

## בלואי סחבות

אבנר רמו



In the Book of Deuteronomy we read: **שמלתך לא בלתה מעליך** - “Your raiment waxed not old upon you” (Deu 8:4; see also: Deu 29:4; Neh 9:21).

The Greek translator wrote here: “your clothes were not worn off you.”

In the Book of Samuel we read:

**ויקם המלך ויקרע את-בגדיו וישכב ארצה ; וכל-עבדיו נצבים קרעי בגדים.**  
“And the king arose, and tore his garments, and lay on the earth; and all his servants stood by with torn clothes” (2 Sam 13:31; see also: 2 Ki 18:37; Is 36:22; Jer 41:5).

Now we find in the Book of Jeremiah:

**ויקח עבד-מלך את-האנשים בידו, ויבא בית-המלך אל-תחת האוצר, ויקח משם בלוי הסחבות (סחבות) ובלוי מלחים ; וישלחם אל-ירמיהו אל-הבור בחבלים.**  
**ויאמר עבד-מלך הכושי אל-ירמיהו, שים נא בלואי הסחבות והמלחים תחת אצלות ידיך מתחת לחבלים ; ויעש ירמיהו כן.**

“And Ebed-melech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and took thence worn clouts and worn rags, and let them down by cords into the pit to Jeremiah.

And Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah: Put now these worn clouts and rags under your armpits under the cords. And Jeremiah did so” (Jer 38:11-12).

It is not clear how the English translator determined that the words: **סחבות** and **מלחים** which appear in these verses not anywhere else in the Bible mean: “clouts” and “rags” respectively. The Greeks translated them as “rugs” and “ropes” respectively, but we do not know whether this is just a speculation. However, the comparison between these verses suggests that **בלואי הסחבות** are a letter-substitution of: **בלואי השמלות** - “the worn off raiment”, and **בלוי מלחים** are substitution error of: **קרעי בגדים** - “torn clothes.”