

Bonus: Glory is heavy

The film, word for word, about 11 min. Hebrew words said aloud are given in Hebrew script, then as they sound.

0:00 The hook

A man stands on a mountain; and asks for one thing. הַרְאֵנִי נָא אֶת כְּבֹדֶךָ **Har'eni na et kevodekha.** Show me, please; your glory.

Ask ten readers of the English Bible, what glory is; and most of them will speak of light. Shining. Radiance. A halo. The English word leans that way.

The Hebrew word does not shine. It weighs.

0:33 Welcome

שָׁלוֹם **Shalom.** I am Moreh Ezra; and this is a bonus. Shorter than a lesson. No new rules. One root; followed through one book.

And if you have come here without the lessons before it; you can still follow every step.

The word is כָּבוֹד **kavod.** Three letters carry it. Kaf. Bet. Dalet.

And those three letters mean, first of all: heavy. כָּבֵד **Kaved.** Heavy. The same word, letter for letter, is the liver. In the laws of sacrifice, the priest takes the fat that is, עַל הַכָּבֵד **al ha-kaved:** on the liver.

The heavy one, among the inner parts.

And from heavy, comes our word. כָּבוֹד **Kavod.** It stands two hundred times in the Hebrew Bible; fifty-one of them in the Psalms. The King James Bible writes, glory, for it; a hundred and fifty-six times. By the end of this film; you will hear something else in it.

1:35 Heavy is rich

The plain word, heavy, comes first in the story of Abram. Twice, in one short tale. First: why he went down to Egypt. כִּי כָבֵד הָרָעָב בָּאָרֶץ **Ki khaved ha-ra'av ba-arets.** For the famine was heavy, in the land.

Then: how he came back. וְאַבְרָם כָּבֵד מְאֹד **Ve-Avram kaved me'od.** And Abram was very heavy. In what? The verse goes on: in livestock; in silver; and in gold.

The King James says: very rich.

A heavy famine drove him out; and he came home, a heavy man. In Hebrew, that is a compliment. A rich man's flocks, and his silver, are what he weighs.

And the noun can mean just that. The sons of Laban complain, that Jacob has made, out of their father's property; **אֵת כָּל הַכָּבֹד הַזֶּה et kol ha-kavod ha-zeh**. All this, **כָּבוֹד kavod**. The King James keeps the old word: all this glory. Newer Bibles write: all this wealth.

They are all looking at the same sheep.

2:44 To honour is to give weight

If a rich man is a heavy man; then to honour somebody, is to treat that person as heavy. As someone who counts. Hebrew makes a verb for it, by doubling the middle letter of the root. If you have Lesson fifteen; you know that stem. And you know this verse.

כַּבֵּד אֶת אָבִיךָ וְאֶת אִמֶּךָ Kabbed et avikha ve-et immekha. Honour your father, and your mother. Word for word: make heavy; your father, and your mother. Give them weight.

And the opposite? To treat somebody as light. The Hebrew for, light, is **קַל qal**; and its root gives the language one of its words for: curse. One line of the Bible sets the two roots against each other. It is said to the old priest Eli.

כִּי מְכַבְּדַי אֲכַבֵּד וּבֹזַי יֵקָלּוּ Ki mekhabbeday akhabbed u-vozay yeqallu. For those who honour me, I will honour; and those who despise me; shall be light.

Heavy; and light; on one pair of scales. The King James has: shall be lightly esteemed; which is as close as English can come.

And English has not quite forgotten the picture. We still speak of a weighty matter. Of a heavyweight, in politics. And what we do not respect; we make light of.

4:02 Exodus runs on one word

Now open the book of Exodus; and follow the three letters, from the burning bush to the mountain. Six stations. At every one, the Hebrew has the same root; and the King James has a different word.

One. The mouth. Moses does not want to go. He says that he is: **כְּבַד פֶּה וּכְבַד לָשׁוֹן khevad peh u-khevad lashon.** Heavy of mouth; and heavy of tongue.

The King James: slow of speech.

Two. The heart. Pharaoh will not listen. **כָּבֵד לֵב פַּרְעֹה Kaved lev Par'oh.** Heavy, is the heart of Pharaoh.

The King James: hardened.

Three. The plagues. A heavy heart is answered with heavy blows. A heavy swarm. A heavy hail.

Heavy locusts. And on the livestock: **דֶּבֶר כָּבֵד מְאֹד dever kaved me'od.** A very heavy pestilence. The King James says, grievous; all four times.

Four. The sea. Here, God says what the whole contest has been for. **וְאִכָּבְדָה בְּפַרְעֹה וּבְכָל חֵילוֹ Ve-ikkavedah be-Far'oh u-ve-khol cheilo.** And I will get weight; through Pharaoh, and through all his army.

