

## היקר בעיני השם

אבנר רמו

We read in the Book of Psalms: **יקר בעיני יהוה-המותה לחסידיו** - “Precious in the sight of *YHWH* is the death of His followers” (Ps 116:15).

The understanding of this verse by the Greeks (and the English) translators turned it to one of the oddest verses of the Hebrew Bible. Yet their translations indicate that they believed that it was a vowel letter insertion, a letter deletion error, and mis-division to words of:

**יקר בעיני יהוה-המות של חסידיו**.

However, if the translators’ assumption that syntax errors occurred in this verse, then a more accommodating correction of this verse suggests that it resulted from several letter-deletions, order-type error, and mis-division to words of:

**היקר בעיני יהוה-הוא תאוה לחסידיו** - “That which is precious to *YHWH* is a desire to his followers” (e.g. Pro 19:22).