

צפנה ונגבה, וקדמה וימה (תוספת)

אבנר רמו

We read in the Book of Isaiah: **ואסף נדחי ישראל; ונפצות יהודה יקבץ, מארבע כנפות הארץ** - **“and He will collect the dispersed of Israel, and gather [together] the scattered of Judah from the four corners of the earth”** (Is 11:12).

Yet in the Book of Psalms we find: **ומארצות קבצם: ממזרח וממערב; מצפון ומים** - **“And He gathered them out of [the] lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the sea”** (Ps 107:3).

However, the logic of this verse suggests that the writer was referring here to the four major geographical direction, but he (or a late scribe) erred here and instead of a word meaning “south” he wrote a word meaning “west” although **מערב** - “west” was already mentioned.

However, the understanding of the English (but not the Greek) translators indicate that they believed that **פאת-ימה** is a letter-insertion error of: **פאת-ים** - “west side.”

In the Book of Psalms we read: **כרחק מזרח ממערב-הרחיק ממנו את-פשעינו** - **“As far as the east is from the west, so far had He distanced our transgressions from us”** (Ps 103:12; see also: Is 43:5; 1 Ch 12:16).

The understanding here of the Greek (and the English) translators indicates that they believed that **מערב** (*maa'rav*) is another Hebrew word for the term “West.” We could therefore expect that that by adding the letter **ה** (h) at its end we will get the derived term: **מערבה** (*maa'ravah*) - “**westward**”, and indeed such a word can be found in the Bible (e.g, Is 45:6; 1 Ch 26:30; 2 Ch 32:30; 33:14).

We read in the Book of Samuel:

ויבא יואב אל-המלך ויאמר מה עשיתה: הנה-בא אבנר אליך, למה-זה שלחתו וילך הלוך. ידעת את-אבנר בן-נר כי לפתתך בא; ולדעת את-מוצאך, ואת-מבואך (מובאך), ולדעת את כל-אשר אתה עשה.

“And Joab came to the king, and said: What have you done? behold, Abner came to you; why is it that you sent him away, and he surely gone?

You know (that) Abner the son of Ner, came to deceive you, and to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing” (2 Sam 3:24-25; see also: Jos 14:11; 1 Ki 3:7; 2 Ki 11:8; 19:27; Is 37:28; Eze 46:10; 2 Ch 23:7).

These verses indicate that the word **מוצא** - “coming out” is the opposite of **מבוא** - “Coming in.”

We read in the Book of Psalms: **ממזרח-שמש עד-מבואו** - **“From the rising of the sun to its going down”** (Ps 113:3; see also: Gen 15:12 17; 28:11; Ex 17:12; 22:25; Lev 22:7; Deu 11:30;

16:6; 23:12; 24:13, 15; Jos 1:4; 8:29; 10:27; 23:4; Jud 19:14; 2 Sam 2:24; 3:35; 1 Ki 22:36; Am 8:9; Mic 3:6; Zec 8:7; Mal 1:11; Ps 50:1; 104:19; Ecc 1:5; 2 Ch 18:34).

The Greek translator wrote here: “From the sun’s rising to its setting”, but the literal meaning of these Hebrew words is: “**from the sun rising to its coming in**”, and therefore we can conclude that the words: **מבוא השמש** - “(the) sun’s coming in” means: “West.” Logically we would expect that the words: **מוצא השמש** - “(the) sun’s coming out” would mean: “East.” However, such an expression does not appear in the Bible. But in the Book of Isaiah we read: **ורח לא-יגיה אורו חשך השמש בצאתו, וירח לא-יגיה אורו** - “**the sun shall be darkened in its coming out, and the moon shall not shine its light**” (Is 13:10).

In the Book of Isaiah we read:

למען ידעו ממזרח-שמש וממערבה, כי-אפס בלעדי: אני יהוה ואין עוד.
“That they may know from the rising of [the] sun, **and from its west**, that there is none beside Me; I am *YHWH*; and there is none else” (Is 45:6).

Yet in the Book of Psalms we find: **כי לא ממוצא וממערב; ולא ממדבר הרים** - “For not **from the east, and from the west**, and not from the mountains’ wilderness” (Ps 75:7).

However, the comparison between these verses and the understanding of the English (but not the Greek) translators suggest that **כי לא ממוצא וממערב** is a letter and a word deletion error of: **כי לא ממוצא שמש וממערבו** - “For not from the sun’s coming out, and from **its** west.