Classical Syriac

Estrangela Script

Chapter 10

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10.1.	Introduction to Weak Verbs	103
10.2.	The P ^{eq} al Perfect of Original Third-Yô <u>d</u> Verbs	104
10.3.	The Perfect of Third-Yôd Perfect Verbs in the Derived Patterns	106
10.4.	Prepositive Conjunctions (Part 1)	106
10.5.	Vocabulary	110
10.6.	Homework	112

10.1. Introduction to Weak Verbs

In chapter 5 we learned the paradigm for regular verbs in the P^{eq}al perfect. The verb that was used to learn this paradigm was the verb \(\frac{1}{2}\) are BeGaDKePhaT letters. This means that learning this paradigm was not made more complicated by the pronunciation of any of the root letters shifting at various points in the paradigm. Second, and more importantly, none of the root letters of the verb \(\frac{1}{2}\) change or disappear when the verb is conjugated. In other words, the verb \(\frac{1}{2}\) is completely regular. Verbs that are completely regular are referred to as **strong verbs**.

Weak verbs, on the other hand, are verbs where (a) one or more of its root letters can change or disappear when the verb is conjugated or (b) the vowels used with one or more of these root letters do not follow the pattern used in strong verbs due to the weak nature of the consonant. In Classical Syriac, there are seven main types of weak verbs: (1) original third-yôd verbs, (2) third-yôd verbs, (3) second-wāw/yôd verbs, (4) first-yôd verbs, (5) first-nûn verbs, (6) first-ālap verbs, and (7) verbs whose second and third root letters are identical, which are referred to as *geminate verbs*. The numbers used in these names (i.e. first, second, and third) refer to which root letter changes or causes changes to the expected vowel pattern reading from right to left. For example, in the verb Δ is the first root letter, the Δ is the second root letter, and the Δ is the third root letter. The letter used in the name refers to the letter that occupies this position in the root of the verb. For example, first-nûn verbs are verbs whose first root letter is a nûn (e.g. Δ), "to watch, protect").

Weak verbs can be learned in three possible ways. First, the paradigms for these verbs can simply be memorized. This can be done using a paradigm chart or a song. Second, the paradigms for these verbs can be learned by trying to use the various forms in speech. Finally, the paradigms can be learned by taking the paradigm used for strong verbs and simply memorizing how and

why the paradigms of the weak verbs differ. In this textbook, we will focus on the third option. While the paradigms for these verbs may seem intimidating at first, most of these forms are quite easy to memorize if you have mastered the paradigm for the strong verb.

10.2. The Peral Perfect of Original Third-Yôd Verbs¹

The focus of this chapter is on original third-yôd verbs. Original third-yōd verbs are verbs whose third root letter is \prec but, in a much earlier stage of Aramaic, the third root letter was \cdot . In the perfect, original third-yôd verbs end in \prec in the third masculine singular. However, for the rest of the paradigm, the third root letter either reverts to \cdot or completely disappears.

The following rules can be used to produce the forms of most third-yod verbs in the P^{eq} al perfect:

- 1. The third letter is only \prec in the 3msg. Since short vowels can only be used in closed syllables and since \prec cannot close a syllable, the ptāḥā[?] is lengthened to zqāpā[?].
- 2. In the vast majority of cases, the third root letter reverts to \cdot . This rule applies to the 2msg, the 2fsg, the 1csg, the 3fpl, the 2mpl, the 2fpl, and the 1cpl. In most cases, the vowels remain the same as the vowels that are used for regular verbs. There are two exceptions. For the 1csg, the vowel that should have been written with the third root letter is transferred to the second root letter. This causes the vowel that normally would have been written with the first root letter to disappear. For the 3mpl, the vowel written with the second root letter is $zq\bar{a}p\bar{a}^{?}$ instead of $pt\bar{a}h\bar{a}^{?}$ since diphthongs that should be spelled a; are always spelled a; in East Syriac (see §2.6).
- 3. The third root letter drops out in the 3fsg and the 3mpl. For the 3mpl, the suffix takes the place of the third root letter and it is no longer silent. For the 3fsg, the vowel written with the first root letter in the regular paradigm disappears while the vowel written with the second root letter lengthens to $zq\bar{a}p\bar{a}^{2}$.

Since the 3msg is the form you will memorize in your vocabulary lists, the only forms that you need to focus on when memorizing the paradigm are the 3fsg, the 1csg, and the 3mpl. The remaining forms in the paradigm follow the same paradigm as regular verbs apart from the fact that the final root letter has reverted to \mathfrak{z} .

