

## Some Hebrew Idioms

### (Focussing on the books of Samuel)

Based on “Idioms in Biblical Hebrew” (2013) by Cornelius Marthinus van den Heever p:152-171 (PDF)

	<b>IDIOM</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
1	cause someone’s eyes to be light	enable someone to be physically alive
2	seek someone’s life	want to, or try to, kill someone
3	take someone’s life	kill someone
4	one’s blood falls to the ground	be killed (associated with a violent death)
5	strike at/set traps for someone’s life	try to catch someone in an activity that can lead to their death
6	lie in wait for someone’s life	lie in wait for someone’s life
7	lie down with one’s fathers	die
8	pour out blood	kill someone deliberately
9	cover one’s feet	empty the bowels; defecate (euphemism)
10	close someone’s womb	keep a woman from having children
11	come/go among men	pertaining to a man who is old
12	one’s eyes stand	said of an old person whose eyes are no longer able to see
13	one’s heart dies within one	suffer a sudden debilitating attack of illness
14	one’s eyes become light	experience an increase in one’s joy and vitality
15	cause someone’s eyes to be light	increase someone’s joy and vitality
16	gird on strength	be strengthened
17	gird someone with strength	strengthen someone
18	one’s horn is exalted	be strong and prevail against one’s enemies
19	one’s spirit returns to one	regain one’s vitality and strength
20	lift up someone’s face	receive someone (of lower status) favourably and grant his/her request; show special favour to someone and choose their side or declare them innocent when judging a dispute
21	see someone’s face	be allowed to appear in the presence of someone in a position of power
22	smell an offering	accept a sacrifice, thereby accepting the one who offers it
23	listen to someone’s voice	pay attention to what someone says and mentally accept, or take some action in accordance with, what was said
24	one’s heart trembles	be very frightened
25	one’s heart falls	lose courage
26	dread falls on one	become very afraid
27	one’s hands grow slack	lose one’s courage
28	one’s nose becomes hot	become intensely angry

29	one's heat goes up	become angry
30	speak on someone's heart	increase someone's confidence or hope by speaking or acting in a kind or affectionate way
31	one's hands become strong	gain confidence or hope
32	find one's heart	have sufficient courage
33	lift up one's face	have sufficient courage
34	place one's life in the palm of one's hand	expose oneself to the danger of death, willingly and purposely
35	one's two ears resonate	be intensely disturbed emotionally and mentally
36	turn the heart	be loyal, or cause someone to be loyal
37	come/go among men	pertaining to a man who is famous or important, and respected in society
38	cause someone's soul to faint	cause someone to feel deep sorrow
39	one's heart strikes one	feel bitter regret
40	one's heart is bad	feel depressed
41	speak on someone's heart	increase someone's confidence or hope by speaking or acting in a kind or affectionate way
42	one's eyes become light	experience an increase in one's joy and vitality
43	cause someone's eyes to be light	increase someone's joy and vitality
44	lift up one's face	be favourably disposed towards someone
45	lift up someone's face	have, or show, respect for someone of higher status
46	one's heart is bad	have a reluctant, ungenerous attitude
47	snatch someone's eye	escape from someone
48	go to one's road	go away
49	turn round to one's road	go back to where has come from
50	turn one's shoulder	turn away in order to leave
51	build a house for someone	provide a long line of descendants for someone
52	extinguish someone's burning coal	destroy someone's hope for their family line to continue
53	make a house for someone	provide a long line of descendants for someone
54	(the) days are filled	expression indicating that a specific period of time has reached its end
55	one's day comes	the time comes when one will be struck by disaster or death
56	seek from someone's hand	require someone to do something considered to be their religious duty
57	draw back one's hand	stop what one is doing
58	one's hand finds someone	find and take aggressive action against someone
59	place against someone in the road	wait for and attack someone who is passing by
60	send (one's) hand against someone	take aggressive action against someone
61	cut a covenant with someone	conclude a formal agreement with someone
62	let someone know a thing	cause someone to bear the unpleasant consequences of

