

The niph'al of māsa' occurs many times as often as those of dāras^v and yasar put together. In the KJV it is 115 times translated by the words "be found." Most of these are simple statements of something being at a certain place or in a certain condition as, for instance, I Samuel 13:19, "there was no smith found throughout all the land," or Daniel 11:19, "he shall stumble and fall, and not be found." In some cases it involves a command as in Exod. 12:19; "Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses," and in Deut. 18:10, "There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire." Neither of these could properly be considered as the description of an emotion.

In half a dozen verses the verb is used to describe God's favor. Thus Jer. 29:13-14 reads, "And ye shall seek me and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the Lord; and I will turn away your captivity..." Similar statements are found in the words of David to his son in I Chron. 28:9 and in those of Azariah to Asa in II Chron. 15:2. II Chron. 15:4 and 15 describe the fulfillment of this promise saying that God "was found of them." A similar expression occurs in Is. 55:6, "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." All of these verses show a permissive attitude on the part of God. Whether it is an emotional state such as would justify establishing niph'al tolerativum as a special form of the verb may be questioned. The same can be said of Is. 65:1, if translated in line with these other passages, "I am found of them that sought me not."

Thus it can be said that out of well over 130 occurrences of the niph'al of māsa' very few involve any idea of permission, and that the permissive idea in most of these is derived from the fact that the Lord is the subject, rather than from the use of a special form of the verb. In fact, in these verses the words, "I will be found of you" are identical in meaning with the parallel phrase, "ye...shall find me," and it would be as reasonable to speak of a gal tolerativum as of a niph'al tolerativum.