתָּ
שָׁמַרְתֶּן	שָׁמַרְתְּ
שָׁמְרוּ	שָׁמַר
שָׁמְרוּ	שָׁמְרָה

Hebrew Perfect – English translation

הִלַּכְתִּי

I walked

I did walk

I was walking

I had walked

I have walked

בְּטַחְנוּ אֱלֹהִים	אִמַּרְתִּי שָׁלוֹם
הִלַּכְתֶּם בְּאֶרֶץ	אֲהַבֶּתְּ שָׂרָה
שָׁמַרְתֶּם הַמֶּלֶךְ	זָכַרְתְּ הַתּוֹרָה
בְּכָרוּ דָוִד	מֶלֶךְ הָעָם
אָהָבוּ אֲבִיהֶם	שָׁמְרָה בְּתוֹרָה

Test Your Progress

Match the Hebrew verb with the correct English translation

שָׁמְרָה	בָּטַחְתִּי	13. He remembered	1. They trusted
בָּטַחְנוּ	הִלַּכְתִּי	14. You remembered (s)	2. I walked
הִלְכוּ	אָמְרוּ	15. They walked	3. They remembered
זָכַר	אָהַבְתִּי	16. I said	4. I loved
זָכַרְתִּי	שָׁמַרְתִּי	17. He guarded	5. He ruled
הִלַּכְתִּי	בָּטַחוּ	18. You said (s)	6. We remembered
מָלְכוּ	הִלְךְ	19. We trusted	7. You guarded (s)
אָמַרְתִּי	זָכַרְנוּ	20. You walked (s)	8. They said
אָהַב	אָהַבְתָּם	21. She guarded	9. I trusted
אָהַבְתִּי	שָׁמַרְתֶּם	22. He loved	10. He walked
אָמַרְתִּי	זָכַרוּ	23. You loved (s)	11. You loved (pl)
שָׁמַר	מָלְךְ	24. They ruled	12. You guarded