

## ועיני לאה רכות

### אבנר רמו

In the Book of Zechariah we read: **ועין ימינו כהה תכהה** “and his right eye shall surly darken” (Zec 11:17; see also: Deu 34:7; 1 Sam 3:2).

Yet in the Book of Genesis we find: **ויהי כי-זקן יצחק, ותכהין עיניו מראת** - “And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see” (Gen 27:1).

Yet the comparison between these verses and the Hebrew grammar suggest that here **ותכהין** is a letter-deletion error of **ותכהינה** - “and they darkened.”

In the Book of Job we find: **ותכה מכעש עיני** - “And my eye dimmed by reason of vexation” (Job 17:7).

Yet the comparison between these verses suggest that here **ותכה** is also a letter-deletion error of **ותכהה** - “and it darkened.”

In the Book of Job we also find: **ועיני רשעים תכלינה: ומנוס אבד מנהם** - “And the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall have no way to flee” (Job 11:20; see also: Job 17:5).

However, the comparison with the previous verses suggests that here **תכלינה** is a letter-substitution error of **תכהינה** - “will be darkened.”

In the Book of Genesis we read: **ועיני ישראל כבדו מזקן, לא יוכל לראות** - “And the eyes of Israel were dim from aging, so that he could not see” (Gen 48:10).

Yet the comparison between these verses and the understanding of the English (but not the Greek) translator suggest that here **כבדו** is a letter-substitution error of **כהו** - “were darkened.”

In the Book of Kings we find: **ואחיהו לא-יכל לראות, כי קמו עיניו משיבו** - “And Ahijah could not see; for his eyes were set by reason of his age” (1 Ki 14:4).

It is not clear how the English translator determined that here **קמו** (*qamu*) means “were set”, and unfortunately, this verse is lacking in the Greek version of the Book of Kings. However, it is suggested that **קמו** (*qamu*) is a velar letter and another letter-substitution of **כהו** (*kahu*) - “were darkened.”

A similar content we find in the Book of Samuel:

**ועלי בן-תשעים ושמנה שנה; ועיניו קמה, ולא יוכל לראות.**  
“And Eli was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were set, and he could not see” (1 Sam 4:15).

However, in the previous chapter we already read that Eli's eyes "were darkened." It is therefore suggested that here קמה (*qamah*) is also a letter-substitution error of כהו (*kahu*) - "were darkened."

In the Book of Genesis we read:

**וְתָהָר לֵאָה וְתֵלֵד בֵּן, וְתִקְרָא שְׁמוֹ רְאוּבֵן: כִּי-רָאָה יְהוָה בְּעֵינַי**  
"And Leah conceived, and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said:  
Because *YHWH* had seen my affliction" (Gen 29:32).

However, as the name ראובן - "Reuben" means: "see a son", it is possible that the last word of this verse בעיני is a letter-substitution error of בעיני - "my eyes." If this understanding is correct then the reading of: ועיני לאה רכות; ורחל היתה יפת-תאר, ויפת מראה - "**And Leah's eyes were weak; but Rachel was of beautiful form and fair to look upon**" (Gen 29:17) would suggest that the word רכות (*rakoth*) is a letter-substitution and order-type error of כהות (*kehoth*) - "were darkened."

