

תורת זבח(י) השלמים

אבנר רמו



In the Book of Samuel we read: **“and behold, I am coming down to you, to offer burnt-offerings, [and] to sacrifice sacrifices of peace-offerings”** (1 Sam 10:8; see also: Lev 17:5; Jos 22:23; Pro 7:14; 2 Ch 30:22; 33:16).

Yet in the Book of Exodus we find:

וּשְׁלַח אֶת-נְעָרֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹלֹת וַיִּזְבְּחוּ זִבְחִים שְׁלָמִים לַיהוָה
“**And he sent the young men of the children of Israel, and they offered burnt-offerings, and they sacrificed (sacrifices of) peace-offerings to YHWH**” (Ex 24:5; see also: 1 Samuel 11:15).

It is not clear why the English (but not the Greek) translators omitted here the word **זבחים** - "sacrifices." However, the comparison between these verses suggest that this word is a letter insertion error of: **זבחי** - "sacrifices of."

Similarly, we read in the Book of Exodus:

וַיִּשְׁכְּמוּ מִמַּחֲרָת, וַיַּעֲלוּ עֹלֹת וַיִּגְשׂוּ [] שְׁלָמִים; וַיֹּשְׁבּוּ הָעָם לֶאֱכֹל וּשְׁתוּ,
“**And they rose up early on the next morning, and offered burnt-offerings, and they brought [] peace-offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink**” (Ex 32:6; see also; Deu 27:7; Jos 8:31; Jud 20:261; Ki 3:15).

The Greek translator believed that the word: זבחי - "sacrifices of" is missing here, and the comparison between these verses supports his assumption. In addition, the Hebrew syntax suggests that the words: לאכל ולשתות are a letter deletion error of: לאכל ולשתות - "to eat and drink" (e.g. 2 Sam 11:11; 1 Ki 18:42; Jer 16:8; Job 1:4; Ruth 3:3; Ecc 5:17; 8:15; Neh 8:121). The Hebrew syntax also suggests that here the word ממחרת is a letter substitution error of: למחרת - "the next day" (e.g. Jon 4:7; 1 Ch 29:21).

Similarly, in the Book of Judges we find:

ויהי ממחרת וישכימו העם ויבנו-שם מזבח; ויעלו עלות ו] שלמים.

"And it came to pass on the next morning that the people rose early, and built there an altar, and offered burnt-offerings and [] peace-offerings" (Jud 21:4); see also: Ch 16:1).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that here the words:

ויזבחו זבחי שלמים - "and they sacrificed sacrifices of peace-offerings" are missing.

Similarly, we find in the Book of Samuel: ויבן שם דוד מזבח ליהוה, ויעל עלות ו] שלמים -

"And David built there an altar to *YHWH*, and offered burnt-offerings and [] peace-offerings" (2 Sam 24:25; see also: 1 Ki 9:25 1 Ch 21:26).

Yet the comparison between these verses suggests that here the words: ויזבח זבחי שלמים -

"(and) he sacrificed sacrifices of peace-offerings."

Similarly, we also find in the Book of Samuel:

ויבאו את-ארון יהוה ויצגו אתו במקומו, בתוך האהל אשר נטה-לו דוד; ויעל דוד עלות [] לפני יהוה ושלמים.

"And they brought in the ark of *YHWH*, and they set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt-offerings [] and peace-offerings before *YHWH*" (2 Sam 6:17).

Here, the Greek (and the English) translators believed that the word order of the words:

ויעל דוד עלות [] לפני יהוה ושלמים is faulty, but they did not realize that (as indicated by the comparison between these verses) several words are also missing. It is therefore suggested that

we should read these words as: ויעל דוד עלות ויזבח זבחי שלמים לפני יהוה - "and David offered burnt-offerings and he sacrificed sacrifices of peace-offerings before *YHWH*."

Similarly, we find in the Book of Leviticus:

ואת חזה התנופה ואת שוק התרומה תאכלו במקום טהור-אתה ובניך ובנתיך [] אתך: כי-חקך וחק-בניך נתנו מזבחי שלמי בני ישראל.

"And the breast of waving and the thigh of heaving, you shall eat in a clean place; You and your sons and your daughters [] with you; for your due and your children's due are given, out of the sacrifices of the peace-offerings of the children of Israel" (Lev 10:14).

However, the logic of this verse, and the Hebrew syntax suggest that words:

אתה ובניך ובנתיך אשר הם אתך - "You and your sons and your daughters that are with you." It is also suggested that the words:

נתנו מזבחי שלמי בני ישראל are a letter and a word deletion error of:
ינתנו מזבחי השלמים של בני ישראל - “will be given from the sacrifices of the peace-offerings of the children of Israel.”

Similarly, we read in the Book of Numbers: **על עלתיכם ועל זבחי שלמיכם** - “**over your burnt-offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace-offerings**” (Num 10:10; see also: Lev 7:32).

