**חץ שחוט**

**אבנר רמו**

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Wenceslas_Hollar_-_Quivers_and_hunting_horns.jpg)

In the Book of Ezekiel we read: **חרב חללים היא, חרב חלל הגדול**[] **החדרת להם** - “**It is a wounding sword, the great wounding sword that is penetrating them**” (Eze 21:16).

However, the logic of this verse, and the Hebrew syntax suggests that these words are a letter insertion, and an order type error of: **חרב חלל היא, חרב חלל גדולה החדרת להם** - “**It is a wounding sword, the great wounding sword that is penetrating them**.”

In the Book of Isaiah we find:

**וישם** [] **פי כחרב חדה, בצל ידו החביאני; וישימני לחץ ברור**, **באשפתו הסתירני.** - “**And He turned my mouth as a sharp sword, He hid me in the shadow of his hand; and He turned me to a polished arrow**, **In His quiver He concealed me**” (Is 49:2).

It is not clear how the English translator determined that here the word: **ברור** means: "polished", and this understanding is not shared by the Greek version of this verse. The Greek translation of this verse does not fare much better. However, the logic of this verse, and the comparison between these verses suggest that here the words: **לחץ ברור** are a letter substitution, and an order type error of: **לחץ חודר** - “**to a penetrating arrow**.”

In the Book of Jeremiah we read: **הברו** [] **החצים, מלאו [] השלטים** - “**Brighten the arrows, fill the quivers”** (Jer 51:11).

The understanding of the unique word: **הברו** by the English translators suggests that that they believed that it is a letter deletion error of the word: **הבהירו** - "you brighten”, but this understanding is not shared by the Greek translator. The comparison between these verses suggests that the words: **הברו החצים** are a word deletion, and a letter substitution error of:

**החדו את החצים** - “**sharpen the arrows**.” Alternatively, it is a letter and a word deletion error of: **העברו את החצים** - **Transfer the arrows**.”

In addition, the understanding here (and in Eze 27:11) of the word: **השלטים** by the Greek (and the English) translators as: “the quivers” indicates that they believed that this word erroneously replaced the word: **האשפות** (e.g. Is 22:6; Jer 5:16; Ps 127:4-5; Thr 3:12-13).

In the Book of Jeremiah we also find: **חץ שוחט (שחוט) לשונם** - “**Their tongue is a sharpened arrow**” (Jer 9:7).

The understanding of these words by the English (but not the Greek) translators suggests that they believed that the words: **חץ שוחט** are a letter deletion, and a letter substitution of:

**חץ שהוחד** - “**an arrow that was sharpened**” (e.g. Eze 21:14, 15, 16).