

BBH Workbook p. 161 # 10
(Ps 121:7)

יְהוָה יִשְׁמְרֶךָ מִכָּל-רָע יִשְׁמַר אֶת-נַפְשְׁךָ

יְהוָה יִשְׁמְרֶךָ

יְהוָה יִשְׁמְרֶךָ “The LORD will keep you...” is the Tetragram and the Qal Imperfect 3ms of שָׁמַר with the (Type 1) 2ms pronominal suffix (BBH §19.2, p. 223). Note that the subject and not the verb comes first. It is a common feature of Hebrew poetry to use alternate word order or syntax. (See especially BBH Chapter 23 on syntax.)

MORPHOLOGY The Qal Imperfect 3ms verb יִשְׁמַר ends with a consonant so no connecting vowel is necessary, thus the addition of the 2ms pronominal suffix ךָּ to the form renders יִשְׁמְרֶךָ. The reduction of the stem vowel from Holem to Shewa does not take place with the addition of the 2ms suffix. Note that the vowel under the Mem is Qamets Hatuf (BBH §19.7.2, p. 229).

מִכָּל-רָע

מִכָּל-רָע “from all evil...” This is the inseparable preposition מִן and the noun כָּל (Nun is assimilated into the Daghes Forte) connected by Maqqef to the noun רָע (in pausal or verse-ending form, it is spelled רָע, BBH §36.3, p. 406).

יִשְׁמַר אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ

יִשְׁמַר אֶת־נַפְשְׁךָ. “He will watch over your soul...” is the Qal Imperfect 3ms of שָׁמַר and the Definite Direct Object marker connected by Maqqef to the noun נֶפֶשׁ with a 2ms pronominal suffix (*BBH* § 9.4, p. 83 – endingless feminine nouns).

FINAL TRANSLATION

“The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will watch over your life.”