

is only within the last few years that the existence of the iterative-durative type of hithpael has been recognized⁶, although at least one-fourth of the hithpaels in the Old Testament belong in this category.

Similarly, it should be noted that most grammars state that the niphal is primarily reflexive and only secondarily passive. It may well have originated as a reflexive but in Biblical Hebrew the niphal has almost entirely replaced most forms of the qal passive. Almost all the forms of the qal passive except the passive participle have been lost or assimilated to other stems, and in actual practice the niphal is quite generally a substitute for the qal passive. Since the passive participle of the qal has been preserved, the niphal participle has often been specialized to a meaning similar to the Latin gerundive⁷.

As regards the so-called niphal tolerativum, only three verbs, dāras^v, masa' and yasar, are listed in GK as examples, and two of them are found in Is. 65:1. Although dāras^v occurs very frequently in the qal, the Old Testament contains only nine instances of the niphal. Six of these are in the four verses from Ezekiel that have been examined above. We noticed that in a number of them the modern versions translate it simply as a passive, and that all six instances refer to the performance of an actual deed on the Lord's part, or to His refusal to allow it to be performed. In none of them does it refer merely to a state of mind.

The other three occurrences of the niphal of dāras^v are Is. 65:1, which is the subject of our present discussion, Gen. 42:22, and I Chron. 26:31. In the latter two instances there can be no doubt that a simple passive is meant. It is true, of course, that in Gen. 42:22 the result occurs because God is expected to demand it, and in I Chron. 26:31 because David ordered it, but in both instances what is involved is an action rather than a state of mind. Thus, aside from the instance that is the subject of our present discussion, for the existence of a niphal tolerativum no really valid evidence can be derived from the use of dāras^v.