

The Doctrine of Mûg¹

Introduction:

Topics		
Pronunciation and Spelling	Meanings	An Examination of All Scriptural Occurrences
	Conclusion	
Charts, Maps and/or Doctrines		
	An Examination of All Scriptural Occurrences	

- Pronunciation and spelling:** mûg (מ ג ׀) [pronounced *moog*].
- Meanings** already attributed to mûg:
 - KJV renderings: *melt, dissolve, faint, consume, soft*.
 - Strong's renderings: a primitive root; *to melt*, that is, literally (*to soften, flow down, disappear*), or figuratively (*to fear, faint*). Strong's #4127.
 - BDB translations: 1) *to melt, cause to melt*; 1a) (Qal); 1a1) *to melt, faint*; 1a2) *to cause to melt*; 1b) (Niphal) *to melt away*; 1c) (Polel) *to soften, dissolve, dissipate*; 1d) (Hithpolel) *to melt, flow*. BDB #556.
 - Gesenius translations: *to flow, to flow down; to melt; to dissolve; to cause to pine and perish; to melt away; to melt [with fear and alarm]; to soften*.
- Cognates:** None.
- Passages:** Ex. 15:15 Joshua 2:9, 24 1Sam. 14:16 Job. 30:22 Psalm 46:6 65:10 75:3 107:26 Isa. 14:31 64:7 Jer. 49:22–23 Ezek. 21:15 Amos 9:5, 13 Nah. 1:5 2:6

Interestingly enough, the MKJV is as consistent with the translation of this word (*mûg* is rendered *to melt*) as the KJV is inconsistent. And, oddly enough, in the final passage noted (Amos 9:13), the MKJV is suddenly inconsistent (whereas *mûg* is rendered *to melt* in the KJV in that passage).

Passage (MKJV)	Morphology and Additional Comments
Ezek. 21:15: ...so that their heart may melt , and many stumble at all their gates. I have given the threatening sword. Ah! It is made like lightning; it is wrapped for a slaughter.	Qal infinitive.
Psalm 46:6: The nations raged, the kingdoms were shaken; He uttered His voice, the earth melted .	Qal imperfect.
Isa. 64:7: And there is no one who calls on Your name, who stirs up himself to take hold of You. For You have hidden Your face from us, and have melted us away because of our iniquities.	Qal imperfect.
Amos 9:5: And the Lord Jehovah of Hosts is He who touches the land, and it shall melt , and all who dwell in it shall mourn. And all of it shall rise up like the Nile, and sink down like the Nile of Egypt.	Qal imperfect.

¹ Dude!

Passage (MKJV)	Morphology and Additional Comments
Ex. 15:15: Then the princes of Edom were terrified. Trembling seized upon the mighty men of Moab. All the people of Canaan shall melt away .	Niphal [passive stem] perfect.
Joshua 2:9: And she said to the men, I know that Jehovah has given you the land, and that your terror has fallen on us, and that all those who live in the land faint because of you.	Niphal perfect.
Joshua 2:24: And they said to Joshua, Truly Jehovah has delivered all the land into our hands, for even all those who live in the country faint because of us.	Niphal perfect.
1Sam. 14:16: And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and behold, the multitude had melted away and went on here and there.	Niphal perfect.
Isa. 14:31: Howl, O gate! Cry, O city! O Philistia, all of you, are melted away ; for from the north a smoke comes, and no straggler in his ranks.	Niphal perfect.
Jer. 49:23: Concerning Damascus: Hamath and Arpad are put to shame, for they have heard bad news. They are melted ; anxiety is in the sea; it cannot be quiet.	Niphal perfect.
Nahum 2:6: The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be melted .	Niphal perfect.
Psalm 75:3: The earth and all its people are melting away ; I hold up its pillars. Selah.	Niphal participle.
Job 30:22: You lift me up to the wind; You cause me to ride on it; and You melt me in a storm .	Polel [intensive stem; also called a Pilel] imperfect.
Psalm 65:10: You fill its terraces with water; You deepen its furrows; You make it soft with showers; You bless the sprouting of it.	Polel imperfect.
Nahum 1:5: The mountains quake from Him, and the hills melt , and the earth is lifted up from before Him; even the world and all who dwell in it.	Hithpolel [intensive reflexive and also called a Hithpael, Hithpael and a Hithpalal] perfect.
Psalm 107:26: They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul is melted because of trouble.	Hithpolel imperfect.
Amos 9:13: Behold, the days come, says Jehovah, that the plowman and the reaper shall draw near, the treader of grapes, and he who draws along the seed. And the mountains will drip must, and all the hills will be dissolved .	Hithpolel imperfect.

5. Conclusion:

- a. In all instances of this word, we could render it *to melt* without a loss of meaning, either to the verse or the context.
- b. When something melts, it seems to disappear. That is, an ice cube on the ground which has melted, if on a porous surface, will be taken into that surface and seemingly disappear. The translations *to soften*, *to dissolve*, *to disappear*, *to flow* all are reasonable renderings of this word.
- c. When a person melts, he becomes without form or substance.

- d. When an army melts, as we have here, there are two probable meanings: their hearts have melted in fear; and they have seemingly melted into the ground—that is, they have scattered and hidden themselves and retreated. At one time they were very visible as any army; now they can barely be seen.
 - e. The earth melting can refer to a number of things: the most obvious is volcanic activity; however, I think the idea refers more to earthquakes, high winds, storms and whatever else which cause the landscape to collapse and to lose its height.
6. Summary:
- a. The Hebrew verb mûg (מג) [pronounced *moog*] essentially means *to melt*. It has no cognates. BDB gives these meanings: 1) *to melt, cause to melt*; 1a) (*Qal*); 1a1) *to melt, faint*; 1a2) *to cause to melt*; 1b) (*Niphal*) *to melt away*; 1c) (*Polel*) *to soften, dissolve, dissipate*; 1d) (*Hithpolel*) *to melt, flow*. Strong's adds the figurative use *to fear, to faint*; and Gesenius gives the basic meaning *to flow, to flow down*: and adds *to dissolve; to cause to pine and perish*. Strong's #4127 BDB #556. Mûg has not cognates.
 - b. It is found in the following passages. Ex. 15:15 Joshua 2:9, 24 1Sam. 14:16 Job. 30:22 Psalm 46:6 65:10 75:3 107:26 Isa. 14:31 64:7 Jer. 49:22–23 Ezek. 21:15 Amos 9:5, 13 Nah. 1:5 2:6
 - c. From these passages, we may conclude:
 - i. In all instances of this word, we could render it *to melt* without a loss of meaning, either to the verse or the context.
 - ii. When something melts, it seems to disappear. That is, an ice cube on the ground which has melted, if on a porous surface, will be taken into that surface and seemingly disappear. The translations *to soften, to dissolve, to disappear, to flow* all are reasonable renderings of this word.
 - iii. When a person melts, he becomes without form or substance.
 - iv. When an army melts, as we have here, there are two probable meanings: their hearts have melted in fear; and they have seemingly melted into the ground—that is, they have scattered and hidden themselves and retreated. At one time they were very visible as any army; now they can barely be seen.
 - v. The earth melting can refer to a number of things: the most obvious is volcanic activity; however, I think the idea refers more to earthquakes, high winds, storms and whatever else which cause the landscape to collapse and to lose its height.