¹ Cf. Nöldeke §176; Muraoka §64; Duval §§104, 213; Mingana §§157–58; Brockelmann §192.

² Note that some verbs in Classical Syriac that end in κ are original third- \bar{a} lap verbs. Note also that some verbs in Classical Syriac end in , in the P^{eq}al perfect 3msg. In this textbook, verbs that end in , in the P^{eq}al perfect 3msg will simply be referred to as third-yô<u>d</u> verbs. Third-yô<u>d</u> verbs are relatively rare and are identical to original third-yô<u>d</u> verbs in every pattern except for the P^{eq}al. Third-yô<u>d</u> verbs will be discussed in a later chapter.

³ Note that Sokoloff's lexicon lists original third-yô<u>d</u> verbs with the third consonant as , rather than κ . Payne Smith lists them with the third consonant as κ .

The following chart provides the forms of original third-y $\bar{o}\underline{d}$ verbs in the P^{eq} al perfect along with an explanation for why each form takes the form that it does:

Table 10.1 – P ^{eç} al Perfect of Original Third-Yô <u>d</u> Verbs				
	Form	Translation	Explanation	
3msg	ملآنر	he revealed	Since the verb has no suffix, the third root letter remains ≺. The vowel written with the second root letter is zqāpā [?] since it is in an open syllable.	
3fsg	كالملا	she revealed	The third root letter has disappeared through contraction (*). The $p\underline{t}\bar{a}h\bar{a}^{?}$ that should have been written with the second root letter has combined with the $p\underline{t}\bar{a}h\bar{a}^{?}$ of the feminine suffix a to become a $zq\bar{a}p\bar{a}^{?}$.	
2msg	كانعانى	you revealed	The third root letter has reverted to 3 . The form here is identical to the regular verb.	
2fsg	المعالم. مانعالم	you revealed	The third root letter has reverted to 3 . The form here is identical to the regular verb.	
1csg	hel	I revealed	The third root letter has reverted to , but has become silent. The vowel that normally would have been written with the third root letter has been transferred to the second root letter. This has caused the vowel that would normally have been written with the first root letter in the regular verb (zlāmā² pšîqā²) to disappear.	
3mpl	ملاتر	they revealed	The third root letter has disappeared through contraction (* $\rightarrow \Delta \Box$). The form used here is quite similar to the one used with regular verbs, but with two differences. First, the ptāḥā? has changed to zqāpā? since diphthongs that should be spelled \circ are always spelled \circ in East Syriac (see §2.6). Second, the 3mpl suffix has taken the place of the third root letter.	
3fpl	تبلغر	they revealed	The third root letter has reverted to 3 . The form here is identical to the regular verb.	
2mpl	رنهنيان	you revealed	The third root letter has reverted to . The form here is identical to the regular verb.	
2fpl	ره کاندازی	you revealed	The third root letter has reverted to 3. The form here is identical to the regular verb.	
1cpl	رمانر	we revealed	The third root letter has reverted to . The form here is identical to the regular verb.	

10.3. The Perfect of Third-Yôd Perfect Verbs in the Derived Patterns⁴

The following chart provides the forms of original third-yô \underline{d} verbs in the most common derived patterns. The P^{eq}al perfect paradigm has been included for the sake of comparison.

Table 10	Table 10.2 – Original Third-Yôd Perfect Verbs in the Derived Patterns				
	P ^{eç} al	Pa ^{cc} el	^γ A <u>p</u> [¢] el	³E <u>t</u> p ^{eç} el	³E <u>t</u> pa"al
3msg	مطائر	بلنر	ナイス	ナイダス	ナバダス
3fsg	لملاتر	كبليز	بهناربه	<i>بەنلە</i> بەند	<i>هناخ بهن</i> د
2msg	لمنعلا	لمبليز	لمبيلربخ	جنباه جائد	جنهز بهتر
2fsg	بالعائر	بخلبة,	به کلینه	، جناب جاند	الإنهالة بالله
1csg	لمعلا	لبلبز	لمبلربز	ب <i>ابار بان</i> د	<i>چناخ باند</i>
3mpl	ملانز	مبلبز	مغلرند	منهر مهتد	منهان مهتد
3fpl	يلز	ببلبز	ぜんべ	it pic	江グダ浜
2mpl	منافياتر	رنهنيابز	ره به بلا بد	مهنابة بالد	<i>حوبهناخ بهن</i> د
2fpl	بالمعالا	بالمبلخ	المنابع بخ	<i>خېنې بېن</i> د	<i>خېنېخ بې</i> ت
1cpl	بعانع	ببلبز	the state of	فهرماند	فهتربهته

