

Suggested new understanding of Psalms 64:2-3

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We read in the Book of Psalms:

נעויתי שחתי עד-מאד; כל-היום קדר הלכתי.

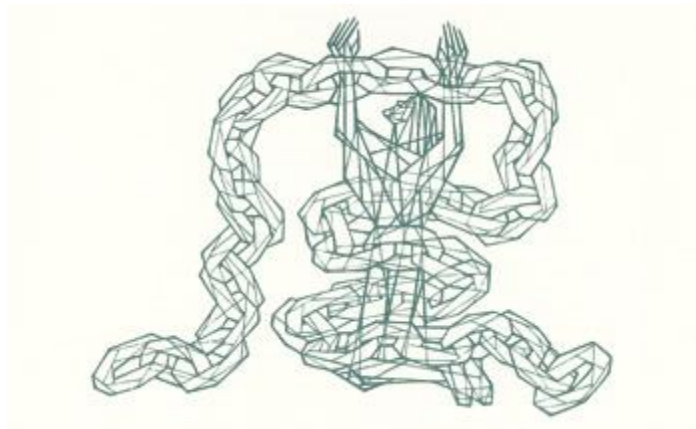
“I am bent and was lowered down greatly; I go mourning all the day” (Ps 38:7; see also: Is 2:9, 11, 17; 5:15; 25:12; 60:14; Ps 10:10; 107:39).

אמר-ליהוה, מחסי ומצודתי; אלהי, אבטח-בו.
כי הוא יצילך מפח יקוש;

“I will say of *YHWH*, who is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust;
That He will rescue you from the snare of the fowler” (Ps 91:2-3).

Yet we also find in this book: “Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint; preserve my life from the fear of the enemy” (Ps 64:2).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests the here בשיחי is a vowel letter exchange error of בשוחי - “when I am being lowered down.” The comparison between these verses also suggests that מפחד אויב תצח חיי is a bilabial ת (th) - ד (d), and a ל (l) - ר (r) letter-substitution error of מפחת אויב תצל חיי - “of enemy snare You rescue my life.”



In the Book of Job we read:

ישם בסד רגלי

“He put my feet in [the] stocks” (Job 33:11; see also: Job 13:27).

In the Book of Isaiah we read:

פתח חרצבות רשע, התר אגדות מוטה; ושלח רצועים חפשים,

“to open the fetters of wickedness, to untie the bands of the yoke, and to let the oppressed go free” (Is 58:6).

In the Book of Psalms we read:

כי-סלעי ומצודתי אתה; ולמען שמך תנחני ותנהלני.
תוציאני-מרשת זו טמנו לי:

“For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake lead me and guide me.

Bring me out of this net that they have hidden for me” (Ps 31:4-5).

Yet we also find in this book: Hide me from the council of evil-doers; from the tumult of the workers of iniquity” (Ps 64:3).

However, the comparison between these verses suggests that תסתירני מסוד מרעים; is a letter-insertion error of תתירני מסד מרעים; - “You will untie me from the stocks of evil-doers.”

The logic of this verse (and verse Ps 31:5) also suggests that מרגשת פעלי און is a letter-insertion error of: מרשת פעלי און - “from the net of the workers of iniquity.”

In summary, we should read these verses as:

שמע-אלהים קולי בשוחי; מפחת אויב תצל חיי.
תתירני מסד מרעים; מרשת פעלי און.

“Hear my voice, O God, when I am being lowered down; of the enemy's snare You will rescue my life;

You will untie me from the stocks of evil-doers; from the net of the workers of iniquity” (Ps 64:2-3).

