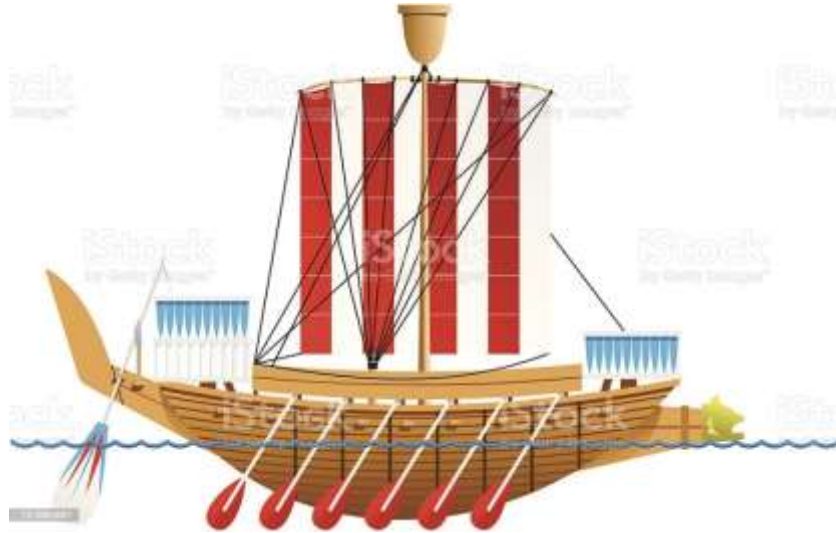


תקות חוט השני

אבנר רמו



In the Book of Ezekiel we read: **שש-ברקמה ממצרים היה מפרשך, להיות לך לנס** - “[Of] **fine linen with embroidery from Egypt was your sail, to be to you for an ensign**” (Eze 27:7).

However, the logic of this verse suggests that here the word **שש** is a letter deletion error of: **ששר** - “a vermilion” (e.g. Jer 22:14; Eze 23:14), and the words: **שש-ברקמה ממצרים היה מפרשך** are a word deletion, an order type error, and a word disorder of: **חוט ששר ממצרים היה רקום במפרשך** - “**A vermilion thread from Egypt was embroidered in your sail.**”

In the Book of Canticles we read: **כחוט השני שפתותיך** - “Your lips are like a scarlet thread” (Cant 4:3).

However, the understanding of the Greek (and the English) translators indicates that they believed that here the word: **שפתותיך** are a letter insertion error of: **שפתיך** - “your lips.”

Similarly, we read in the Book of Genesis:

ותקח המילדת ותקשר על-ידו [] שני לאמר, זה יצא ראשנה.
“And the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet [thread], saying: This came out first” (Gen 38:28).

The comparison between these verses, and the insertion of the word “thread” by the translators, suggest that in the Hebrew version of this verse the word **חוט** - “thread” is erroneously missing.

In the Book of Exodus we read:

ומסך שער החצר מעשה רקם, תכלת וארגמן ותולעת שני ושש משזר;

“And the screen for the gate of the court [was] the work of an embroiderer [in colors, of] blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen” (Ex 38:18).

Yet twelve chapters earlier we find:

ועשית מסך לפתח האהל, תכלת וארגמן ותולעת שני ושש משזר, מעשה רקם.

“And you shall make a screen for the entry of the tent, [of] blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, the work of the embroider [in colors]” (Ex 26:36; see also; Ex 27:16; 36:37; 39:29).

However, the understanding of the English (but not the Greek) translators indicates that they believed that the screen was embroidered with threads of several colors. It is therefore suggested that the words of this verse are a letter and a word deletion error, and word disorder of:

ועשית מסך לפתח האהל מעשה רקם, משזר בחוטי תכלת וארגמן ותולעת שני ושש.

“And you shall make a screen to the entrance of the tent, a work of embroider, woven with threads of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and vermilion.”

In the Book of Joshua we find: **את-תקות חוט השני הזה תקשרי בחלון אשר הורדתנו בו** - “you shall bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which you let us down by it” (Jos 2:18; see also: Jos 2:21).

The English version of this verse indicates the translators believed that here the word: **תקות** is a letter insertion error of: **קו** - "line", but the comparison between these verses suggests that here the words: **תקות חוט השני הזה** are a letter substitution error of: **רקמת חוט השני הזו** - “this embroidery of a scarlet thread”, to serve as an ensign.

