

ופגש חורש בקצר

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We read in the Book of Psalms:

הזרעים בדמעה-ברנה יקצרו.
הלוח ילך ובכה-נשא משך-הזרע: בא-יבא ברנה-נשא אלמתיו.

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

He that bears the measure of seed, is going and weeping. He that is bearing his sheaves shall come with joy” (Ps 126: 5-6).

It is not clear how the English translator determined that here the word **משך** means: “measure.” The Greek translator believed that this word was superfluous and he deleted it from his translation.

We read in the Book of Amos: **הנה ימים באים, נאם-יהוה, ונגש חורש בקצר** - “Behold, days come, said *YHWH*, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper” (Am 9:13).

Yet in the Book of Leviticus we find:

ונתתי גשמיכם בעתם; ונתנה הארץ יבולה ועץ השדה יתן פרו.
והשיג לכם דיש את-בציר,

“And I will give your rains in their season, and the land shall yield her produce, and the tree of the field shall yield tithes fruit.

And for you threshing shall reach (the) vintage” (Lev 26:4-5).

However, the comparison between these verses suggest that the words:

והשיג לכם דיש את-בציר are a letter-deletion and a letter-substitution error of:

והשיג לכם חריש את-קציר - “And for you plowing shall reach (the) reaping.”

With this understanding we can assume that the second part of verse Lev 26:5:

ובציר ישיג את-זרע is also a letter substitution of: **וקציר ישיג את-זרע** - “and reaping shall reach (the) sowing,”

This understanding suggests that the next part of verse Am 9:13: **ודרך ענבים במשך הזרע** - “and he that stamps the grapes, (shall reach) him that sows seed” is also a letter-substitution error of: **ודרך ענבים ישג הזרע** - “and the stamps the grapes will reach the sower.”

In the Book of Psalms we read: **חסד-ואמת נפגשו; צדק ושלום נשקו** - “Mercy and truth met together; righteousness and peace kissed each other” (Ps 85:11; see also: Pro 22:2; 29:13).

Yet in the Book of Amos we find:

הנה ימים באים, נאם-יהוה, ונגש חורש בקצר, ודרך ענבים במשך הזרע;
“Behold, the days are coming, said *YHWH*, and the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that sowed seed” (Am 9:13).

It is not clear how the Greek (and the English) translators determined that here **ונגש** means: “and shall overtake.” However, the logic of this verse and the comparison between these verses suggest that here **ונגש** is a letter-deletion error of: **ונפגש**, or a letter-substitution error of: **ופגש**.