

Classical Syriac

Estrangela Script

Chapter 11

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11.1. The P^{es}al Perfect of Second-Wāw/Yôḏ Verbs¹

Second-wāw/yôḏ verbs are verbs whose second root letter is either **ⲁ** or **ⲓ**. Apart from verbs that are both second-wāw/yôḏ and original third-yôḏ verbs (e.g. **ⲕⲱⲙ**, **ⲕⲓⲛ**) as well as a few other exceptions, the second root letter disappears in the P^{es}al perfect. Since the second root letter is missing in the P^{es}al perfect, dictionaries list second-wāw/yôḏ verbs both by their root and by the form they take in the P^{es}al perfect (e.g. **ⲡⲠⲙ**, **ⲡⲱ**). In the vocabulary lists of this textbook, second-wāw/yôḏ verbs will be listed according to the forms they have in both the P^{es}al perfect and the imperative (e.g. **ⲡⲱ**, **ⲡⲠⲙ**) since all three root letters are present in the imperative. Note that the P^{es}al perfect of second-wāw and second-yôḏ verbs are identical.

The following rules can be used to produce the forms of second-wāw/yôḏ verbs in the P^{es}al perfect:

1. The second root letter is missing throughout the P^{es}al perfect. The second root letter has disappeared through contraction (***ⲡⲱⲙ** → **ⲡⲱ**).
2. The first root letter is written with a zqāpā² throughout the paradigm. The ptāḥā² that should have been written with the second root letter has been transferred to the first root letter and has lengthened to compensate for the loss of the second root letter.
3. The rest of the conjugation is regular. In other words, everything after the missing second root letter is identical to the pattern used with regular verbs. Note that the **ⲗ** in the second-person forms is always pronounced with the hard pronunciation.

¹ Cf. Nöldeke §177; Muraoka §65; Duval §210; Mingana §§152–56; Brockelmann §193.

An important exception to these rules is the paradigm of the verb ܡܘܬܘܢ (to die). In the P^{ec}al perfect, a ܡ, with a ḥbāšā² appears after the first root letter throughout the paradigm rather than zqāpā². Apart from this, the rest of the paradigm is identical to the normal paradigm for second-wāw/yôd verbs.

The following chart provides the forms for second-wāw/yôd verbs along with the forms for the verb ܡܘܬܘܢ in the P^{ec}al perfect:

Table 11.1 – P ^{ec} al Perfect of Second-Wāw/Yôd Verbs and the Verb ܡܘܬܘܢ		
	Second-Wāw/Yôd Verbs	ܡܘܬܘܢ
3msg	ܡܘܬ	ܡܘܬܘܢ
3fsg	ܡܘܬܘܬܐ	ܡܘܬܘܬܐ
2msg	ܡܘܬܐ	ܡܘܬܐ
2fsg	ܡܘܬܐ,ܡܘܬܐ	ܡܘܬܐ,ܡܘܬܐ
1csg	ܡܘܬܐ	ܡܘܬܐ
3mpl	ܡܘܬܘܢ	ܡܘܬܘܢ
3fpl	ܡܘܬܘܢ	ܡܘܬܘܢ
2mpl	ܡܘܬܘܢܐ	ܡܘܬܘܢܐ
2fpl	ܡܘܬܘܢܐ	ܡܘܬܘܢܐ
1cpl	ܡܘܬܘܢܐ	ܡܘܬܘܢܐ

In rare cases, second-wāw verbs are conjugated like regular verbs, with the second root letter maintaining its status as a consonant throughout the paradigm. In most cases, these verbs are denominative, that is, verbs that have been derived from nouns. These verbs can be recognized in standard dictionaries by the fact that they are listed by the form they would have in the P^{ec}al perfect 3msg, which follows the same conjugation as a regular verb, even if the verb does not occur in the P^{ec}al (e.g. ܡܘܬܘܢܐ, which means “to act wickedly” in the ²Ap^{el}).

11.2. The Perfect of Second-Wāw/Yôd Verbs in the Derived Patterns²

The following chart provides the forms for second-wāw/yôd verbs in the most common derived patterns. The P^{ec}al perfect paradigm has been included for the sake of comparison. Note that the verb ܡܘܬܘܢ follows the same pattern as ܡܘܬܘܢ in the derived patterns.

² Cf. Nöldeke §177; Muraoka §65; Mingana §§152–56; Brockelmann §193.

ܣܒܝܢܐ ܣܒܝܢܐ	([?] Ap ^s el) to cause to look at, show, understand.
ܡܘܬܐ ܡܘܬܐ	(P ^{es} al) to die; ([?] Etp ^{es} el) to be put to death, be killed;
ܡܘܬܐ ܡܘܬܐ	([?] Ap ^s el) to put to death, kill.
ܨܘܕ ܨܘܕ	(P ^{es} al) to rest, cease; ([?] Etp ^{es} el) to rest, take rest, refresh oneself, be quiet;
ܨܘܕ ܨܘܕ	([?] Ap ^s el) to give rest, refresh, calm, lay down (e.g. weapons), put away.
ܩܡܪ ܩܡܪ ⁷	(P ^{es} al) to place, put, set, lay; ([?] Etp ^{es} el) to be placed, be put, be set, be laid.
ܩܡܪ ܩܡܪ	(P ^{es} al) to fast, abstain; ([?] Etp ^{es} el) to be kept as a fast.
ܩܡܪ ܩܡܪ	(P ^{es} al) to stand, stand up, rise;
ܩܡܪ ܩܡܪ	(Pa ^{ss} el) to establish, confirm, ratify; ([?] Etpa ^{ss} al) to be established, strengthened, confirmed, ratified, come to pass;
ܩܡܪ ܩܡܪ	([?] Ap ^s el) to raise up, raise, cause to stand, set up.
ܩܡܪ ܩܡܪ	(P ^{es} al) to return, repent;
ܩܡܪ ܩܡܪ	([?] Ap ^s el) to cause to return, turn, convert, reply (with ܩܡܪܐܝܢܐ), vomit.

Nouns		
Singular	Plural	Meaning
ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	(m) gospel
ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	(m) power, force, strength, forces (pl.)
ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	(m) synagogue, congregation, assembly
ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	(m) Nazarene, Christian
ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	(f) testimony, witness, evidence
ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	(f) Sabbath
ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	(m) name, fame.
ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	(m) door, gate, royal court (with ܩܘܪܝܢܐ)

Prepositive Conjunctions	
ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	when
ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	if
ܩܘܪܝܢܐ	when, after, while

⁷ Note that Payne Smith lists this verb under the root ܩܡܪ.

ܡܝܚܠܐ ܐܝ	because
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Prepositions	
ܡܝܚܠܐ	because of

Proper Nouns	
ܬܝܬܘܫ	Titus
ܠܘܩܐ	Luke
ܢܐܪܝܝܐ	Narsai
ܩܫܬܐ	Satan
ܦܝܠܝܦܘܫ	Philip

11.5. Homework

- Using practice sheet 11.1, memorize the paradigm for the P^{ca}l perfect of the verb ܡܚܡܐ.
- Using practice sheet 11.2, memorize the paradigms for ܡܚܡܐ in the derived patterns.
- Memorize the vocabulary in 11.4 above. Ideally you should learn seven words per day until they are all memorized. Make sure you can translate the words from Syriac to English as well as English to Syriac. The following link on Quizlet can be used to help you learn the vocabulary: https://quizlet.com/_cdgn9h?x=1jqt&i=2z26w0.
- Using practice sheet 11.3, translate the sentences from Syriac to English.