Several observations can be made:

- The original third yô<u>d</u> of the root is present throughout the paradigms of the derived patterns.
- The 3fsg of the derived patterns is completely regular.
- Apart from the 3fsg, the third yôd of the derived patterns is written with a $hb\bar{a}s\bar{a}^{\gamma}$.
- The λ of the 2msg, 2fsg, 2mpl, and 2fpl suffixes is pronounced with the hard pronunciation even if it is immediately preceded by a vowel sound.
- The suffix for the 3mpl is pronounced in each of the patterns given above.

If these observations are kept in mind, the paradigms of the derived patterns can be reproduced and recognized with little difficulty.

10.4. Prepositive Conjunctions (Part 1)

Prepositive conjunctions are conjunctions that normally stand immediately before the word, phrase, or clause it is connecting. This is in contrast to postpositive conjunctions, which cannot stand in the initial position of a clause (see §9.3). In this section we will begin to look at some of the most common prepositive conjunctions in Classical Syriac. We will deal with more prepositive conjunctions in the following chapter.

⁴ Cf. Nöldeke §176; Muraoka §64; Duval §§104, 213; Mingana §§157–58; Brockelmann §192.

10.4.1. a 🕇 5

The conjunction or is used to link options, possibilities, or alternatives ("or"). When introducing a set of two alternatives, it can be translated with the word "either." Note the following examples:

Examples	
Syriac	English
يه مجبه تبرّ جزيعه بؤسله فه دبنه عنه.	Or what will a person give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8:37)
حتہ بعد حصد نہیں عبد ہنے ہیں۔ احن کے: بہتر ہیں ہیں ہیں۔ ہی ہیں ہیں ہیں ہیں ہیں ہیں ہیں ہیں ہیں	Jesus answered and said, "Truly, I say to you: No one who leaves houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or farms because of me and because of my gospel (Mark 10:29)
بنه جدیک دینه دینه مختی مختی البادی کی البادی کی مختی البادی کی مختی مختی با بنی مختی مختی با با با با با با ب مختی مختی مختی مختی مختی مختی مختی با	There is no servant who can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other or he will honor the one and treat the other with contempt. (Luke 16:13)

10.4.2. ܡܠܡ⁶

The conjunction તો is often used to indicate a contrast between the clause it introduces and something that was previously stated ("but"). Although તો sounds like the Greek conjunction ἀλλά (alla, "but") and sometimes has the same meaning, it is actually derived from the combination of the conjunction ("if") and the adverb તો ("not"). The conjunction તો can also be used in some cases to indicate an exception to something that was previously stated ("except"). However, when તો has this function, it is normally used in combination with the conjunction () Compound conjunctions will be dealt with in chapter 12. Note the following examples:

Examples	
Syriac	English
ر برنجی، کیمنی لزدیقی، کیک البرانی. البرانیم،	I have not come to call the righteous but sinners. (Mark 2:17)
:ما بېد بريد .مخ ن بره	But he did not permit him but said to him (Mark 5:19)

⁵ Nöldeke §§155, 340; Duval §§296, 388; Mingana §566; Brockelmann §175.

⁶ Nöldeke §§155, 374; Duval §§110, 296; 411; Mingana §566; Brockelmann §175.

طير .ميخ انحية عيد ماه	And he did not permit anyone to come with
لعجدت جمقم ولنحمة ولعميته	him except Simon the Rock, James, and
	John. (Mark 5:37)
بني قرير المنطقة المنط	
الخ بربعية كرير . هنمي حقم ومه كل	He himself was not the light but [he came]
്. ന്നവ	
D2(0) 71.	(John 1:8)

10.4.3. ع*نز*

Like the word "also" in English, ﷺ is a conjunctive adverb. ﷺ can be used to indicate addition (also), a surprising inclusion (even), or, when used with the adverb ¾, a surprising exclusion (not even). When ¾ indicates a surprising inclusion, it is often preceded by the conjunction a. When this happens, ¾ a should normally be translated "even" rather than "and even." ¾ can also be used with the adverb ¼ to indicate exclusion. Note the following example:

