

שדות, כרמים וגנות

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In the book of Zephaniah we read: **ובנו בתים ולא ישבו [], ונטעו כרמים ולא ישתו את-ינם** - “**And they shall build houses, and they shall not inhabit [them], and they shall plant vineyards, and they shall not drink their wine**” (Zep 1:13).

Yet the Hebrew syntax, and the understanding of the Greek (and the English) translators suggest that here the word: **בהם** - “**in them**” is erroneously missing.”

In the Book of Amos we read:

ושבתי את-שבות עמי ישראל ובנו ערים נשמות וישבו [], ונטעו כרמים ושתו את ינם ; ועשו גנות ואכלו את-פריהם.

“**And I will return the captivity of My people Israel, and they shall build the wasted cities, and inhabit [them]; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink their wine; and they shall make gardens, and eat their fruit**” (Am 9:14).

However, the Hebrew syntax, and the understanding of the Greek (and the English) translators, and the reading of: **והשבתי את-שבות יהודה** - “**And I will return the captivity of Judah**” (Jer 33:7), suggest that here he word: **ושבתי** is a vowel letter deletion error of: **והשבתי** - “**And I will return.**” In addition, the comparison to verses 2 Ki 19:29; Is 37:30; and Is 65:21 suggests that here the word: **פריהם** is a letter insertion error of: **פריים** - “**their fruit.**” These errors suggest that in this verse an **ה** letter was misplaced. The understanding of the Greek (and the English) translators also suggests that in this verse the word: **בהן** - “**In them**” is missing (e.g. Gen 19:29; 1 Sam 31:7; Jer 4:29; 48:9; 51:43).

In the Book of Isaiah we find: **ואכלו פרים** [], **ונטעו כרמים** [] ; **ובנו בתים וישבו** [] - “And they shall build houses, and inhabit [them]; and they shall plant vineyards [], and eat their fruit” (Is 65:21).

Yet the comparison between these verses suggests that in this verse many words are missing and that we should read it as:

ובנו בתים וישבו בהם ; **ונטעו כרמים ושתו את יינם** ; **ועשו גנות ואכלו את פרים**.
“And they shall build houses, and inhabit them, and they shall plant vineyards, and drink their wine; and they shall make gardens, and eat their fruit.”

In the Book of Psalms we find: **ויזרעו שדות** [] **ויטעו כרמים** [] **ויעשו** [] **פרי תבואה** [] - “And they will sow fields [], and they will plant vineyards [], and they will make [] fruit of increase” (Ps 107:37).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that these words are a letter and a word deletion, and word disorder of:

ויזרעו שדות ויקצרו תבואתם, **ויטעו כרמים וישתו את יינם** ; **ויעשו גנות ואכלו את פרים**.
“And they will sow fields and they will reap their produce, and they will plant vineyards and they will drink their wine, and they shall make gardens, and eat their fruit.”

In the Book of Kings we read: **זרעו** [] **וקצרו** [] **ונטעו כרמים** [] **ואכלו** [] **פרים** [] - “you will sow [] and you will reap [], and you will plant vineyards [], and eat their fruit” (2 Ki 19:29; see also: Is 37:30).

Yet the comparison between these verses also suggests that these words are a letter and a word deletion error of:

זרעו שדות וקצרו תבואתם **ונטעו כרמים ושתו את יינם**, **ועשו גנות ואכלו את פרים**
fields and reap their produce, and plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit.”