

## ”ויוסף לדבר אליו עוד” או: ”ויוסף עוד לדבר אליו”?

אבנר רמו

In the Book of Genesis we read:

ויאמר יהוה אל-לבו לא-אסף לקלל עוד את-האדמה בעבור האדם, כי יצר לב האדם רע מנעריו; ולא-אסף עוד להכות את-כל-חי, כאשר עשיתי.

“And *YHWH* said in His heart: I will not [again] curse the ground anymore because of the men; for the desire of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I [again] smite anymore all the thing living, as I have done” (Gen 8:21).

Although the Greek (and the English) translation of these expression has the same syntax, the precise translation of לא-אסף לקלל עוד is “I will not continue to curse anymore”, while that of ולא-אסף עוד להכות is “and I will not continue anymore to smite.” This raises the question of whether the proper location of עוד - “anymore” is between the two verbs, or after the second verb.

There are many other biblical verses where the word עוד - “anymore”, is located between the verb continue and the next verb (Gen 18:29; 37:5, 8; 38:5, 26; Ex 10:29; Num 22:15; 32:15; Deu 28:68; Jud 9:37; 11:14; 13:21; 20:28; 1 Sam 7:13; 23:4; 27:4; 2 Sam 2:22, 28; 5:22; 7:20; 14:10; 18:22; 2 Ki 6:23; 24:7; Is 10:20; 23:12; Eze 36:12; Hos 1:6; Am 7:8, 13; 8:2; Nah 2:1; Ps 10:18; 78:17; 1 Ch 14:13).

There are much fewer verses where the word עוד - “anymore” is located after the second verb that follows “continue.” For example, in the Book of Exodus we read: לא-אסף עוד ראות פניך - “I will not continue anymore to see your face” (Ex 10:29; see also: Deu 28:68). Yet four chapters later we find: לא תספו לראתם עוד עד-עולם - “you shall not continue to see them anymore forever” (Ex 14:13).

Similarly, we read in the Book of Samuel: ומה-יוסיף דוד עוד לדבר אליך - “And what David will continue anymore to speak to you” (2 Sam 7:20; see also: Gen 18:29; Jud 9:37). Yet in the Book of Deuteronomy we find: ויאמר יהוה אלי, רב-לך-אל-תוסף דבר אלי עוד בדבר הזה - “And *YHWH* said to me: Let it suffice you; do not continue to speak to Me anymore of this matter” (Deu 3:26; see also: Is 8:5).

The fact that there are only 8 other biblical verses where the word עוד - “anymore” is located after the second verb that follows “continue” (Gen 8:12; Deu 17:16; 19:20; 1 Sam 3:6; 18:29; Jer 31:11; Zep 3:11; and Ps 77:8), suggests that this less common syntax is probably the result of word-disorder errors.