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:

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:

דע ברית 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 (TYO) [TTO] (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 (\(\bar{1}\bar{1}\bar{1}\bar{2}\) \([\bar{1}\bar{1}\bar{2}\bar{2}\]

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 ; while in verses 10 and 14 'of the LORD' we see ; while in verses 10 and 14 'of the LORD' we see 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.

again the verse examined is: `~\[yidAh>l Aotyir>bW wy\aeryil h'wh}y dAis or in BSTHebrew:

And a phrase at a time (cont)

Notice that the stem word for fear is surrounded. It has a prefix of Lamed and a suffix of Yad Waw. It also contains vowel points that we are just now learning to be Hireq under Lamed, Tsere under Resh, and a Hateph Qamets under the Alph. How these attributes attach "is with them that" with the stem "fear" is still a mystery but we are learning to pronounce them, and the purpose of this paper is to expose elements of this mystery.

Word order is very important in English. Not so much in Hebrew. Not at all in Greek and most other languages which attach their nouns to verbs and their adverbs and adjectives with language not with word order. I worked for a German farmer who would often tell me "Throw the horse over the fence some hay." He never did get the knack of English. He called it barbarick.

Again notice the differences between the stem word 'shew' and the Hebrew rendering in the text. Again a prefix of Lamed this time with a Shewa for its vowel point and a sufix of Hateph Qamets and Mem³ But notice also that the Yod in the stem is displaced behind the Dalet (remember right-to-left) and a He Holem-Waw takes its original position. Recognizing the stem here, without the help of James Strong and ESword would be very challenging indeed. The challenge is going to be a challenge.

There is here a different prefix, a Sureq, and a sufix of Holem-Waw. The stem is only easily recognized when we are cognizant of the use of prefix and sufix in Hebrew words.

That was so much fun that I am sure you will want to write a similar paper on another verse. To do so you will need to map your keyboard to the BST Hebrew font. It is easy to build such a map with a paste feature and the changing of fonts and font sizes to make things sort of line up. See Below.

³ Note how the suffix addition includes the vowel because Hebrew words do not normally end in vowels.