

主の霊は「覆う」のか「着る」のか
—士師記6章34節の לבש—

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ABSTRACT Tetsuo SASAKI, “‘To Clothe’ or ‘To Wear’?: The Meaning of לבש in Judges 6:34.” The word לבש in Judge 6:34 is usually interpreted as “clothe,” “envelope,” and the like; that is, it means a situation where the subject “the spirit of the Lord” is on the outside and the object “Gideon” is on the inside. However, in the passages of Qal form לבש in the Old Testament it means “to wear,” that is, the subject is on the inside and the object is on the outside.

The syntactically strict translation of Judge 6:34 following the usages of the Qal form לבש, “the spirit of the Lord put on Gideon,” makes sense from the contextual point of view; that is, what is given to Gideon is not the supernatural power from the Lord but the authority of the Lord, especially to the sound of his horn and to the voice of his messengers (v. 35), which emerge from the inside of Gideon for conveying the will of God.

The same structure, [the spirit of the Lord (subject) + לבש (Qal form) + person’s name (object)], also appears in 1 Chronicles 12:19, and 2 Chronicles 24:20, where an analogous authority of the Lord is given to the words of Amasai to David and of Zechariah to the people.