Yet nineteen chapters later we find: **לעלתיכם ולמנחתיכם ולנסכיכם ול] שלמיכם** - “**to your burnt-offerings, and to your meal-offerings, and to your drink-offerings, and to [] your peace-offerings**” (Num 29:39; see also: Eze 43:27).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that here the word: **זבחי** - “**the sacrifices of**” is missing.

Similarly, in the Book of Leviticus we find: **וזאת תורת זבח השלמים אשר יקריב ליהוה** - “**And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace-offerings, which [one] will sacrifice to YHWH**” (Lev 7:11; see also: Lev 3:3, 9; 4:10, 26, 31, 35; 7:20, 21, 37; 9:18; Num 7:17, 23, 29, 35, 41, 47, 53, 59, 65, 71, 77, 83, 88; 1 Ki 8:63).

The Greek translator wrote instead of: “one” the word: “they”, which suggests that he believed that here the word: **יקריב** is a letter deletion error of: **יקריבו** - “**they will sacrifice**”, and the logic of this verse, and the comparison between these verses also suggest that here the words: **זבח השלמים** are a letter substitution error of: **זבחי השלמים** - “**the sacrifices of the peace-offerings.**”

We may also conclude from these verses that there were several types of sacrifices of the peace-offerings.

In the Book of Leviticus we read: **ואיש כי-יקריב זבח-שלמים ליהוה, לפלא-נדר או לנדבה** - “**And if a man sacrifices a sacrifice of peace-offerings to YHWH for fulfilment of a vow [clearly uttered] or for a donation**” (Lev 22:21).

Yet in the Book of Numbers we find:

וכי-תעשה בן-בקר, עלה או-זבח, לפלא-נדר או-שלמים ליהוה.
“**And when you will prepare a bullock [for] a burnt-offering, or [for] a sacrifice, for fulfilment of a vow [clearly uttered], or [for] peace-offerings to YHWH**” (Num 15:8; see also: Eze 46:12).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that the words:
עלה או-זבח, לפלא-נדר או-שלמים ליהוה are word insertion error and a word disorder of:
עלה או-זבח שלמים ליהוה, לפלא-נדר - “**a burnt-offering, or a sacrifice of peace-offerings to YHWH, for fulfilment of a vow.**” In addition, the understanding of the word: **לפלא** as: “**for fulfilment**” by the English (but not the Greek) translator, suggests that he believed that this word is a letter substitution error of: **למלא**.

Similarly, in the Book of Samuel we find:

ויעל האיש אלקנה וכל-ביתו לזבח ליהוה את-זבח הימים ו[] את-נדרו.
“And the man Elkanah, and all his house went up to offer to *YHWH* the yearly sacrifice,
and [] his vow” (1 Sam 1:21).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that the words: **ואת-נדרו** are a letter and word deletion error of: **ולמלא את-נדריו** - “and to fulfil his vows.” In addition, the Hebrew grammar suggests that the first word of this verse: **ויעל** is a vowel letter deletion error of: **ויעלו** - “and they went up.”

Similarly, we find in the Book of Leviticus:

וישא אהרן את-ידו אל-העם ויברכם ; וירד מעשת החטאת והעלה-ו[] השלמים.
“And Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people, and he blessed them; and he came down from offering the sin-offering, and the burnt-offering, and [] the peace-offerings” (Lev 9:22; see also: Lev 7:33; 1 Sam 13:9; 2 Sam 6:18; 1 Ki 8:64; 2 Ki 16:13; Eze 45:17; 1 Ch 16:2; 2 Ch 7:7; 29:35).

However, the comparison between these verses, and the understanding of the Greek (and the English) translators suggest that the word **ידו** is a letter deletion error of **ידיו** - “his hands”, and that the words: **החטאת והעלה-והשלמים** are a word deletion error of: **החטאת והעלה-וזבח השלמים** - “the sin-offering, and the burnt-offering, and the sacrifice of the peace-offerings.”

Similarly, we read in the Book of Leviticus: **זבח תודת שלמיו** - “the sacrifice of his peace-offerings for thanksgiving” (Lev 7:13; see also: Lev 7:15).

Yet five verses later we find: **זבח שלמיו** - “the sacrifice of his peace-offerings” (Lev 7:18; see also: Lev 7:29).

However, the logic of this verse, and the comparison between these verses suggest that these words are a word deletion error of: **זבח תודת שלמיו** - “the sacrifice of his peace-offerings for thanksgiving.”

Similarly, we find in the Book of Ezekiel: **ועשו הכהנים את-עולתו ואת-[] שלמיו** - “and the priests shall prepare his burnt-offering and [] his peace-offerings” (Eze 46:2; see also: Eze 46:12).

Yet the comparison between these verses suggests that the words: **זבח תודת** - “the sacrifice of (his peace-offerings) for thanksgiving” are missing here.