

“ליסר” זה “להעניש”

אבנר רמו

In the Book of Leviticus we read:

ואם-עד-אלה-לא תשמעו לי: ויספתי ליסרה אתכם שבע על-חטאתיכם.
“And if you yet will not hearken to Me for these [things], then I will continue to chastise you seven [fold more] for your sins” (Lev 26:18).

However, the logic of this verse suggests that here **ויספתי ליסרה** means: “and I will continue to punish.”

Similarly, we read in the Book of Jeremiah:

כי מכת אויב הכיתיך, מוסר אכזרי-על רב עונך, עצמו חטאתיך.
מה-תזעק על-שברך, אנוש מכאבך: על רב עונך, עצמו חטאתיך-עשיתי אלה לך.
“For I have struck you with a strike of an enemy, [with the] a cruel chastisement; for your many iniquities, [because] your sins were increased.
Why do you cry for your hurt, [that] your pain is incurable? For the multitude of your iniquities, [because] your sins were increased, I have done these things to you” (Jer 30:14-15).

Here again the logic of this verse suggests that **מוסר אכזרי** means: “a cruel punishment.”

In the Book of Proverbs we read: **גם ענוש לצדיק לא טוב-[] להכות נדיבים על-ישר** - “Also to punish a righteous is not good, [nor] to strike the nobles for their uprightness” (Pro 17:26).

Now we find in the Book of Isaiah: **על מה תכו עוד, תוסיפו סרה** - “On what [part] will you yet be stricken, [seeing] you continue to stray away” (Is 1:5).

The Greek translator wrote here: “Why should you be beaten anymore, as you continue in lawlessness”, which suggests that he believed that **על_מה תכו עוד** is a letter-insertion and mis-division to words of: **למה תכו עוד** - “Why should you be beaten anymore.”

The comparison between these verses also suggests that **תוסיפו סרה** is a letter-deletion of: **תוסיפו_יסרה** - “continue to be punished.”