

## אריה על המצפה?

אבנר רמו



A photograph by Gilad Flesch which was uploaded on May 1st, 2020.

In the Book of Isaiah we read: **כִּי כֹה אָמַר אֱלֹהֵי אֲדָנָי: לֵךְ הָעֶמֶד הַמְצַפֶּה, אֲשֶׁר יִרְאֶה יָגִיד** - “For thus had my Lord said to me: Go, set a watchman; that will declare that which he sees” (Is 21:6).

However, the Hebrew syntax and the understanding of the English (but not the Greek) translators suggest that the words **לֵךְ הָעֶמֶד הַמְצַפֶּה** are a letter insertion error of: **לֵךְ הָעֶמֶד צַפֶּה** - “Go post a watchman” (e.g. 2 Sam 13:34; 18:24, 25, 26, 27). The Hebrew syntax also suggests that here the word: **אֲשֶׁר** is a letter deletion error of: **וְאֲשֶׁר** - “and that.”

Yet two verses later we find:

**וַיִּקְרָא אַרְיֵה-עַל-מְצַפֶּה אֲדָנָי אֲנֹכִי עֹמֵד תָּמִיד יוֹמָם, וְעַל-מִשְׁמַרְתִּי אֲנֹכִי נֹצֵב כָּל-הַלַּיְלוֹת.**  
“And he cried [as] a lion: upon the watch-tower, my Lord, I stand continually in the daytime, and I am set in my ward all the nights” (Is 21:8).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that here **אַרְיֵה** (*arieh*) is a vowel letter-substitution error and an order-type error of: **הַרְאֵה** (*haroeh*) - “**the looker.**” The logic of this verse suggests that the words: **וַיִּקְרָא אַרְיֵה-עַל-מְצַפֶּה** are also a letter and word deletion error of: **וַיִּקְרָא הַרְאֵה אֲשֶׁר-עַל-הַמְצַפֶּה** - “and the looker that was on the watch-tower.”

The logic of this verse also suggests that the words:

**אֲדָנָי, אֲנֹכִי נֹצֵב עַל-מִשְׁמַרְתִּי תָּמִיד, כָּל-הַיָּמִים וְהַלַּיְלוֹת** are a letter and word insertion error and a letter and word disorder of: **אֲדָנָי, אֲנֹכִי נֹצֵב עַל-מִשְׁמַרְתִּי תָּמִיד, כָּל-הַיָּמִים וְהַלַּיְלוֹת** - “My Lord, I am always standing on my guard, all the days and the nights.”