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Kessler, John. "Apple of the Eye." In *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible: Volume 1 A-C*, edited by Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, page 210. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2006.

APPLE OF THE EYE אִישׁוֹן עֵינַן 'ishon 'ayin, עֵינַן
בַּת bath 'ayin, בְּבַת עֵינַן bavath 'ayin]. Several
Hebrew terms are thus translated to indicate the eye's
pupil or the eyeball, used metaphorically to designate
something precious, vulnerable, and deserving of vigi-
lant care. Deuteronomy 32:10 and Prov 7:2 use 'ishon
'ayin to denote, respectively, the preciousness of Israel
to Yahweh and of the law to the faithful. In Ps 17:8
bath 'ayin invokes Yahweh's protection, while in Lam
2:18 it designates the eye as the locus of tears. Zechar-
iah 2:8 [Heb. 2:12] uses bavath 'ayin to assert that
injury done to Israel is tantamount to assaulting the
eye of Yahweh.

JOHN KESSLER