Examples	
Syriac	English
رد. لاه. لاوسی کینوبری فقه محمیزیدی	He even commands the impure spirits and they obey him. (Mark 1:27)
مجنه عجمه بنجت بخده مهم، عبد عجم مخدد الأنجيب برخير مين مخدد الأنجيب المرتبي مخده وخد عبد عبد مخده وخد عبد مخده وخد عبد عبد مخدده وخد عبد عبد عبد مخدده وخد عبد عبد عبد عبد المرتبي مخدده وخد المرتبي	And when they heard that he was in the house, many gathered, so much so that it was not able to contain them, not even in front of the door. (Mark 2:2) And he also gave to the ones who were
يجين سِهٰ يختره عجره عضي سيج	with him. (Mark 2:26) The Lord even of the Sabbath, therefore, is the son of man. (Mark 2:28)
بختر؛ بخد ن ^ی ک میر حیز بغیر	And he also said to them (Mark 3:4)
ستعن جات بریت میت میت میت میت میت میت میت میت میت م	For even the son of man did not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

8 Note that in West Syriac, when ユボ is used with んじ, it forms a single word (ベルダン). In East Syriac, they are written as two separate words (ベンルル).

⁷ Nöldeke §155; Duval §296; Brockelmann §175.

⁹ This verse can also be translated, "The son of man, therefore, is Lord even of the Sabbath." The translation given above has attempted to adhere to the Syriac word order as much as possible for the sake of illustration.

When used with another occurrence of عَرْج, عَرْ can indicate inclusion ("also...and" or "both...and also"):

Examples	
Syriac	English
عبد حالة با كبعه بار ي عبد حالم بار عبد عبد كبد	Don't just wash my feet for me but also my hands and my feet. (John 13:9)
شعّه برح فِسته، فِصته تبد لم متبد لتبجر.	But now they have both seen and hated both me and also my father. (John 15:24)

10.4.4. α¹⁰

The conjunction α is the most common conjunction in Classical Syriac. Its use, in many cases, mirrors the use of the equivalent conjunctions in both Hebrew and Greek. It can be used in several different ways.

a) It can be used to join words, phrases, or clauses together in a way that indicates inclusion ("and"):

Examples	
Syriac	English
ەتھىئى ھۆھ كۆھ خىن ئىسەن مجلسەن خىن سەنىعلىر.	And all of the countryside of Judea and all of the inhabitants of Jerusalem ¹¹ went out to him. (Mark 1:5)
مېيوه لښنې مېنې مېنې مېنې مېنې مېښې مېښې.	And they came to the house of Simon and of Andrew with James and John. (Mark 1:29)
متزت رِنه ٥ کمنجن:	He approached him and said (Mark 1:41)

b) α can be used to indicate sequence in a narrative. When this happens, α can be translated with the words *and*, *then*, or *but* depending on the logical relationship the sentence has with the previous sentence:

 $^{^{10}}$ Nöldeke $\S155,\,339–40;$ Duval $\S296;$ Mingana $\S566,$ Brockelmann $\S175.$

¹¹ Literally, "the sons of Jerusalem."

Examples	
Syriac	English
مة بنة جم عنب: خنه حمة مرةه ملقه	Then a voice came from heaven: "You are
بخخبخه،	my beloved son." (Mk. 1:11)
: ٢ بغند م بغنده	And Jesus said to them (Mk. 1:17)

c) α can also be used to introduce a new section in a narrative. When α has this function, it can be translated with the words "and" or "now" or it can simply be left untranslated:

Examples	
Syriac	English
فه بره بر کرنگ دوس کرنگ خوس به بخر کرنگر خوس به بره به بر کرنگر می به بخر کرنگر به به بخر کرنگر به به بخر کرنگ می ترکیب می به به بخر می به به بخر می به	And it came about in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee (Mark 1:9)
ەخلە لاەد بعەد لدەن تسەم لتەخىلام.	And again Jesus went up to Capernaum after some time (Mark 2:1)

d) When used with another occurrence of α , α can indicate inclusion (both...and):

Examples	
Syriac	English
مرند مختصند نعه ۲۰۰۰ مهرید شرخه براه مربح براه مرب مربح مربح براه براه براه براه براه براه براه براه	You know both me and you know where I come from. (John 7:28) ¹²
وخل خیون مجل باهی میه به به به به می	Both on my male servants and on my female servants I will pour out my spirit in those days and they will prophesy. (Acts 2:18)

10.5. Vocabulary

Verbs	
ペ ダベ	(P ^{eq} al) to come (opposite of كيزير), follow (with خبرهٔ).
نهبنج ₁₃	(⁷ Ap ^c el) to bring, cause to come
حنت	(P ^e γal) to build; (^γ Etp ^e γel) to be built.

