

# “Laqet” and “Qabets” - synonym, misuse, or a spelling error?

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Words from the Hebrew root לקט (lqt) - “to gather”, appear in the Bible multiple times mostly in regard to the gathering of agricultural products and foodstuff (Ex 16:4, 5, 16, 17,18, 21, 22, 26, 27; Lev 19:9, 10; 23:22; Num 11:8; Jud 1:7; 2 Ki 4:39; Is 17:5; Jer 7:18; Ps 104:28; Cant 6:2; Ruth 2:2, 3, 7, 8, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23). In most of these verses (as well as verses Gen 31:46; 1 Sam 20:38; Is 27:12) these words could be replaced with words from the root לקח (lqkh) - “to take”, but we cannot determine whether these are true synonyms, or the result of a letter-substitution error.

There are also two verses (Gen 47:14; Jud 11:3) where words from the root לקט (lqt) appear in association with silver and men.

In the Book of Genesis we read:

ויקבצו את-כל-אכל השנים הטבות הבאת האלה; ויצברו-בר תחת יד-פרעה, אכל בערים-  
ושמרו.

“And let them gather all the food of these good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it” (Gen 41:35).

ויקבץ את-כל-אכל שבע שנים אשר היו בארץ מצרים, ויתן-אכל בערים: אכל שדה-העיר  
אשר סביבתיה, נתן בתוכה.  
ויצבר יוסף בר כחול הים,

“And he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.

And Joseph laid up corn as the sand of the sea” (Gen 41:48-49).

Now we read about silver: וקבצו מכל-ישראל כסף - “and gather of all Israel silver” (2 Ch 24:5; see also: Eze 22:20).

In the Book of Zechariah we read about Tyre: ותצבר-כסף, כעפר - “and piled up silver as dirt” (Zec 9:3; see also: Job 27:16).

Yet in the Book of Genesis we find:

וילקט יוסף את-כל-הכסף הנמצא בארץ-מצרים ובארץ כנען, בשבר אשר-הם שברים; ויבא  
יוסף את-הכסף ביתה פרעה.  
ויתם הכסף מארץ מצרים ומארץ כנען,

“And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

**And the money was all spent in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan”** (Gen 47:14-15).

These verses suggest that in regard to gathering silver, the use of the roots **קבץ** (qbts) and **צבר** (tsbr) are more common than that of the root **לקט** (lqt).

In the Book of Kings we read: **והאיש ירבעם, גבור חיל** - “And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor” (1 Ki 11:28). The Chronicler tells us about him: **ויקבצו עליו, אנשים רקים בני בליעל** - “**And there were gathered to him vain men, base fellows**” (2 Ch 13:7; see also: 1 Ki 11:24).

Similarly we read about Jephthah: **ויהיה הגלעדי, ויפתח הגלעדי, היה גבור חיל** - “And Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor” (Jud 11:1). Two verses later we read: **ויתלקטו אל-יפתח אנשים רקים** - “and there **were gathered** vain fellows to Jephthah” (Jud 11:3; see also: Jud 9:4).

One chapter later we read: **ויקבץ יפתח את-כל-אנשי גלעד** - “And Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead” (Jud 12:4; see also: Jud 9:47).

The comparison between these verses and the understanding of the Greek (and English) translators suggest that here **ויתלקטו** (*vaithlaqtu*) has the same meaning as **ויתקבצו** (*vaithqabtsu*).

These verses may also indicate that the use of the root **קבץ** (qbts) for gathering people was more common than that of the root **לקט** (lqt).

However, it is not certain whether these words are synonyms, or whether **ויתלקטו** (*vaithlaqtu*) is a letter-substitution and order-type error of **ויתקבצו** (*vaithqabtsu*).