

## THE NEGATIVE MEMM – ך PREFIX PHENOMONON – # 51A

THE LETTER ך MEMM IS GRAMMATICALLY, A SHORT FORM OF ך [FROM, OF] – THE FOLLOWING CHART DEMONSTRATES A GROUP OF BIBLICAL VERBS AND NOUNS WHEREIN A WORD OR BASE IS PRECEDED BY A ך MEMM WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO NEGATE THE MEANING OF THE BASE – IN THE SENSE THAT THE ך MEMM PREFIXED WORD NOW MEANS – RESTRAINED **FROM** – OR DESISTING **FROM**<sup>1</sup> – DEVOID **OF** - THE INITIAL MEANING OF THE WORD'S BASE - TO WIT –

BASE	MEANING		NEGATIVE ך TERM	MEANING	EXPLANATION
זח	Move, rise		מזח	girdle	Prevents jiggling or dislocation
גג	Protect, defend		מגן	Remove protection	
עול	Yoke, obligation		מעל	Sin, dereliction of responsibility	
שכ	Descend to rest		משך	To pull	Keep from resting in place
צוד	To hunt		מצודה	Citadel, fortress	Prevents capture by enemy predators
דבר	A thing		מדבר	desert	Desert is virtually devoid of any useful thing
עדד	Endure, continue onward		מעד	To totter, slip	Prevented from continuing onward

<sup>1</sup> To keep from

נסח to remain at one's post – i.e. keep from moving away - נסח is to remove, tear away

Perhaps also -

מנע refuse ? keep from moving i.e. keep from moving forward in agreement with the proposal of another – or refusal to allow his proposal to proceed ?<sup>2</sup>

מגר ? drag down, cast down - i.e. to keep another from גר dwelling in place ?

Some opinions place מסר & משל in this category but I do not agree

In a different מ prefix type - It seems to me that the word מלא [full] intends - מן לא [from not] i.e. from there not being anymore room in the container. And the word מעט [little, few] may intend - מן עט [from eat] in the sense of - from having been eaten away as עט is as I see it - the base of לעט to eat, guzzle]. Cf. קצר [short] from קצר [cut down]

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<sup>2</sup> I believe that such is the opinion of Rabbi Shlomo Pappenheim