¹² A more literal translation would be, "Both me you know and from where I come you know."

¹³ In the ${}^{7}\text{Ap}{}^{6}\text{el}$, the first root letter is replaced by $_{\bullet}$. Apart from this, the forms of this verb follow the expected forms.

مطانر	$(P^{e\varsigma}al)$ to uncover, reveal, make known; $(^{7}E\underline{t}p^{e\varsigma}el)$ to be uncovered, revealed, made known.
Kįm	$(P^{e\varsigma}al)$ to see; (${}^{?}E\underline{t}p^{e\varsigma}el$) to be seen, be visible, appear, think.
حتس	(P ^e γal) to live, recover.
نسنج	([?] Ap ^c el) to give life, save, keep alive.
حتت	($P^{e\varsigma}$ al) to strike, beat; (${}^{?}E\underline{t}p^{e\varsigma}$ el) to be wounded.
ښنږ	(Pa ^{ss} el) to wound many, wound severely; (⁷ Etpa ^{ss} al) to be struck down, be beaten down.
مخيحه	(P ^{eç} al) to arrive at, reach, come, happen, befall.
÷γ÷	(Pa ^{ss} el) to bring, arrive, reach, meet; ([?] Etpa ^{ss} al) to arrive, reach, be brought.
نِعب	(Pa ^{ss} el) to tempt, test; (³ Etpa ^{ss} al) to be tempted, tested.
مزند	$(P^{e\varsigma}al)$ to answer; $({}^{\gamma}E\underline{t}p^{e\varsigma}el)$ be heard (prayer), be occupied, be busy, be engaged in.
حتع	$(P^{e\varsigma}al)$ to turn, return, repent; $(^{?}E\underline{t}p^{e\varsigma}el)$ to turn, turn towards, return, be converted.
ڣٚٮ؋	(Pa ^{ss} el) to return, restore, answer (with مرية منه or مخترية); ('Etpa ^{ss} al) to be restored, given back.
भवद	(² Ap ^c el) to cause to return, bring back, restore, cause to turn.
مخا <u>ح</u>	$(P^{e_{\gamma}}al)$ to want, desire, be pleased with (with \Rightarrow), have pleasure in (with \Rightarrow); ($^{\gamma}E\underline{t}p^{e_{\gamma}}el$) to be well pleased (with \Rightarrow), choose (with \Rightarrow).
مظآج	(P ^{eq} al) to turn aside, towards.
<u>خ ک</u>	(Pa ^{ss} el) to pray (with ك or كَانَجُ), pray for (with خِــ); (ʾEtpaʿsal) to be offered (prayer)
حجه	(P ^{eq} al) to cry out, shout
べも	$(P^{e\varsigma}al)$ to call, proclaim, read; $({}^{?}E\underline{t}p^{e\varsigma}el)$ to be called, be named, be read
₹	(P ^{eq} al) to throw, expel (with جبة), lay hands on (with جبة)
κί±	$(P^{e\varsigma}al)$ to loosen, untie; $({}^{?}E\underline{t}p^{e\varsigma}el)$ to be loosed, loosened, let loose.
, i. ķ .	(Pa ^{$\varsigma\varsigma$} el) to begin (with imperfect tense, infinitive, or participle as complement); (${}^{\varsigma}E$ tpa ${}^{\varsigma\varsigma}$ al) to be begun.
بنعبز	([?] Ap ^c el) to command to encamp, cause to dwell.

Prepositive Conjunctions		
٥٣	or	
<i>بج</i> ريّر	but, except	

عٰذ	also, even
حلاءِۃ	not even
٥	and, then, now

Proper Nouns		
ختليح	Babylonians	
المنتنك	Arabs	
ىرتىۋەت	Jews, Judeans	
لجع إنه	Egyptians	
بجتويع	Persians	

10.6. Homework

- a) Using practice sheet 10.1, memorize the paradigm for the P^{eq}al perfect of the verb ...
- b) Using practice sheet 10.2, memorize the paradigms for in the derived patterns.
- c) Memorize the vocabulary in 10.4 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/_c45ir4?x=1qqt&i=2z26w0.
- d) Using practice sheet 10.3, translate the sentences from Syriac to English.