

Having Fun with Fonts and Psalm 25:14

Learning to read Hebrew is sort of like 2nd grade reading all over again. Playing with the BST font is sort of like giving a 2nd grader a typewriter. This may help,... or not.

ESword shows Psalm 25:14 with strong numbers attached as follows:

Psa 25:14 The secret⁵⁴⁷⁵ of the LORD³⁰⁶⁸ is with them that fear³³⁷³ him; and he will show³⁰⁴⁵ them his covenant.¹²⁸⁵

My Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia, 2nd edition, amended 1977 shows it more or less like this:

סֹד יְהוָה לִירְאָיו וּבְרִיתוֹ לְהוֹדִיעֵם:

(the BSTHebrew font¹ used here came with my “Basics of Biblical Hebrew” by Gary Pratico and Miles Van Pelt, Zondervan, 2001)

The Hebrew font used in my ESword does work read right to left like Hebrew, but types in awkwardly and has no vowel points. Strong's Concordance and ESword shows the verse as seen below:

יְדַע יְהוָה יִרְאֵה יְדַע בְּרִית TITUS cyberbit basic font of ESword

Breaking down the verse with the English, (Strong), and [Stuttgartensia] clarifies some traits of reading Hebrew, (creating this paper using the various fonts clarifies even more)

Psa 25:14 The secret (סֹד) [סֹד] (Samek hireq Holem Waw Dalet | [dAis]

Recognizing Hebrew 'stems' which differ from the lexicon by slight letter changes will always be a challenge. Lexicons do not show vowel points, and in this case the vowel is a 'Holem Waw', used in place of the lexicon's 'Ayin' These changes accommodate usages that we do not fully understand yet.

of the LORD (יְהוָה) [יְהוָה]

Two important things here. When reading this in Hebrew AND English, LORD (or Hbrw *Adoni*) is substituted for Jehovah, the actual word.² Secondly it should be pointed out that the possessive 'of the LORD' will differ from the nominative 'O LORD' by subtle vowel differences, i.e. in verse 8 and 11

'the LORD' and 'O LORD' we see יְהוָה; while in verses 10 and 14 'of the LORD' we see יְהוָה; this makes for very subtle differences which can go undetected without Scripture comparisons. The use of the Shewa is still a mystery for us, but it is a solvable mystery. Note that vowel points do change the context of a word.

1 this font is 1) unable to exactly replicate the vowel marks of the Stuttgartensia, 2) works from left to right like English, and not right to left like Hebrew and like the TITUS cyberbit basic font shown below, and 3) more fun to use than easy to use, ... but hey.

2 This is a very aged tradition which gives the most profound respect for the use of God's personal name, and great care to never use it in vain. The born-again, blood-bought Christian has such a personal connection and relationship with his Lord, that they may feel no conviction about using His personal name more freely than does a Hebrew, but just as one covers his head to approach the Western Wall of the Temple, in respect of Hebrew tradition, so one should use LORD instead of pronouncing God's personal name. When reading Hebrew, reverence the name and respect his chosen people.

