

## [מ]כספם וזהבם עשו להם עצבים (הושע ח: ד)

אבנר רמו



We read in the Book of Psalms:

עצביהם כסף וזהב; מעשה ידי אדם.  
פה-להם ולא ידברו; עינים להם ולא יראו.  
אזנים להם ולא ישמעו; אף להם ולא יריחון.  
ידיהם, ולא ימישון-רגליהם, ולא יהלכו; לא-יהגו בגרונם.

“Their idols [are] silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

They have a mouth, but they do not speak; they have eyes, but they do not see;

They have ears, but they do not hear; they have a nose, but they do not smell;

[They have] hands, but they do not feel; [they have] feet, but they do not walk; they do not utter with their throat” (Ps 115:4-7).

The understanding of the Greek (and the English) translators indicates that they believed that here the word: ידיהם is a letter and word deletion error of: ידיים להם - "they have hands", and the word: רגליהם is a letter and word deletion error of: רגלים להם - "they have feet." In addition, the logic of these verses suggests that here the words: לא-יהגו בגרונם are a letter and word deletion and word disorder of: גרון להם ולא-יהגו בו - “they have a throat and they do not utter with it.”

Twenty chapters later we find:

עצבי הגוים, כסף וזהב; מעשה ידי אדם.  
פה-להם ולא ידברו; עינים להם ולא יראו.  
אזנים להם ולא יאזינו; אף אין-יש-רוח בפיהם.

“The idols of the nations [are] silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

They have a mouth, but they do not speak; they have eyes, but they do not see;

They have ears, but they do not listen not; neither is there any breath in their mouths” (Ps 135:15-17).

The comparison between these groups of verses indicates that the writer of one of these groups of verses omitted some words and replaced other ones (e.g., יאזינו - “they listen” ver. ישמעו - “they hear”). In addition, the logic of these verses suggests that in verse Ps 135:17 the words: אף אין-יש-רוח בפיהם are a letter insertion, a letter and a word deletion, and word disorder of: אף יש להם ואין רוח באפם - “they have a nose and there is no spirit in their nose.”