The King James: I will be honoured. And in the middle of the sea, the chariots of Egypt lose their wheels; and drive: **בִּכְבֵדֻת bi-khevedut.** With heaviness. The king whose heart was heavy; ends with heavy wheels.

Five. The hands. In the first battle after the sea, Israel wins; as long as Moses holds his hands up. But: **וִידֵי מֹשֶׁה כְּבֵדִים vi-ydei Mosheh kevedim.** The hands of Moses were heavy.

Here, the King James says it plainly: heavy. Hands are heavy in English too.

Six. The mountain. **וַיִּשְׁכֹּן כְּבוֹד אֲדֹנָי עַל הַר סִינַי Va-yishkon kevod Adonai al har Sinai.** And the **כָּבוֹד kavod** of the LORD, settled on Mount Sinai.

Slow. Hardened. Grievous. Honoured. Heavy.

Glory. Six English words. A Hebrew reader hears one.

So when Moses says: show me your **כָּבוֹד kavod**; that reader has already heard the heavy mouth; the heavy heart; the heavy plagues; and the weight that was won at the sea.

And the book ends there. The tent is finished; and the **כָּבוֹד kavod** fills it; so that Moses cannot go in. A book that began with a man too heavy of mouth to speak; ends with a tent, too full of **כָּבוֹד kavod**, for him to enter.

6:43 Pharaoh's heart

A word about that heart. English readers know one phrase for it: it was hardened. The Hebrew has not one verb here. It has three.

וַיֶּחֱזַק לֵב פַּרְעֹה Va-yechezaq lev Par'oh. And the heart of Pharaoh was strong. That one stands twelve times. **כָּבֵד לֵב פַּרְעֹה Kaved lev Par'oh.** The heart of Pharaoh is heavy.

Our root: six times. And a third root: hard; stiff. Once, of his heart; and once, of the man himself.

Strong. Heavy. Hard. The first two stand side by side; in chapter seven, verses thirteen and fourteen. The King James writes, harden, for all three.

Some newer Bibles try to keep them apart. Whichever Bible you read; you now know that there are three words under the one. That is as far as the language goes; and this bonus stops there with it.

7:45 Old and heavy

One story in the Bible plays on this root, from beginning to end. The story of Eli; the priest at Shiloh. You have heard its sentence already. Here is the charge that comes before it. **וַתְּכַבֵּד אֶת בָּנֶיךָ מִמֶּנִּי Va-tekhabbed et banekha mimmenni.**

You honour your sons; more than me. He gave the weight to the wrong side.

Then, the sentence: those who honour me, I will honour.

Then, his death. News comes that the ark of God is taken; and Eli falls backwards from his seat; and breaks his neck. And the storyteller adds four words. **כִּי זָקֵן הָאִישׁ וְכָבֵד Ki zaqen ha-ish ve-khaved.** For the man was old; and heavy.

And last: his grandson; born that same day. The dying mother names him: **אִי כָּבוֹד i-khavod.** No **כָּבוֹד kavod.** English Bibles write: Ichabod. And she says why.

גָּלְתָה כָבוֹד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל Galah khavod mi-Yisra'el. The **כָּבוֹד kavod** has gone into exile, from Israel.

An English reader meets: honour; heavy; and glory; in these chapters; and has no reason to connect them. In Hebrew, they are one thread.

9:03 Where "glory" came from

So how did weight, become glory? By the same road that mercy took, in the last bonus. More than two thousand years ago, Jewish translators put the Bible into Greek. For **כָּבוֹד kavod**, they chose the word: doxa. In older Greek, that meant, opinion; and then: the opinion that others have of you.

Your reputation. The Latin Bible followed, with: gloria. Fame. And English took the Latin word.

So our, glory, came by way of reputation and fame; and picked up its shine on the road. And that is not wrong. **הַשָּׁמַיִם מְסַפְּרִים כְּבוֹד אֵל Ha-shamayim mesapperim kevod El.** The heavens are telling, the **כָּבוֹד kavod** of God.

9:49 What the word holds

But underneath; the Hebrew word still weighs something. It is what makes a person count. A man's herds. A father's due. And the presence, that settled on a mountain; and filled a tent.

One thing to do. Open Exodus fourteen, in your own Bible; and find the two places where God says: I will get glory; or: I will be honoured. Then go to chapter thirty-three; verse eighteen; and notice what Moses is shown.

And when you next meet, glory, in your English Bible: weigh it. **שָׁלוֹם Shalom.**

Until next time: **לֵךְ לְשָׁלוֹם lekh leshalom.** Go in peace.

