

To inherit or to be condemned?

Avner Ramu

In the Book of Daniel we read:

חטאנו ועוינו, והרשענו (הרשענו) ומרדנו; וסור ממצותך וממשפטיך.
“We sinned, and we acted iniquitously, and we acted wickedly, and we rebelled, and we turned away from your commandments and from your ordinances” (Dan 9:5).

However, the Hebrew syntax and the understanding of the Greek (and the English) translators suggest that here the word: וסור is a letter deletion and a letter disorder of: וסרנו - “and we turned away.”

We read in the Book of Deuteronomy:

כי אנכי יהוה אלהיך אל קנא-פקד עון אבת על-בנים על-שלשים ועל-רבעים,
“for I *YHWH* your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation” (Ex 20:4; 34:7; Num 14:18; Deu 5:9).

In the Book of Jeremiah we find: ידענו יהוה רשענו, עון אבותינו: כי חטאנו לך - “We know, *YHWH*, we acted wickedly, the iniquity of our fathers; for we have sinned against You” Jer 14:20).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that verse Jer 14:20 is a letter deletion and a letter insertion error of: ידענו יהוה, רשענו בעון אבותינו: כי חטאו לך - “We know *YHWH* that we are condemned for the iniquity of our fathers. For they sinned against you.”

Now we read in the Book of Job:

העלה נדף תערוץ; ואת-קש יבש תרדף.
כי-תכתב עלי מרות; ותורישני עונות נעורי.
“Will You harass a driven leaf? And will You pursue the dry stubble?
That You should write bitter things against me, and make me to inherit the iniquities of my youth” (Job 13:25-26).

Yet the comparison between these verses suggests that here the word: ותורישני is a letter deletion, a vowel letter insertion and order type error of: ותרשיעני - “and you will condemn me” (e.g. Is 54:17; Job 10:2; 34:17; 40:8).