

## ”מרחקי ארץ” ו-”ארץ רחבת מימדים”

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In a vision about Babylon in Book of Isaiah we read:

קול המון בהרים דמות עם-רב; קול שאון ממלכות גוים נאספים-יהוה צבאות מפקד צבא מלחמה.

באים מארץ מרחק מקצה השמים; יהוה וכלי זעמו לחבל כל-הארץ.

“A voice of multitude in the mountains, like as of many people! the uproar of the kingdoms of the nations gathered together! *YHWH* of hosts commander of a host of the battle.

They come from a far land, from the end of sky, *YHWH* and the weapons of His wrath, to destroy the whole earth” (Is 13:4-5; see also: Deu 28:29).

Yet in the Book of Habakkuk we find:

כי-הנני מקים את-הכשדים, הגוי המר והנמהר; ההולך למרחבי-ארץ לרשת משכנות לא-לו.

“For I am arising up the Chaldeans, the bitter and impetuous nation, that march to the breadth of the earth, to possess dwelling-places that are not its” (Hab 1:6).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that here למרחבי-ארץ is a letter-substitution error of: למרחקי-ארץ - “to far lands.”

Similarly, we read in the Book of Job: הגד אם-ידעת כלה; התבוננת עד-רחבי-ארץ; “You surveyed to the breadths of the earth; Declare, if you know it all” (Job 38:18).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that here again: רחבי-ארץ is a letter-deletion and a letter-substitution error of: מרחקי-ארץ - “far (parts) of the earth” (e.g. Is 8:9; 33:17; Jer 8:19; Pro 25:25).

We also read in the Book of Job:

ארכה מארץ מדה; ורחבה מני-ים

“It is longer than a large land, and broader than the sea” (Job 11:9).

איפה היית ביסדי-ארץ; הגד אם-ידעת בינה.  
מי-שם ממדיה, כי תדע;

“Where have you been when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if you know surveying.

Who established its measures, if you may know?” (Job 38:4-5).

Yet in the Book of Isaiah we find: מקום-נהרים יארים רחבי ידים - “a place of broad rivers [and] streams” (Is 33:21).

The Greek translator wrote here: “broad and spacious”, but the comparison between these verses suggests that רחבי מימדים is a letter-deletion error of: (of) broad measures.”

Similarly, we read in the Book of Nehemiah: **והעיר רחבת ידים וגדלה, והעם מעט בתוכה** - “**And the city [was] wide and large; but in it the people were few**” (Neh 7:4).

Yet the comparison between these verses suggest that here again **רחבת ידים** is a letter-deletion error of: **רחבת מימדים** - “(of) **broad measures.**”

Similarly, we read in the Book of Genesis: **והארץ הנה רחבת-ידים** - “**and the land is large [enough]**” (Gen 34:21; see also: Jud 18:10; Is 22:18; 1 Ch 4:40).

Yet the comparison between these verses suggest that here again **רחבת ידים** is a letter-deletion error of: **רחבת מימדים** - “(of) **broad measures.**”