

The Qal Perfect of the Strong Verb

30.3 The addition of these suffixes to the third masculine singular form of Qal perfect of שמר, "he kept," gives these results:

1 cp	נו	we
2 mp	תם	you
2 fp	תן	you
3 cp	ו	they

1 cs	תי	I
2 ms	ת	you
2 fs	ת	you
3 ms (none)		he
3 fs	ה	she

1 cp	שמרנו	we kept	**
2 mp	שמרתם	you kept	***
2 fp	שמרתן	you kept	***
3 cp	שמרו	they kept	*

1 cs	שמרתי	I kept	**
2 ms	שמרת	you kept	
2 fs	שמרת	you kept	**
3 ms	שמר	he kept	
3 fs	שמרה	she kept	*

וְאַהֲבַתְּ אֶת יְיָ אֱלֹהֶיךָ, בְּכָל לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל גַּפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל
מְאֹדְךָ. וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי מְצַוְּךָ הַיּוֹם עַל
לִבְבְּךָ. וְשָׁנַנְתָּם לְבִנְיָהּ וְדַבַּרְתָּ בָּם בְּשַׁבְּתֶךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ וּבְלִכְתֶּךָ
בְּדֶרֶךְ, וּבְשֹׁכְבְּךָ וּבְקוּמֶךָ. וּקְשַׁרְתָּם לְאוֹת עַל יָדְךָ, וְהָיוּ
לְטֹטְפוֹת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ. וּכְתַבְתָּם עַל מְזוֹזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ.

- **What's going on with the vowel changes?**

* Suffixes that begin with vowels (vocalic suffixes) are accented, and this causes the vowel in the nearest preceding open syllable to become a vocal (pronounced) sheva. (An open syllable is one that does not end with a consonant. The vertical line you see next to the first vowel is called a meteg. It is used in certain circumstances to mark a secondary accent.)

** Most suffixes that begin with consonants (consonantal suffixes) have a *silent* sheva under the third stem consonant. This functions only as a syllable divider. The accent remains on the final syllable of the stem, not the ending.

*** The suffixes םָ and ןָ also draw the accent to themselves, despite the fact that they begin with a consonant. In this case the first vowel becomes a vocal sheva. (The rule is actually the same as for vowel suffixes: the vowel in the nearest open syllable becomes a sheva. However, in the case of a consonantal suffix, the second syllable remains closed, so the nearest open syllable is actually the first syllable of the word.)