		their behaviour or actions
63	someone's shed blood swirls down on one's head	be punished for someone's death
64	one's hand is heavy against/towards	deal severely with
65	bring back something on someone's head	punish someone for some wrong they have done
66	make someone a stranger in someone's hand	give someone into someone else's power
67	fall into someone's hand	come under control of someone
68	one's name is called over	one's ownership or dominance over someone or something is acknowledged
69	send someone away in a good road	let someone go free without harming them
70	strengthen someone's hand(s)	give support, confidence, or hope to someone
71	one's (own) hand helps for one	help oneself or keep oneself safe from danger
72	watch over someone's feet	keep someone safe from harm
73	judge from someone's hand	rescue someone from someone else's power
74	one's hand is heavy against/towards	deal severely with
75	one's hand finds something	have enough of something that is requested or required of one; have the opportunity to do something
76	make one's heart insensible	refuse to obey
77	lift up one's hand against	fight against, or resist, a ruler
78	walk about at someone's feet	follow or support someone as their servant
79	bear an ephod	fulfil a priestly function, especially that of consulting YHWH
80	be detained before YHWH	be obliged to remain at YHWH's sanctuary
81	be seen with the presence of YHWH	come to a sanctuary to appear in the presence of YHWH, to serve and worship Him
82	listen to someone's voice	pay attention to what someone says and mentally accept, or take some action in accordance with, what was said
83	seek the face of YHWH	make an effort to establish contact with YHWH
84	steal someone's heart	deliberately cause someone to believe something that is not true
85	touch on someone's heart	create in someone a desire to do something
86	turn the heart	be loyal, or cause someone to be loyal
87	seek from someone's hand	require someone to bear the responsibility for some act or event
88	place a matter on someone	say that someone is guilty of some wrongdoing
89	one's (own) hand helps for one	administer justice by force
90	pour out blood	slaughter an animal as a sacrifice to YHWH in a place other than at the sanctuary

91	not find anything in someone's hand	find no reason to accuse someone of wrongdoing
92	not let a word fall	not allow something that was said to remain undone or unfulfilled
93	snatch someone's eye	harm someone
94	turn the heart	have, or cause someone to have, a desire
95	place words in someone's mouth	tell someone what to say
96	tear someone in pieces with the words	persuade someone to refrain from doing something
97	lift up one's eyes	begin to look or see
98	lift up one's eyes to	direct one's attention to someone or something by looking at it/them
99	hear what is in someone's mouth	inquire after someone's opinion
100	one's mouth opens wide against	express satisfaction over someone else's failure
101	ask someone about peace	inquire about someone's welfare
102	lift up one's voice and weep	begin to weep loudly
103	pour out one's soul	express feelings of sadness, grief, pain, distress, anxiety, etc.
104	seek the face of YHWH	make an effort to establish contact with YHWH
105	approach God	seek advice, guidance, information, help, etc. from God
106	lift up one's voice	speak or call out in a loud voice
107	place words in someone's mouth	tell someone what to say
108	hide one's eyes	deliberately take no notice of a situation
109	uncover someone's ear	give someone knowledge of a matter
110	lift up one's eyes to	direct one's attention to a deity (physically looking or seeing not profiled)
111	reverse the face of something	change the way someone thinks about a matter
112	see according to the eyes	form an opinion of someone based on their outward appearance

From various pages in the same book

	<b>IDIOM</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
113	one's heart falls	to lose courage
114	Walk about at someone's feet	follow or support someone as their servant
115	hide one's eyes	ignore
116	lift up someone's face	receive someone favourably
117	make one's heart insensible	be stubborn
118	extinguish someone's burning coal	destroy someone's hope
119	draw back one's hand	stop what one is doing
120	cut with	conclude a formal agreement with someone [by cutting up sacrificial animals]
121	one's hand is on someone	take aggressive action against someone